



March 10, 2011

Mr. Phillip Isenberg  
Chairman  
Delta Stewardship Council  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Isenberg,

As you may know, the Southern California Water Committee (SCWC), established in 1984, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public education partnership dedicated to informing Southern Californians about our water needs and our state's water resources. Spanning Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino, Imperial, Riverside, Ventura and Kern Counties, SCWC's members include representatives from business, government, agriculture, water agencies, labor and the general public. Our organization supported passage of the 2009 water legislative package.

SCWC is fully committed to working collaboratively with organizations, agencies and individuals throughout California to develop and implement a plan to meet the co-equal goals to restore the Delta ecosystem and water supply reliability. The success of the Delta Plan is critical to achieving both of these goals.

We are sympathetic to the short timeline and the great challenge the Delta Stewardship Council faces, and we thank the Council's members and staff for all the hard work put into this effort. We also clearly recognize that the first draft of the Delta Plan is a work in progress, intended to be a discussion document, and will ultimately change significantly in the coming months as you further organize the document, add significant content and seek input from stakeholders and the public.

Our organization has placed a high priority on Delta-related public policy and legislation. We strongly support development of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), and will be carefully reviewing your future drafts of the Delta Plan and weighing in with commentary directed by our members.

As you continue your work on the Delta Plan, we respectfully submit the following comments.

First, there needs to be a clearly defined scope for the Delta Plan. If the scope becomes too broad, and attempts to solve all of California's water problems, it could ultimately jeopardize the

ability to develop a successful plan that has broad public support for implementation. The Delta Plan should focus on the Delta region and follow the clear direction provided in the legislation.

Second, we need a more explicit explanation of the programmatic nature of the Delta Plan and how it will integrate with other activities undertaken by local and state agencies, especially the BDCP, which will likely be incorporated into the Delta Plan.

The BDCP will help achieve the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and a healthy Delta ecosystem. Although it will not be complete by the time the Delta Plan is completed, the Delta Plan should allow for phased integration of appropriate elements of the BDCP, and other ongoing projects in the Delta.

Third, the Delta Plan should not attempt to address or resolve general water policy management issues that are being addressed in other agency and policy or regulatory forums.

Lastly, the Delta Plan should not single out the State Water Project and Central Valley Project in regards to Delta water use efficiency performance standards. If the Delta Plan is looking at reducing Delta reliance, the Council needs to ensure that the focus is broadened to include all delta watershed diversions, not just SWP and CVP exports.

On behalf of SCWC, I thank you again for your diligent efforts on the Delta Plan. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the first draft of the Delta Plan, and we look forward to working with you throughout this process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard Atwater  
Executive Director