



Mr. Daniel W. Hancock, Chairman
Little Hoover Commission
925 L Street, Suite 805
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 10, 2012

Dear Mr. Hancock:

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed merger of the Delta Stewardship Council into the Natural Resources Agency.

The Environmental Water Caucus has worked with the Delta Stewardship Council since it began issuing Delta Plans in early 2011. Our environmentally-oriented alternative was included as a part of their Delta Plan DEIR in February 2012.

We concur with the provision of the 2009 legislation, SBX7 1, which established the Delta Stewardship Council as an independent agency of the state. We elected to work with the Delta Stewardship Council partly because of that independence and because of the appellate authority that has been given to the Council. A merger into the Natural Resources Agency would nullify both the independence and the appellate role of the Council.

While we may not always agree with the Council decisions, we concur with the concept that a single agency would oversee statewide concurrence with the eventual Delta Plan. This is a sensible solution to a very complex set of plans.

For those reasons, we respectfully request that the Commission recommend to the Legislature that the proposed reorganization of the Delta Stewardship Council into the Natural Resources Agency not be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Nesmith'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Co-Facilitator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nick DiCroce'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Co-Facilitator