

SACRAMENTO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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July 31, 2008

Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814
SENT VIA EMAIL: dv_context@calwater.ca.gov

RE: Second preliminary staff draft of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan

Dear Mr. Isenberg:

Thank you for considering our July 1, 2008 comments to the Delta Vision Strategic Plan's first staff draft. Although the second staff draft does make some changes, Sacramento County Farm Bureau remains very concerned that the people of the Delta, their businesses, and their communities have not been adequately provided for in the Plan. The Delta's vitality is dependent on a thriving and diverse agricultural economy and the importance of Delta agriculture should be a theme throughout the Plan. In addition to supporting the Multi-County eleven point Resolution on Water and Delta Related Issues as adopted by the five Delta county board of supervisor, we suggest the following specific changes:

1. Delta as a place should be a co-equal value giving it equal importance with water supply and ecosystem.
2. Change action 4.1 to read, "Restore as much tidal marsh as physically feasible without converting highly productive and high value agricultural land..."
3. Under action 4.1, remove "Sutter Island" and "New Hope Tract" from the list of high priority sites for tidal marsh restoration and the "Netherlands Tract" from the lower priority list. These areas of the Delta are highly productive and have significant acreage of high value crops such as wine grapes, pears, and cherries.
4. Modify strategy 10 to read, "Increase recognition of the Delta as a place, and enhance tourism, recreation and the vitality of the Delta economy and communities, by creating a National Heritage area..."

5. Modify action 10.5 to read, "Create market structures, incentives and other policies to protect and enhance Delta agriculture to include incentives for Delta agriculture to produce public benefits...."

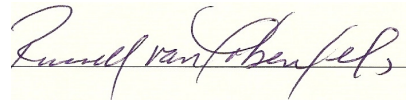
The value of Delta agriculture exceeds \$2 billion each year. The Plan should include strong recommendations to protect the Delta agriculture's historical, cultural, economic and environmental contributions. Even though the "drivers of change" may impact the Delta over time, many of today's agricultural areas can remain highly productive well into the future and should be given the opportunity to adapt to changing conditions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ken Oneto,
President



Russell van Loben Sels,
Vice President

cc: Blue Ribbon Task Force
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Honorable Barbara Boxer
Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Honorable Dan Lungren
Honorable Doris Matsui
Honorable Dave Cox
Honorable Michael Machado
Honorable Darrell Steinberg
Honorable Guy Houston
Honorable Alan Nakanishi
Honorable Roger Niello
Honorable Lois Wolk
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Yolo County Farm Bureau
San Joaquin County Farm Bureau
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