Clarksburg

North Delta Community Area Residents
for Environmental Stability
"North Delta CARES"
Post Office Box 271
Clarksburg, CA 95612

March 16, 2009

Points of Agreement

AN OPEN LETTER TO NORTH DELTA COMMUNITY AREA RESIDENTS ON THE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. THE PLAN STILL THREATENS OUR HOMES, OUR FARMS, OUR BUSINESSES AND OUR INTERESTS. ON MARCH 26, 2009, AT THE CLARKSBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M., THE BDCP WILL PRESENT ITS PLAN AND ASK FOR COMMENTS. THE LETTER THAT FOLLOWS WAS PREPARED BY NORTH DELTA CARES TO PUT OUR CONCERNS AND RESPONSES ON PAPER TO HELP YOU COMMENT ON THE BDCP. FEEL FREE TO USE ALL, SOME OR MAKE UP YOUR OWN COMMENTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE BDCP THAT NIGHT OR AT ANY TIME IN THE PROCESS. THANKS. NORTH DELTA CARES STEERING COMMITTEE.

Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mike McGowan, speaking for the Boards of Supervisors of the five Delta counties, recently wrote in a *Sacramento Bee* commentary: "Attempts to address Delta issues will be unsuccessful without local involvement and ultimately without relying on those at the local level to help make it happen ... We want the entire state to understand that the Delta is not a blank slate. People live here. People work here." We are those people.

We recognize that the water, flood protection, economic, and environmental issues related to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta are substantial and complex. Although the state-led Delta Vision and Bay Delta Conservation Planning processes held numerous public meetings where Delta residents, business people, and farmers – some living and working in the Delta many years – stated our concerns and offered our knowledge, experience, and ideas to address those issues, little of that input has been included in the state planners' announced solutions. Nearly all of their current plans are virtually the same as their initial conceptual plans. So we repeat...

1) We support only export of water from Northern California and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta which is <u>in excess</u> of the present and future human and environmental needs of these areas.

2) We support expanded, additional water storage in Northern California for wet-year capture of run-off water to provide for safe and reliable through-Delta export.

3) We firmly support conveying export water using the present through-the-Delta route, i.e. the Sacramento River and Delta channels southward, to the state and federal water project pumps, as the most ecologically and economically sound choice. We encourage modifications to this conveyance that:

a) make water delivery more reliable;

b) make Delta levee systems structurally more sound;

c) protect listed fish species from endangerment from the project pumps; and

d) continue to preserve and defend present in-Delta water quantity and quality standards.

4) We support aggressive and continuing state-wide water conservation efforts.

5) We oppose a "Delta Vision" that seeks the return of Delta lands and hydrologic features to their natural state. We support construction of fish habitat restoration projects and other ecological improvements, provided they are based on sound science and situated on lands currently in public ownership, or on privately-owned lands only with the willing consent of the individual property owners.

6) We firmly oppose the use of an expanded "public trust" doctrine to alter or abolish presently-held water rights of any type.

7) We cannot support new Delta regional governance structures with the "coequal goals" of improving the Delta ecosystem and reliability of water supply unless persons living in the Primary Zone of the Delta, elected by Primary Zone residents, have seats at each decision-making level. We strongly oppose any governance structure comprised of an appointed and unaccountable body of members whose principal mission is to advance the above-mentioned coequal goals without due consideration of the effects of its actions on the lives and livelihoods of the thousands who call the Delta "home". Us!

8) We support a third *tri-equal* goal to protect and enhance the social, economic, and physical viability of the Delta, including:

a) Delta agriculture, and its supporting businesses;

b) Delta reclamation districts;

c) Delta natural gas industry;

d) Delta tourism, recreation, boating, and fishing industries;

e) Delta community infrastructure and services, including civic organizations; fire districts, school systems, and communities of faith; and

f) The present Delta levee system in its entirety.

In conclusion, because we maintain that those who live their lives closest to the Delta's lands and waters make up its most passionate and in many ways most well-informed stewardship group, we cannot support efforts, whether intentional or otherwise, that lead to de-population of the Delta, or large-scale transfer of Delta lands from private to public hands.

Additionally, we firmly maintain that attempts to develop and implement plans to "improve" the Delta's ecological health and water supply roles will inevitably fail without ongoing, substantial input and support from Delta locals at every level. We urge legislators, planners, state and federal agencies, water contractors, environmentalists, the Governor, and the public at large to recognize that natural systems, even degraded ones, will not be nurtured through solutions driven by politics and panic.

We hope all those who read this will inform themselves of the latest plans by the State of California and make comments on March 26, 2009, at the Clarksburg Middle School Auditorium or later in writing or by e-mail.

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