



## Update on Delta Plan

### Background

The Delta Stewardship Council released the fifth draft of the Delta Plan on August 2, 2011 which included proposed regulatory policies and recommendations on water supply reliability, ecosystem restoration, and reducing risk to people, property and state interests in the Delta. The accompanying Environmental Impact Report will be released in late August or September. The plan contains one specific recommendation for the California Water Commission:

*WR R7 The Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the California Water Commission , Bureau of Reclamation, State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Public Health, the Delta Stewardship Council, and other agencies and stakeholders, should conduct a survey to identify projects that could be implemented within the next 5 to 10 years to expand existing surface and groundwater storage facilities, create new storage, improve operation of existing Delta conveyance facilities, and enhance opportunities for conjunctive use programs and water transfers. The California Water Commission should hold hearings and provide recommendations on priority projects. These recommendations should be used to support water supplier requests for state grants and loans and other sources of funding for these project.*

The recommendation is consistent with previous discussions between the Council and the Commission at public meetings in February, April and May 2011. The Commission may formally respond to this recommendation by September 30, 2011. The comments can also be considered for the Draft Environmental Impact Report which is scheduled to be released in late August. A draft comment letter has been prepared by CWC staff.

### Attachments

Link to [Fifth Staff Draft of the Delta Plan](#)

Draft Letter to Delta Stewardship Council

### Contact

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RE: Fifth Draft of the Delta Plan

The California Water Commission appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Fifth Draft Delta Plan (Delta Plan), dated August 2, 2011. Please consider these comments for the Environmental Impact Report as well.

We commend the Council for its excellent work on issues that are critical to California's water supply reliability and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. Consistent with earlier discussions between the Water Commission and Delta Stewardship Council Chairman Isenberg, this draft of the Delta Plan outlines a role for our agencies to work together to expand existing surface and groundwater storage facilities, improve operation of existing Delta conveyance facilities, and enhance opportunities for conjunctive use programs and water transfers (Chapter 4, WR R7). This recommendation is consistent with our statutory responsibilities as well as with our current activities on water storage.

The California Water Commission is holding two public workshops this fall to examine the needs, options and outlook for water storage in California. The purpose of the workshops are to inform the California Water Commission of existing, planned and needed storage projects to ensure reliable and sustainable water supplies, help address water quality issues, and provide for a healthy environment. The workshops will also provide a forum to discuss the benefits, costs, and consequences of a broad array of surface and groundwater storage projects and operational changes, particularly in light of climate change impacts, as well as a discussion of public benefits of storage.

These workshops will contribute greatly to the recommendation in the Delta Plan that agencies and stakeholders collaborate to identify projects and strategies that can be implemented over the next decade to benefit the Delta and the water management statewide, and to use this approach to make decisions about public funding for projects.

The California Water Commission strongly supports recommendation WR R7 and is committed to working with the Council as a partner in furthering the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.