October 17, 2012

Governor Edmund G Brown Jr.,
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

Near-Term Delta Projects We Support To Move Forward in the Process(es)

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the focus of several planning and regulatory processes that are often characterized by conflict and tension among agencies and stakeholders. Parties have recognized there are good and worthy near-term projects that seem to get lost in the tensions surrounding these processes. This year a very diverse group of stakeholders came together as an ad hoc group of individuals in six meetings. The goal was to identify near-term Delta projects that should move forward through the regulatory and other processes.

We, the undersigned, are writing to urge you to provide leadership to achieve implementation of a significant number of near-term projects.

Criteria used to identify projects for this list were:

A. Projects that have wide support

B. Projects that can be on line within 5 to 10 years

C. Projects that are “no risk or low risk for any regrets” and do not prejudice the outcome of BDCP or the Delta Plan

D. Projects that can be funded

E. Projects supported by local landowners

F. Projects we could learn from

G. Projects that are designed or refined/redesigned to avoid impacts and provide multiple benefits

H. Projects supported by science, and that come with specific monitoring or performance criteria, but absolute certainty of outcome not possible or required

I. Projects that could foster cooperation

J. No "red flagged" projects

The list of projects we support to move forward in the process(es) is attached as Table 1. Table II provides more information on project costs and timing.

Some of these projects are already underway while others require detailed engineering or design work to confirm feasibility. In some cases the proposals are still in the conceptual stage.

These are projects that should receive timely and complete environmental and permit review. We recognize that in the environmental or permit review for specific projects some fatal flaws might emerge.

In many cases these projects could be eligible for funding from existing sources. This process is not intended to cause reallocation or reprioritization of existing funding sources. We also recognize that the total cost of these projects exceeds currently available funding. Therefore we anticipate cooperating in the advocacy for additional funding from a variety of sources.

Several permitting or funding agencies participated in our meetings. Their comments and questions helped the group understand potential issues. However, they are unable to express support in any way that could be considered "pre-decisional."

The last scheduled meeting of the Coalition to Support Delta Projects was September 26, 2012. Participants are currently discussing how to continue this consensus process. Future activities are likely to include review of additional projects as they are brought forward and determining the best ways to help get worthwhile near-term projects implemented.

Signatories

(Affiliations for identification purposes only)

Jonas Minton,
Planning and Conservation League

Jason Peltier,
Westlands Water District

Thomas Zuckerman,
Central Delta Water Agency

Doug Brown,
Delta Counties Coalition

Roger Patterson,
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Greg Gartell,
Contra Costa Water District

Kurt A. Arends
Zone 7 Water Agency

Brett Baker,
Delta Farmer Reclamation District 349

Barbara Barrigan- Parrilla,
Restore the Delta

Ron Bernal,
City of Antioch Water Rights

Linda Best,
Contra Costa Council

Gary Bobker,
The Bay Institute

Kelly Catlett,
Defenders of Wildlife

Jennifer Clary,
Clean Water Action

Gilbert Cosio, Jr.,
Delta Reclamation Districts

Stan Dean,
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Jim Giottonini,
San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency

John Greitzer, Contra Costa
County Department of
Conservation and Development

TM Hardesty,
Reclamation District 2068

John Herrick,
South Delta Water Agency

David Katz,
Cal Marsh/Farm Ventures, LLC

Robin Kulakow
Yolo Basin Foundation

Michael Machado,
Delta Protection Commission

Karen Medders,
North Delta Residents

Jim Metropulos,
Sierra Club California

Barry Nelson,
Natural Resources Defense Council

Dan Nelson,
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Don Nottoli,
Supervisor, Sacramento County

Michael Regan,
Supervisor, Solano County District 5

Erik Ringelberg,
Local Agencies of the North Delta

Larry Ruhstaller,
Supervisor, San Joaquin County

Melinda Terry,
North Delta Water Agency

Jim Verboon,
Families Protecting the Valley

Doug Wallace,
East Bay Municipal Utility District

Tim Washburn,
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

Leo Winternitz,
The Nature Conservancy

Jim Wunderman,
Bay Area Council

Attachments

Table 1: Near-Term Delta Projects Supported to Move Forward in the Process(es): Summary Information

Table 2: Near-Term Delta Projects Supported to Move Forward in the Process(es): Cost and Timing Information

cc's: John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources

Matt Rodriquez, Secretary for Environmental Protection

Brian P. Kelly, Acting Secretary Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

TABLE 1 Near-Term Delta Projects Supported to Move Forward in the Process(es): Summary Information 10.11.12

Project numbers are for identification purpose only and indicate order of submittal

	Proposed Project	Proponent	Estimated Cost	Project Description	Readiness
Levee / Flood Mgmt. Emergency Response Projects					
13	RD 2038-Lower Jones Tract	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2038	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Lower Jones Tract (Reclamation District 2038) by adding fill to crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	1
14	RD 2039-Upper Jones Tract	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2039	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Upper Jones Tract (Reclamation District 2039) by adding fill to crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	1
16	RD 2072-Woodward Island	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2072	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Woodward Island (Reclamation District 2072) by adding fill to crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	1
19	RD 684-Lower Roberts	Dante Nomellini, Sr., 684	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Lower Roberts Island (Reclamation District 684) by adding crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	1
21	RD 2024-Orwood Palm Tracts	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2024	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Orwood Palm Tract (Reclamation District 2024) by adding fill to crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	1
47	Contra Costa Canal Levee Elimination and Flood Control Project	Leah Orloff, Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)	$ 50 million	Replace the unlined portion of the Canal with reinforced concrete pipeline.	1
1	RD 756 Bouldin Island	David Forkel, Delta Wetlands	$20 million	Rehabilitation of 2.3 miles of the east levee along Little Potato Slough, 4.5 miles of the west levee along the Mokelumne and San Joaquin Rivers and 4.3 miles of the north levee along the South Mokelumne River.	2
07	RD 2068 Yolo Bypass Levee Slope Modification	Mike Hardesty, RD 2068	$500,000 (engineering/ design only)	This levee protection and habitat development project envisions a new environmentally friendly approach that benefits the ongoing aquatic species habitat development being proposed by the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough region and the adjacent federal project levees.	2

45	Bacon Island Levee Rehabilitation Project	Gilbert Cosio/Nate Hershey, RD 2028	$30-60 million	Levee improvements on Bacon Island (Reclamation District 2028).	2
12	RD 2027-Mandeville Island	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2027	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Mandeville Island (Reclamation District 2027) by adding fill to crown, landside slopes and to berms.	3
15	RD 2040-Victoria Island	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2040	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Victoria Island (Reclamation District 2040) by adding fill to brown, landside slopes and toe berms.	3
17	RD 2117-Coney Island	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2117	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Coney Island (Reclamation District 2117) by adding crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	3
18	RD 2119-Wright Elmwood	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2119	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Wright Elmwood (Reclamation District 2119) by adding fill to crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	3
20	RD 2023-Venice Island	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2023	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Venice Island (Reclamation District 2023) by adding fill to crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	3
22	RD 548-Terminous Tract	Dante Nomellini, Sr., 548	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Terminous Tract (Reclamation District 584) by adding fill to crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	3
25	RD 2037-Rindge Tract	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2037	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Ringe Tract (Reclamation District 2037) by adding fill to crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	3
26	RD 2041-Medford Island	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2041	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Medford Island (Reclamation District 2041) by adding fill to crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	3
27	RD 2065-Veale Tract	Dante Nomellini, Sr., RD 2065	$2-5 million	Strengthen levee on Veale Tract (Reclamation District 2065) by adding fill to crown, landside slopes and toe berms.	3
33	Smith Canal Gate	Roger Churchwell, SJAFCA, RD 1614 and 828	$30 million	The Smith Canal Gate would provide flood protection for 7,500 homes and be operated as needed to prevent high tidal flows from entering the residential area.	3

40	Emerg. Preparedness & Flood Response Program in the Delta	Michael Machado, Delta Protection Commission	$250,000	Improve emergency preparedness in the Delta for dealing with levee failures after they occur and the need to treat the Delta as a coordinated area of operation emergency planning and response.	3
43	Sierra Northern Rail Line Acquisition	Tim Washburn, SAFCA (Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency)	$21.7 million	Acquire, demolish and possibly relocate approximately nine miles of the Sierra Northern rail line between Yolo County Road102 west of the Cache Creek Settling Basin and the Union Pacific rail line in the City of West Sacramento	3
48	Mormon Channel Ecosystem Restoration & Central Stockton Flood Bypass Project	Roger Churchwell, San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA)	$ 50 million	Reestablish the flow connection from Mormon Slough to Lower Mormon Channel and use Mormon Channel as a flood bypass during flood events. Reestablishing perennial flows would also allow for ecosystem restoration of Mormon Channel.	3
49	Paradise Cut Flood Bypass Expansion	John Herrick, Esq., South Delta Water Agency	$ 80 million	Increase the capacity of Paradise Cut and add an additional weir upstream of the current one to allow for a greater amount of flow to enter the Cut during high flow times, including necessary dredging and levee work downstream of the Cut to safely pass the additional flow into the deeper Delta channels at acceptable or no additional risk to lands of that area. Project will include overflow and tidal habitat where feasible in coordination with fishery agencies.	3
06	Knightsen Biofilter	Mitch Avalon, Contra Costa County Public Works Dept.	$12.1 million	Combined flood protection, habitat restoration, and storm water/drinking water quality improvements. Unique nature of project site also provides the opportunity to develop a "Delta Shoreline" habitat area.	3

Ecosystem Projects

02	McCormack-Williamson Tract	Leo Winternitz, The Nature Conservancy	$20 million	Implement integrated flood control improvements that benefit flood management, aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and species and ecological processes.	1
28	Elk Slough Flood Control and Habitat Improvement Project	Erik Ringelberg, RD 999 and 150	$5.2 million	Reconstruct the head gate structure to allow fish passage and construct an operable downstream flood control gate to establish a flood protection corridor by removing 18 miles of levees from primary flood control. This project would also improve aquatic and riparian habitat along the corridor.	3

11	Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration	Patty Finfrock, DWR	$35 million, ($30.7 million already committed)	Restore tidal, riparian, and upland habitats, thereby providing critically needed habitat for native fish and wildlife in the Delta, while providing an opportunity for research on tidal restoration.	1
08	The Nigiri Project Yolo Bypass Floodplain Enhancement	David Katz, Cal Marsh and Farm Ventures, Knaggs Ranch	$67,000,000	Seasonal creation of floodplain habitat for endangered native fishes and water flow during winter and spring on fields that remain in agricultural production in summer and fall.	3
37	Lower Putah Creek Restoration	Robin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation	$1 million	Enhance and restore 300-700 acres of tidal freshwater wetlands and create 5 miles of new creek channel, entirely within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.	3

Water Supply/Water quality Projects

05	Mt. Diablo Mercury Mine	Mitch Avalon, Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District	$4.1 million	Point source cleanup of the mine site and cleanup of deposited mercury washed downstream to the Marsh Creek Reservoir. Improves public health and safety by reducing mercury contaminations in fish and sediments in Marsh Creek and the Delta.	3
42	South Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Water Recycling Project Phase 1	Lysa Voight, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD)	$106 million	Design and construct Phase I of a multi-phased project that will provide up to 65,000 acre feet per year of recycled water and irrigate up to 16,000 acres of agriculture, habitat mitigation and conservation lands in South Sacramento County.	3

Research, Investigation, and Education Projects

34	Delta Subsidence Reversal/Carbon Sequestration	Bryan Brock, DWR	$12.25 million (funding approved)	Convert significant acreage on Sherman and Twitchell Islands from conventional agriculture to practices that promote subsidence reversal, while quantifying carbon sequestration rates to aid in protocol development and lessen flood risks.	1
52	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed Models for Water Supply /Water Quality	Lysa Voight, The Central Valley Drinking Water Policy Workgroup	$300,000	Complete the combined WAMF, DSM2 and CalSim II Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta Watershed Models for water supply / water quality. This model was developed to evaluate flow, nutrients and salinity, but can be expanded for other uses.	2

38	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Public Use	Robin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation	$1 million	Increase existing and provide new long-term opportunities for appropriate wildlife dependent public use.	2
50	Methylmercury Impacts Analyses for the Yolo Bypass	Philip Pogledich, Yolo County	$100,000	Collect data and analyze changes in methylmercury production and bioaccumulation that could result from (1) a proposed project to enhance fisheries habitat in the Yolo Bypass; and (2) a Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Proposal to expand the Yolo Bypass to improve flood capacity and help identify and describe management practices that could minimize methylmercury production and loads from the proposed projects.	3
35	Delta Methylmercury TMDL	Dr. Stephen McCord, Delta TMDL Nonpoint Sources Workgroup	$198,000	Provide a clearinghouse for information and facilitate a regional study management program for the control of methylmercury from wetlands and irrigated agriculture in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta.	3
51	Clarksburg Flood Protection Feasibility Study	Philip Pogledich, Yolo County	$200,000	Feasibility study of alternatives to provide a 100-year level of protection to the Clarksburg region.	3
04	Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station	Ted Sommer, DWR	$80 million	Consolidate over 160 agency employees into a single location and provide modern facilities for science and research efforts.	3
09	Planning for Delta Narratives Project	Jane Wagner-Tyack, Restore the Delta	$107,795 (funding under review by NEH)	A plan for multi-location exhibits, which situates the Delta's narratives in regional and national history, links sites of cultural significance, outlines the responsibilities of each exhibition partner, and delineates how various audiences will be able to access the information provided.	3
24	Delta Working Landscapes	Michael Machado, Delta Protection Commission	$1 million	Planting vegetative buffers along irrigation canals and hedgerow plantings to improve water quality by reducing runoff of pesticides and sediment and farming approaches which can benefit wildlife and other environmental aspects.	3
36	Pacific Flyway Center Delta Gateway	Robin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation	$13 million	Proposed educational facility and site to serve the general public, Central Valley area school districts, various public sector agencies, and special environmentally focused events and activities.	3

53	Delta Branding Project	Susan Roberts Shakoora Azimi -Gaylon, Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy)	$500,000	Develop a Delta Brand, including branding collateral, and a 2-5 year marketing plan to promote the Delta as a destination and the Delta's significance to Californians.	3
10	Reclamation Districts Archive	Jane Wagner-Tyack, Restore the Delta	$40,000 (starting cost)	The project would expand on an effort currently underway in San Joaquin County to preserve and make more widely available historical records related to Delta levee construction and maintenance and other reclamation district activities.	4

Table 2 **Near-term Delta Projects Supported to Move Forward in the Process(es)** **Cost and Timing Information**

Project Number*	PROPOSED PROJECTS	Levees/ Flood Management/ Emergency Mgmt.**	Ecosystem	Water Supply/Water Quality	Other (Research, Investigation, Education)	Readiness	Construction/Implementation Start	Cost for Next Step/Phase***	Total Cost (remaining for projects underway)****
	Number with the resource as "Primary" focus: (numbers do not add to 43 projects - some projects have two primary purposes/benefits)	24	6	3	12	43			
	Levee / Flood Mgmt. Emergency Reponse Projects								
13	RD 2038 - Lower Jones Tract	P				1	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
14	RD 2039 - Upper Jones Tract	P				1	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
16	RD 2072 - Woodward Island	P				1	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
19	RD 684 - Lower Roberts	P				1	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
21	RD 2024 - Orwood Palm Tracts	P				1	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
47	Contra Costa Canal Levee Elimination and Flood Control Project	P	X	P		1	2013	$50,000,000	$50,000,000
1	RD 756 Bouldin Island	P				2	2013	$20,000,000	$20,000,000
7	RD 2068 Yolo Bypass Levee Slope Modification	P	X			2	2013	$500,000	$7,700,000
45	RD 2028 Bacon Island Levee Rehabilitation Project	P				2	2013	$30,000,000	$60,000,000
12	Reclamation District No. 2027 (Mandeville Island)	P				3	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
15	RD 2040 - Victoria Island	P				3	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
17	RD 2117 - Coney Island	P				3	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
18	RD 2119 - Wright Elmwood	P				3	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
20	RD 2023 - Venice Island	P				3	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
22	RD 548 - Terminus Tract	P				3	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
25	RD 2037 - Rindge Tract	P				3	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
26	RD 2041 - Medford Island	P				3	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
27	RD 2065 - Veale Tract	P				3	2014	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
33	Smith Canal Gate	P				3	2015	$30,000,000	$30,000,000
40	Emergency Preparedness and Flood Response Program in the Delta	P				3	2013	$250,000	$250,000
43	Sierra Northern Rail Line Acquisition	P				3	2014	$2,300,000	$21,700,000
48	Mormon Channel Ecosystem Restoration & Central Stockton Flood Bypass Project	P	X			3	2017	$5,600,000	$50,000,000
49	Paradise Cut Flood Bypass Expansion Project	P	X	X		3	2016	$500,000	$80,000,000
6	Knightsen Biofilter	P	P	X	X	3	2015	$6,000,000	$12,100,000

Table 2 **Near-term Delta Projects Supported to Move Forward in the Process(es)** **Cost and Timing Information**

Project Number*	PROPOSED PROJECTS	Levees/ Flood Management/ Emergency Mgmt.**	Ecosystem	Water Supply/Water Quality	Other (Research, Investigation, Education)	Readiness	Construction/Implementation Start	Cost for Next Step/Phase***	Total Cost (remaining for projects underway)****
	Ecosystem Projects (see also Knightsen Biofilter project above)								
2	McCormack-Williamson Tract	X	P		X	2	2014	$20,000,000	$20,000,000
28	Elk Slough Flood and Habitat Improvements Project	X	P			3	2013	$1,400,000	$5,200,000
11	Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration		P		X	1	2013	$7,400,000	$35,000,000
8	The Nigiri Project Yolo Bypass Floodplain Enhancement		P		X	3	2016	$7,000,000	$66,935,000
37	Lower Putah Creek Restoration		P			3	2016	$1,000,000	$10,000,000
	Water Supply/Water quality Projects (see also Contra Costa Canal project above)								
5	Mt Diablo Mercury Mine		X	P		3	2015	$500,000	$4,100,000
42	The South Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Water Recycling Project (South County Ag Project) Phase 1		X	P		3	2017	$12,000,000	$106,300,000
	Research, Investigation, and Education Projects								
34	Carbon Sequestration	X	X		P	1	2013	$2,350,000	$12,250,000
52	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed Models for Water Supply /Water Quality			X	P	2	2013	$300,000	$300,000
38	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Public Use				P	2	2013	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
50	Methylmercury Impacts Analyses for the Yolo Bypass		X	X	P	3	2013	$100,000	$100,000
35	Delta Methylmercury TMDL			X	P	3	2013	$198,000	$198,000
51	Clarksburg Flood Protection Feasibility Study	X			P	3	2013	$200,000	$200,000
4	Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station				P	3	2015	$12,000,000	$80,000,000
9	Planning for Delta Narratives Project				P	3	2014	$107,795	$1,000,000
24	Coalition to Support Delta Projects Working Landscapes				P	3	2013	$250,000	$1,000,000
36	Pacific Flyway Center Delta Gateway				P	3	2017	$1,000,000	$13,000,000
53	Delta Branding Project				P	3	2013	$200,000	$500,000
10	Reclamation Districts Archive Proposal				P	4	2012	$40,000	TBD
Total number of projects that address the resource		28	14	8	16				
Total Costs for Next Step/Phase		**$187,150,000**	**$39,800,000**	**$37,500,000**	**$17,745,795**			**$282,195,795**	
Total Remaining Cost for Full Implementation		**$440,700,000**	**$143,185,000**	**$135,400,000**	**$109,548,000**				**$828,833,000**

Key:

Category: P = Primary purpose/benefit X = Additional purpose/benefit

Count	Readiness Scoring:
8	1 = **Underway** - Significant funding and permits secured
6	2 = **Ready to Move Forward** - Design complete, partners committed, CEQ/NEPA compliance, ready to apply for permit and funding
28	3 = **Concept Fleshed Out** - Project concept clearly articulated; at least initial discussion with potential partners; potential sources of funding identified
1	4 = **Idea Stage** - A potential promising idea; no details at this time

Notes

* Project numbers are for identification purposes only and simply indicate order of submittal.
** The total cost for levee improvements along the Middle River conveyance corridor to improve seismic resiliency is estimated at $60 million.
*** Costs for next step/phase include all remaining costs to complete the next phase or step (likely completed in less than 5 years).
**** Total Costs includes all remaining costs to complete the project (possibly over the next 10 to 20 years). Where there were ranges identified, the high end of the range is listed here.