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Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2006 5:53 PM
To: Svetich, Ralph
Cc: SShaffer@cdfa.ca.gov
Subject: Comments on ITF paper: Subsidence

Attachments: Ken Trott.vcf

Ralph:

On behalf of the Department of Food and Agriculture, I'd like to offer the following questions and suggestions on the Subsidence DRMS ITF paper.

1. I suspect that subsidence has lessened in recent years due, in part, to changes in agricultural practices and crops. Will the analysis of subsidence proposed in the Framework attempt to correlate past and present cropping patterns and agricultural management practices with the rates of subsidence and soil organic carbon levels? I believe that, if this kind of analysis is feasible, it would help in pointing towards a future scenario for agriculture in the Delta.
2. Related to my first question, will subsidence projections take into account potential future changes in crops and management practices that could reduce or even reverse subsidence? I am aware of the work that USGS has recently done for DWR on rice cultivation in the Delta that indicated the potential for rice cultivation and related water management that could stabilize, if not reverse, subsidence. Others have suggested energy and other kinds of crops that do not rely on as much tillage, that could also reduce subsidence.
3. To answer these and the other questions that the Framework identifies seems to call for agronomic and soils expertise. Will the study team rely on science advisors who have backgrounds and expertise in agronomy and soil science?
4. I recall that UC Davis' Department of Land, Air and Water Resources has conducted soil surveys of Delta Islands, perhaps as long as 50 years ago. These soil surveys, along with their more recent version by USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) may also be good sources of information about past elevations, soil organic matter content and/or spatial variability of soil organic matter and depth.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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