

# Federal Legislation

Proposed Delta National Heritage Area  
Establishment Act (S.29 & H.R. 486)

Legislation Committee  
Board Item 8-3  
March 8, 2011



# CA Delta Legislation – 2009

- Four policy bills
  - Delta Reform Act (SBX7-1)
  - Groundwater monitoring & reporting (SBX7-6)
  - Conservation (SBX7-7)
  - Surface water measurement (SBX7-8)
- \$11.14 B water bond (SBX7-2)
  - Deferred to 2012 ballot



# CA Delta Reform Act

- New **governance** structure for oversight and accountability
- **Delta Plan** to reduce conflicts and provide certainty within Delta region
- **Delta Conservancy** to take lead on Delta ecosystem restoration
- **Delta Protection Commission**  
Develop Delta plan; Establish Delta as a National Heritage Area





# Proposed Federal Legislation

- Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta National Heritage Area Establishment Act
  - S.29 (Senator Dianne Feinstein)
  - H.R. 486 (Representative John Garamendi)



# Proposed Federal Legislation

## Management Plan Provisions (each Bill)

- Define heritage area
- Designate commission as management entity
- Develop a management plan within three years
- Submit annual report to Secretary of the Interior



# Proposed Federal Legislation

## Elements of Management Plan (each Bill)

- Develop a resources inventory
- Recommend conservation, management & development strategies
- Describe public & private areas of protection
- Identify funding sources
- Recommend implementation strategies



# Proposed Federal Legislation

## Secretary of Interior Authority

- Authorized to approve Management Plan
  - Consultation with the State Authority (Delta Stewardship Council)
- Execute funding agreements
- Report progress within three years
- Recommend future federal funding to Congress



# Proposed Federal Legislation

## Federal Funding

- Appropriation of \$10 million in both Bills
  - Maximum of \$1 million in any one year
- Federal share of any activity is 50%
- Non-federal cost share may be in-kind



# Board Options

## Option 1:

- Adopt the CEQA determination
- Express support for S.29 and H.R. 486

## Option 2:

- Take no position on S.29 and H.R. 486

# Staff Recommendation

Option 1

