



Informational Item: Delta Stewardship Council and Delta Plan Overview

Background

Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer, of the Delta Stewardship Council will provide an informational briefing on the work of the Council.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the hub of the state's water supply system. It is a unique and valuable estuary, home to threatened and endangered species; it supplies municipal and industrial water to 25 million people and irrigates more than 7 million acres of the most productive agricultural land in the nation. Land within the Delta supports agriculture, recreation and tourism; and more than 500,000 people call the Delta home. The Delta is also an ecosystem in crisis.

In November 2009, the California Legislature enacted SBX7-1, the Delta Reform Act. The Legislature advanced several broad goals, including the coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The bill created the Delta Stewardship Council, and tasked them with creating a legally enforceable, sustainable management plan for the Delta, or the "Delta Plan," by January 1, 2012. This Delta Plan will guide state and local agencies to help achieve the coequal goals as well as guide protection and enhancement of the unique resources, culture, and values of the Delta as an evolving place.

An Interim Delta Plan, created to guide the Council during development of the Delta Plan, was adopted by the Council in August 2010, and work on the Delta Plan is well underway. A series of scoping meetings was held across the state throughout January and a first public review draft of the plan will be released in mid-February.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Delta Stewardship Council Background

(http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/DSC_background.pdf)

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Meeting Date: February 16, 2011

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Contact

Sue Sims

Department of Water Resources

(916) 653-6055