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June 12, 2012

Mr. Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Isenberg:

Subject: Comments on the Sixth Draft of the Delta Plan

On behalf of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) staff's sixth draft of the Delta Plan. This draft contains significant improvements, and we appreciate the efforts of your Council and staff to consider and incorporate comments offered by public water agencies.

In particular, we commend progress made in addressing the multitude of stressors impacting the delta ecosystem. LADWP is committed to meeting the coequal goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability and believes that a successful plan must reduce impacts of all stressors in the Delta. This draft appropriately focuses on the functions of water flow in the ecosystem versus viewing flow in an abstract or isolated manner. We support the specific comments provided by State and Federal Contractors regarding water flow and hope to see additional progress on the description of water flows in the final Delta Plan.

Two issues continue to concern our agency. Language related to a "reduced reliance on the Delta" has been improved, but LADWP continues to believe that the Delta Reform Act did not give Council regulatory authority to review water management decisions in other parts of the state. As such, the final plan should recognize and respect the authority of local agencies to manage their water supplies. We also believe that the final plan should clarify the Council's responsibility to incorporate the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan into the Delta Plan.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We strongly encourage Council staff to work with the water community to address the areas of the draft plan that need further refinement. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. David R. Pettijohn, Manager of Water Resources, at (213) 367-0899.

Sincerely,

James B. McDaniel
Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System

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c: Ronald O. Nichols
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