



Update on Delta Stewardship Council Activities

Special Committee on Bay-Delta
Item 3b
March 28, 2017

Update on Delta Stewardship Council Activities

- Delta Stewardship Council
- Delta Plan
- Delta Plan Amendments
 - Delta Levee Investment Strategy
 - Conveyance, Storage and Operations
 - Performance Measures

Delta Stewardship Council



- Formed by the Delta Reform Act in 2009
- Appointed Council Members
 - Randy Fiorini, Chair (Turlock)
 - Susan Tatayon, Vice Chair (Rocklin)
 - Frank C. Damrell, Jr. (Sacramento)
 - Mike Gatto (Los Angeles)
 - Patrick Johnston (Stockton)
 - Skip Thomson (Fairfield)
 - Ken Weinberg (San Diego)

Delta Plan

- Adopted in 2013
 - 14 regulatory policies and 73 recommendations
 - Science & Adaptive Management
 - Governance
 - Water Supply Reliability
 - Delta Ecosystem Restoration
 - Water Quality
 - Delta Risk Reduction
 - Unique Delta Values/Culture
 - Funding Principles to Support the Coequal Goals

Delta Plan

- Amendments
 - Adopted in 2016
 - Performance Measures (February)
 - Single-Year Transfers (September)
 - Currently Under Development
 - Delta Levee Investment Strategy
 - Conveyance, Storage and Operations
 - Performance Measures

Delta Levee Investment Strategy

- Delta Reform Act requires Delta Plan to
 - Attempt to reduce risks to people, property, and State interests in the Delta
 - Effective emergency preparedness
 - Appropriate land uses
 - Strategic levee investments
 - Recommend priorities for State investment in Delta levee operation, maintenance, and improvements

Delta Levee Investment Strategy

- Overview of flood risk in the Delta
 - Current flood management efforts
 - Agencies and regulations
- Core strategies to reduce risk include:
 - Continue to prepare for flood emergencies
 - Prioritize investment in Delta flood management
 - Update funding strategies
 - Renew assurances of federal assistance for post disaster response
 - Limit State liability

Delta Levee Investment Strategy

- Comments coordinated with State Water Contractors
 - Definition of benefits for beneficiary-pays funding mechanisms
 - DSC/DWR reporting process for coordination between agencies on priorities for state's levee investments in the Delta
 - Delta Levees Maintenance Subvention Program's cost-sharing provisions

Conveyance, Storage, and Operations (CSO)

- Originally Bay Delta Conservation Plan would be incorporated into the Delta Plan
- Pivot to California WaterFix in 2015
- DSC adopted CSO Principles
- DSC initiated process to amend Delta Plan

Conveyance, Storage, and Operations

- Draft Amendment

- Promote options for new and improved conveyance, including dual conveyance
- Promote new and expanded storage to address climate change and provide ecosystem and water supply benefits
- Increase integrated operations of storage and conveyance to further the coequal goals and prepare for droughts

Conveyance, Storage, and Operations

- Comments coordinated with State Water Contractors
 - Clarify reduced reliance and the associated performance measure to expressly include improved regional self-reliance through continued investment in measures that enhance local supplies
 - CSO should be recommendations (not policies)
 - Operations should not be managed to reduced reliance
 - Revise erroneous language regarding impacts of dual conveyance on Delta water quality

Amendment Process

- Council issued a Notice of Preparation of the EIR on March 16, 2017
- Presentation to Delta Independent Science Board will be scheduled in April or May
- Council will consider updated discussion draft
- Approved language will be included in EIR being prepared for all of the proposed Delta Plan Amendments
 - Delta Levee Investment and Risk Reduction Strategy
 - Delta Conveyance, Storage, and Operation
 - Performance Measures

Next Steps

- Continue working with the State Water Contractors to comment
- Report back on status and outcomes

