



May 15, 2013

Chairman Phil Isenberg
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth St., Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Isenberg,

At the suggestion of Dan Ray, Chief Deputy Executive Officer of the Delta Stewardship Council, I am writing to summarize our recent assessment of the important role the Delta Plan can play in helping California to meet the co-equal goals of the Delta Reform Act of 2009. In our recent study, *Stress Relief: Prescriptions for a Healthier Ecosystem* (PPIC, April 2013), we conclude that the final draft Delta Plan provides a comprehensive assessment of the problem of multiple sources of aquatic ecosystem stress, as well as a framework for addressing these stressors in an integrated and comprehensive way. By proactively implementing the Delta Plan, the DSC can contribute significantly to improving ecosystem outcomes in the Delta, a key resource management challenge for 21st century California.

Our report also identifies the DSC as the agency with the greatest capacity to ensure that the multiplicity of decisions that affect the Delta ecosystem are consistent both with the co-equal goals set forth in the Delta Reform Act and the Delta Plan itself. The DSC also can help to ensure that these diverse decisions are better integrated and more cohesive. We therefore recommend that the Council exercise its authority to conduct consistency reviews for other relevant planning processes and regulatory decisions and use the new Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee to coordinate planning, management, and adaptive management efforts of the many state, federal, and local agencies involved in ecosystem-related actions in the Delta watershed.

We look forward to following the progress of the Council and its many partner agencies in implementing the Delta Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ellen Hanak
Senior Fellow and Co-director of Research

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