

# Delta e-News

**Thursday, July 24, 2008**

**This electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on issues affecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Contact us at [delta@water.ca.gov](mailto:delta@water.ca.gov)**

## **Researchers to examine carbon-capture farming to fight Delta subsidence**

A new kind of Delta farming is being explored by UC Davis and U.S. Geological Survey scientists. It's called "carbon-capture" farming, and the hope is that it traps atmospheric carbon dioxide and rebuilds lost soils.

The state Department of Water Resources is paying for the research with a \$12.3 million grant.

"This project is an investment in California's future that could reap multiple benefits over several decades – for California, the nation and the world," said Dr. Roger Fujii, the project director and Bay-Delta program chief for the USGS California Water Science Center.

Long-standing farming practices in the Delta expose fragile peat soils to wind, rain and cultivation, emit carbon dioxide and cause land subsidence. To capture or contain the carbon, farmers would "grow" wetlands. In doing so, they would begin to rebuild the Delta's unique peat soils, take CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere, ease pressure on the Delta's aging levees and infuse the region with new economic potential. [Read more.](#)



**On deeply subsided Twitchell Island in the western Delta, USGS scientists recorded elevation gains of more than 10 inches from 1997 to 2005 on two 7-acre test plots as cattails, tules and other plants grew, died and decomposed.**

## **Summaries of Delta Town Hall meetings available online**

Last month the Resources Agency hosted three Town Hall meetings around the Delta to discuss the various major programs and projects under way throughout the Delta. We have now posted question and answer summaries from each of the three meetings. [You can find them online here.](#)

## **Delta protection panel to meet at 5:30 today in Antioch**

The Delta Protection Commission will meet today at 5:30 p.m. in Antioch where it will host members of the governor-appointed Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force. They will discuss the the Delta Visioning process. The public meeting will be in the city of Antioch's Maintenance Service Center, 1201 W. 4th St. [Read more.](#)

## **Restoring San Joaquin River flows subject of two reports**

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program has released its Initial Program Alternatives Report and its quarterly Program Update. [You can find them online here.](#) Each document tracks and reports work and findings to restore flows to the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the Merced River confluence. The program's goals are to ensure irrigation supplies to Friant water users and restore a Chinook salmon fishery in the river.

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