



**Briefing on Water Storage Integration and Delta Vision Foundation Policy Paper**

**Background**

The Delta Vision Foundation has convened a working group, including a broad range of interests, to evaluate how to advance water storage in California. Based on the work of this group, the Foundation developed a *Draft Water Storage Policy Paper* discussing how increased flexible water storage, integrated with Delta and Statewide systems operations, can contribute to the co-equal goals.

The paper highlights a common set of objectives and outcomes as well as an action plan for meeting those objectives:

Objectives

- *Operating Objective:* Capture more water when it is abundant and divert less when it is dry to reduce conflicts at critical times for fish and other ecosystem needs.
- *Implementation Objective:* Implement additional new storage upstream of the Delta and accessible dry-year surface and groundwater supplies downstream of the Delta by the time any new Delta conveyance is operational.
- *Protection Objective:* Respect the public trust, water rights, and area of origin protections and avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental and economic impacts whenever feasible.

Action Plan

- *Integrated Analysis:* The evaluation and analysis of existing and proposed surface and groundwater storage projects must consider how storage will integrate with Delta operation and contribute to more flexible water management for the ecosystem and economy.
- *Institutional Alignment:* Improved regional partnerships (with authority for analysis and action) must work with better-organized State and Federal agencies to plan and negotiate public and user benefits to be achieved for each project.
- *Investment Approach:* Immediate funding is needed to complete integrated analyses of water storage and identify ecosystem, water quality, and water supply benefits and develop cost allocations. Funding for analysis, design, permitting and construction is expected to be a mix of Federal, State, and regional/local funds.

Agenda Item: 10

Meeting Date: July 16, 2014

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At this meeting Charles Gardiner, Executive Director of the Delta Vision Foundation, as well as members of the working group, will brief the Commission on the Foundation's work on water storage policy.

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