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## **Letter to Lester Snow Pursuant to November Early Action Committee Report**

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**Requested Action:** Review and make recommendations regarding the draft letter to Secretary Snow regarding Yolo County's Early Action request for support on the Westside Yolo Bypass Management Option.

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### **Background**

The Delta Stewardship Council's (Council) Early Actions Committee (Committee) met on November 5, 2010, to discuss and review Interim Plan Early Action applications submitted to the Council for consideration. The Committee reviewed an application, submitted by Yolo County, requesting support to develop the Westside Yolo Bypass Management Option (Westside Option). Yolo County believes the Westside Option, if further developed from its current conceptual phase, would be a viable alternative to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan's (BDCP) Fremont Weir Conservation Measure. Yolo County believes the Westside Option may achieve some or all of the biological objectives of the floodplain habitat component of BDCP's Fremont Weir Conservation Measure while avoiding or reducing the potential adverse impacts to agriculture, existing wildlife habitat, and other resources and infrastructure in the Yolo Bypass. Though the Committee acknowledged the Westside Option appeared to be consistent with the goals and policy objectives of the Delta Plan, the Committee was concerned with preserving the Council's independence as an appellate body should inclusion of the BDCP into the Delta Plan occur and be subsequently appealed. The Committee's recommend to the full Council was to take no action on this Early Action application.

At the Council's November 18, 2010 meeting, the Committee discussed this Early Action application further with the full Council and received additional testimony from representatives of Yolo County. The Council discussed options that could preserve their potential appellate role while still providing support for projects that promote the coequal goals and could be included in the Delta Plan. The Council's Executive Officer suggested a letter be drafted encouraging the parties of BDCP and Yolo County to continue to work on a path forward but would not be seen as the Council becoming part of the BDCP process. The Council was also sensitive that any action on promoting the development of the Westside Option would set a precedent whereby future and more controversial concepts could seek Council support for development.

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1: Draft letter to Secretary Lester Snow

### **Contact**

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