



DELTA CAUCUS

CONTRA COSTA - SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN - SOLANO - YOLO

The purpose of Farm Bureau is to protect and promote the viability of agricultural production and operations. We, the five Delta county Farm Bureaus, understand the need for water reliability and support the effort of Delta Vision and the BDCP processes to plan for the future water needs of California. We are, however, very concerned with some of the elements of both planning processes and are, therefore, joining together to insure that Delta agriculture is not sacrificed to resolve current and future water shortages.

We encourage you to consider and we can only support solutions that incorporate elements, principles, and common values which:

1. Are strongly committed to the protection and enhancement of agriculture and associated businesses in the Sacramento/San Joaquin statutory primary and secondary zones of the Delta and nearby agriculturally connected regions, and that Delta agriculture be a primary value in all Delta planning processes.
2. Support the development of scientific and reliable information demonstrating the importance of Delta agriculture to the economic and social well being of the five Delta Counties, the region, and the state.
3. Understand and appreciate that Delta farmers are strongly committed to good husbandry and environmental stewardship and that Delta farmers are important factors in the maintenance of a resilient and robust Delta economy and environment.
4. Provide for the protection of Delta farmers' water rights, property rights, and existing water rights priority laws to include area of origin protections.
5. Creatively encourage landowner agreements such as easements, operational agreements, and incentives to provide opportunities for property owners to farm and provide other public benefits or simply provide public benefits where appropriate, and discourage public acquisition of Delta agricultural property in fee title.
6. Are committed to flood control, including upstream storage and levee maintenance programs funded by all beneficiaries, recognizing that levees protect services, recreational opportunities, infrastructure of state, regional and local importance, and environmental values as well as land uses.

7. Support improved through-Delta conveyance of export water, to improve water quality through existing sloughs and channels, maintain the common pool concept, and protect Delta water quality for farmers, habitat, and export.
8. Require that Delta water be used first, for maintenance of current Delta salinity standards and maintenance of an adequate supply of good quality water for all Delta users to include environmental needs and second, for export of water surplus to local needs whenever it is available.
9. Provide for “regional self-sufficiency” for water supplies, exporting more Delta water in wet years and less in dry years, and sufficient additional storage upstream and downstream of the Delta to resolve current and future water shortages.
10. Require that planning processes by state and federal agencies be open, transparent and fair, and include local Delta stakeholder representation.
11. Recognize Delta counties’ responsibilities related to the governance of the Delta region and provide for local government representation in any new governance structures for the Delta.

Include the 11 principles of mutual interest as resolved by the 5 Delta County Board of Supervisors (attached).