



**Informational Item:** Report on CWC presentation to the Delta Stewardship Council at its March 24, 2011 meeting

### **Background**

On March 24, 2011 California Water Commission Vice-Chair Paul Kelley spoke to the Delta Stewardship Council about the Commission's history, current members and primary responsibilities. He also discussed opportunities for coordination with the Council. The main points from that presentation are outlined below.

- The Commission has several key responsibilities. It approves Department of Water Resources' regulations. The Commission recently approved the regulations for urban suppliers to meet the 20x2020 water conservation goals, and next month, will consider new agricultural water measurement regulations.
- The Commission oversees and prepares an annual report on the State Water Project, has a role in securing federal appropriations on flood and water management projects, and advises the Legislature and the Administration on statewide water operations and planning issues.
- One of the major new responsibilities has to do with new investments in surface and groundwater storage projects for the state. The \$3 billion for storage projects in the proposed 2010 bond would be continuously appropriated to the Commission. The Commission will help determine which projects receive funding from the bond after carefully evaluating the public benefits they provide.
- The Commission is directed in statute to develop methods to quantify the public benefits of water storage projects. Although the development of these regulations is related to the public benefit portion of water storage projects that could funding from the 2012 water bond, it will also have much broader application for future investments of public funds including ecosystem benefits, water supply, water quality and flood

protection. A fundamental tenant of the work is consistent with the actions underway by the Delta Stewardship Council in support of the co-equal goals.

- There are many important parallels between the Commission's work and the Delta Stewardship Council. Both will be looking to integrate sound water-related investments to support multi-agency interests, long term sustainability for water supply and ecosystems, and other public benefits. It is important to draw the linkages between what happens between different regions of the state including the Delta.
- Our success and the long term benefit of our efforts will depend on how effectively we coordinate with each other and other agencies. The influence of the Delta Plan will be large and reflect how profoundly water management is changing. The efforts of the Water Commission will also have a major and positive impact of water management.
- The Water Commission stands ready to work with you to develop a comprehensive approach toward our state's complex water problems.

**Contact**

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