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October 11, 2007

Phil Isenberg, Chairman and Members
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Isenberg and Members of the Task Force:

I am writing on behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors. The County appreciates the work of the Task Force and Delta Vision Stakeholder committee in developing a vision for the sustainable management of a durable Delta. As you are aware, the County of Solano fronts on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and a large part of the County is considered part of the Central Valley. As such, we are also very concerned about emerging proposals involving the Delta and its levees, existing flooding risks, new water conveyance concepts (including a Peripheral Canal and variations thereof), land use oversight and use of the Water Bonds. Those issues are:

- 1 **Flooding:** Our Board is extremely concerned about the consequences of degrading the existing federal flood control levees and project levees, resulting in expanded tidal and seasonal flooding. Additionally there is concern that alterations to expand the capacity of the Yolo Bypass could result in impacts to downstream property owners and the City of Rio Vista. Flood impacts on the local agricultural industry, public services and infrastructure in eastern Solano County, as well as in and around the City of Rio Vista merits extended review and analysis.
- 2 **Impacts of Salinity Intrusion:** Several proposals envision a variable delta, with salinity intrusion. The levels of salinity have been increasing over time which is a concern. For example, prior to State water project exports, the City of Benicia and its Army Base drew its drinking water from the Suisun Bay. Today that is no longer possible. Additionally, increased salinity may impact private wells/potable water sources that rely on the recharging of the groundwater aquifer serving the City of Rio Vista and communities of Collinsville and Birds Landing.
- 3 **Problems with Changes in Ownership.** The proposals include changing ownership of privately owned agricultural land and placing it in the hands of an absentee public owner. This removal of a local presence in remote areas could result in an increased responsibility for County oversight. Past experience has found increased problems with illegal construction, illegal dumping and squatting, and reduced management of invasive species and noxious weeds. A plan needs to be in place to mitigate these potential problems. The County is also concerned that changes in ownership from private to public often result in property management that lacks funding for effective oversight, operations or maintenance.

- 4 Resources: The Board is concerned whether those harmed by the implementation of proposed projects, by either direct or indirect impacts, will be adequately and appropriately compensated as a project expense. Public ownership of land previously held privately results in reduced property taxes, particularly those allocated to special districts; such as the reclamation districts, which will have to continue to maintain and repair levees and levee roads, or fire districts which will continue to have emergency response responsibilities.

Additionally, impacts to water quality, availability and affordability need to be fully considered as project costs. These impacts would include protection of flood control activities and existing water diversions within the county from water quality degradation or regulatory restrictions as a result of relocated/enhanced special status species. We would expect substantial contributions toward a relocation option of the North Bay Aqueduct intake (one option studied is relocation from Barker Slough to the main stem of the Sacramento River – approximately 22 miles east of the current intake) as well as full mitigation to assure continued agricultural production.

- 5 Suisun Marsh Preservation Act: Our Board is concerned about the impacts on the Suisun Marsh and its natural habitat and wants to assure that actions are consistent with the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act which covers marshlands, bays and sloughs in the waters surrounding the marsh. This means providing for adequate water quality, exercising sound water management practices including drainage within the Marsh, providing for the production of valuable waterfowl food plants and future supplemental fresh water supply.
- 6 Delta Protection Act: The County is also interested in assuring that the existing mandates for the Delta Protection Act including protection, preservation and enhancement of Delta agricultural, habitat and recreation resources are recognized and upheld. These policies have been included in our General Planning process and need to be taken into consideration in the development of any vision for the Delta.
- 7 Levee Repair Materials: We would also like to note that the County strongly supports the stockpiling of rock and other materials throughout the delta for emergency purposes, and particularly in the western portion of the Delta to protect water quality and levees. The deep water accessible, industrially zoned area east of Collinsville is an ideal location to create a stockpile.

Thank you in advance for your support of Solano County's needs from the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Reagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael J. Reagan, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

cc: See Distribution List

Cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Solano County Legislative Delegation
Michael Chrisman, Secretary of Resources
Lester Snow, Director of Water Resources
Joseph Grindstaff, Director of California Bay Delta Authority
John Kirlin, Executive Director of Delta Vision
Mike McGowan, Chairman of Delta Protection Commission
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Cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, Vallejo, and Travis Air Force Base
Solano County Water Agency
Suisun Resource Conservation District
Solano County Reclamation and Levee Districts