

Jody Mazarella

July 12, 2012

I am a 30 year resident of Bethel Island. I moved there because I love fishing and boating. Bethel Island was known to be just that. Bethel Island is known for its Great fishing and recreation. We have had numerous ESPN fishing tournaments there.

Warren Bethell bought San Mound Ranch in 1871. Warren, Sheriff Harris and James Smith, all from San Jose, reclaimed the Island and in 1894 the Bethel Island agreement was written. Thought to be the first formation of a Reclamation District.

Legacy: Towns that have high cultural, historic, or ambiance value that gives the Delta a distinctive sense of place. The State of California named 10 Legacy ^{Community} ~~Cities~~, and yes Bethel Island is one of them.

The State has recognized the importance of cultural heritage in the Legacy Communities and has mandated that the ESP plan include ways to expand recreational capacity.

Concentrating on recreational opportunities provides focal points to visitors and also present opportunities for Businesses to develop an economic viable operation.

“Coequal goals”: SHALL BE ACHIEVED IN A MANNER THAT PROTECTS AND ENHANCES THE UNIQUE CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, NATURAL RESOURCE, AND AGRICULTURAL VALVES OF THE DELTA AS AN EVOLVING PLACE. That is half of your mission statement.

I hear statements like, we don't have the luxury of waiting for the perfect solution. I want to remind everyone that “A solution to a problem is a problem. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Bethel Islanders were the ones that made the history and the culture. Keep all of Bethel Island as a “Legacy Community”. Invest in the Levees to protect lives and invest in the Reclamation Districts that do want to maintain and or improve their Levees.

The Delta Coves lawsuit was forced upon us. Look at the outcome of what that Court and a wide range of other experts has made for us to comply to now. How will and who will pay to raise those Levees from 7.2 to a 200 year flood when there are houses parked on top? If you remove Bethel Island as a legacy city does it have to be changed through legislation, just like it was created? Do not sell the Delta and the eco system short, and no not destroy Bethel Island as a Legacy City. And last but not least One of Warren Bethell’s cousins was Union Bethell, founder of AT&T.