

COMMENTS FOR THE DELTA VISION TASKFORCE

We at De Wit Family Farms have produced rice and wild rice the Yolo Bypass for over twenty years. We have faced many extraordinary challenges attempting to grow our food crops in this flood prone area.

Often our access to the fields in the spring is delayed by late (March and April) flooding. The extreme years with flooding in May and June totally prevent planting of any crops. Delayed access translates into late planting dates, lower yields, and greater risk of the onset of winter rains before the completion of rice harvest.

The proposed plan to alter the structure of the Fremont Weir and manage that facility to increase the frequency and duration of flood flows will have severe negative impacts on agriculture in the Yolo Bypass. Both property owners and farmers will experience increased expenses and reduced income from agricultural operations under the proposed plan.

As the largest farmer in the Yolo Bypass, we strongly oppose the plan to alter the Fremont Weir.

Jack De Wit

President, De Wit Family Farms