

**From:** Greg Zlotnick [<mailto:gzlotnick@h2oesq.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 12:07 PM  
**To:** Grindstaff, Joe@DeltaCouncil; Messer, Cindy@DeltaCouncil  
**Cc:** [gzlotnick@h2oesq.com](mailto:gzlotnick@h2oesq.com); 'Brenda Burman'  
**Subject:** In Response to Chairman's request for proposed language  
**Importance:** High

Joe and Cindy:

In response to the Chairman's request at the Council's last meeting that we provide suggested language regarding the important issue of better conveying the need for integrating ecosystem enhancements with levee improvements and management in the Delta Plan, the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency offers the following:

On page 245 at Line 20 insert the following as two new opening sentences of the paragraph:

The Council envisions a future in which the missions to reduce flood risks, improve water supply reliability and improve ecosystem functions are well integrated. For example, flood risk reduction actions must include ecosystem policies to eliminate projects which reduce the opportunity to restore valuable habitat and advance the coequal goals, consistent with public safety. Furthermore, the Council envisions a future in which risks....

On page 275 at Line 11, change the section heading to "**Setback Levees...#157**;

On page 275, immediately prior to the renamed section "**Setback Levees...#157**"; add the following as a new section:

### **Delta Levees, Water Supply and Ecosystem Function**

To advance the coequal goals, the intersection of levee funding, ecosystem enhancement and water supply reliability must be closely managed and integrated to maximize public benefits.

#### **Problem Statement**

To date, public funding policies related to supporting levee improvements in the Delta have not accounted for detrimental impacts to:

1) Water supplies -- caused by not reducing or eliminating the ongoing discharge of dissolved organic loads into Delta waterways or indirectly "subsidizing...#157; continued land subsidence which increases the risk and consequences of "sunny day" levee failures and potential multiple failures due to earthquakes.

2) Ecosystem enhancements -- caused by lost opportunities for restoring tidal marsh and channel margin habitat as a consequence of uncritical application of policies that seek to improve all levees to minimum prescriptive structural standards rather than applying prioritization based upon interests and values protected, funding available, and capacity to provide multiple benefits consistent with the coequal goals.

## Policy

After prioritizing necessary investments to protect State interests in the Delta, public financial support should not be provided to enhance levees which would obstruct the securing of public ecological and water supply benefits. In implementing this recommendation, fair compensation to affected private parties should be provided.

In addition, the following line-by-line changes in the chapter are suggested:

Page 256, bottom of the page. Add the following bullet:

Allowing levees to fail on non-heavily subsidized islands could generate significant ecological benefits.

Page 260, line 33. Change the sentence to read:

To effectively prioritize state investments in levees, a framework is needed to adequately assess Delta flood risk [and potential ecosystem enhancements](#).

Page 272, change the Interim Priorities table

Replace the first priority in the ecosystem conservation column with "Protect opportunities to create a net increase in channel margin habitat consistent with ER P3"

Replace the second priority in the ecosystem conservation column with "Protect opportunities to create a net increase in tidal wetlands habitat"

Replace the third priority in the ecosystem conservation column with "Protect opportunities to create a net increase in floodplain habitat"

Thank you for your consideration.

Greg

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