



**Briefing by Delta Stewardship Council on Work to Prioritize
State Investments in Delta Levees**

Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the heart of California's water supply system, and the Delta's levees protect people, property, and vital state infrastructure. The Delta Reform Act of 2009 directed the Delta Stewardship Council to develop a comprehensive strategy for prioritizing the long-term investment of limited State funding for Delta levees. This will be developed over an 18-month period working in consultation with DWR, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, the Delta Protection Commission, local agencies, and the California Water Commission, local reclamation districts, and with Delta stakeholders. The Strategy will use the best available data, research, and lessons learned from other state and local programs and planning efforts.

Together with its partners, the Council will assess, island by island, the state of levees, the extent and value of assets to be protected, and the cost of long-term defense. The result will be a tiered priorities list for State levee investments that looks beyond the value of assets directly behind a levee and considers the interconnection of these assets not only to the Delta, but also to California's water supply, transportation, electrical and gas transmission systems and the overall health of the environment. The Strategy will also enhance the coordination of levee operations and maintenance to help make funding more certain. Recent estimates of funding required for Delta levee improvements range from \$3.8 billion to \$4.28 billion. The Levee Investment Strategy will build on existing principles for investment and existing risk assessment information.

Cindy Messer, Delta Stewardship Council Deputy Executive Officer for Planning, will brief the Commission on the progress of work being done to develop the Levee Investment Strategy.

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