

Express Opposition, Unless Amended, to
AB 576 (Dickinson, D-Sacramento)
regarding Delta Stewardship Council:
Planning and Administration: Fee

Legislation Committee

Item 8-7

March 8, 2011

Background

- Delta Reform Act of 2009 created Delta Stewardship Council
- Council formed in early 2010
- Required to adopt Delta Plan by January 1, 2012
- Legislation did not establish a financing mechanism
- Current funding for Council from state General Fund, bonds and/or federal reimbursements

AB 576

Summary & Concerns

- Directs the Council, by March 31, 2012, to adopt a fee on SWP and CVP contractors to fund a portion of the planning and administrative costs of the Council
- Inconsistent with beneficiaries pay approach
- No indication that other beneficiaries would be required to help fund the Council

Proposed Amendments

- Include other beneficiaries besides water contractors
- Spread the Council's planning and administrative costs more broadly to all groups that benefit from or cause impacts to the Delta watershed

Board Options

- Option #1
 - Adopt the CEQA determination
 - Oppose AB 576 unless amended
- Option #2
 - Adopt the CEQA determination
 - Oppose AB 576
- Option #3
 - Take no position on AB 576

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1