

Appendix F

Suggestions and Recommendations from Interviews

This appendix lists the suggestions, ideas, and recommendations provided to the Delta Vision Foundation from interviews, emails, and other communication with elected officials’ staff, agency executives and staff, stakeholders, and other members of the public. These suggestions and recommendations do not represent the positions or perspectives of the Delta Vision Foundation, its Directors, or staff.

Table of Contents

- Overall 1
- Ecosystem Restoration..... 2
- Water Supply Reliability 2
- Delta Vitality and Security 2
- Governance 2
- State Agencies 3
 - Governor’s Administration..... 3
 - Legislature 3
 - Delta Stewardship Council 3
 - Natural Resources Agency 3
 - Department of Water Resources 3
 - Department of Fish and Game 3
 - Delta Protection Commission 4
 - State Water Resources Control Board 4
 - Emergency Management Agency 4
 - Science Programs 4
- Federal Agencies 4

Overall

1. Develop better definitions of the vision and goals for the Two Co-Equal Goals.
2. Simplify financial and contracting requirements for granting money from bond programs.
3. Continue state grants and loans for local/regional projects.
4. Continue to clarify relationship of Delta Plan, BDCP, State Board, Delta Conservancy, and others.
5. Identify and implement near-term actions.
6. Establish forums to work through tough issues.
7. Address the practical application of beneficiary/stressor pays.
8. Provide funding for basic science and regional monitoring. Link monitoring to specific science uncertainties.

Ecosystem Restoration

1. Implement more pilot projects to increase understanding of benefits.
2. Phase the implementation of BDCP.
3. Embed biological studies in all pilot projects and near-term actions to measure effectiveness.
4. Use the Central Valley Joint Venture as a model for ecosystem planning and management and to identify wildlife management strategies for the Delta.
5. Reduce Delta diversions in dry years.
6. Balance fish restoration goals and actions with needs for terrestrial and wildlife uses, particularly with wetlands.

Water Supply Reliability

1. Water users upstream of the Delta and in the San Joaquin Valley should be thinking more how to develop new sources of water.
2. Look at western Delta intake to take water only when it is in surplus.
3. BDCP discussion and analysis must be broadened to include efficiencies and storage.
4. Phase the implementation of BDCP.
5. Evaluate how to integrate additional storage, particularly south of the Delta.
6. Combine floodplain management with reoperation of upstream reservoirs to decrease flood storage (and increase storage for water supply).
7. Support actions to increase regional self-sufficiency. It is OK to provide State support because something that may be cost-effective for the State may not be for a region.
8. Consider a consolidated place of use for CVP and SWP to increase flexibility.

Delta Vitality and Security

1. Continue regional coordination for emergency response.
2. Prepare for a catastrophic seismic event.
3. Increase emergency management coordination; don't establish new organizations to implement emergency management.
4. Improve Delta levees to the best, affordable design standard.
5. Engage local levee interests in developing the levee investment priorities.

Governance

1. Address funding and financing.
2. Define performance outcomes and measures.
3. Provide a monthly report on how it is going and if organizations and actions are focused on the right thing.

State Agencies

Governor's Administration

1. Improve the coordination of Administration policy on water and environment. Increase alignment of State agencies. Demonstrate leadership.
2. Convene a think tank to review and address the tough issues.

Legislature

1. Refrain from changing policy direction or governance until planning activities are complete.
2. Establish a revenue bond funded by a portion or levee assessment to initiate a revolving loan fund for levee improvements.
3. Address the practical application of beneficiary/stressor pays.

Delta Stewardship Council

1. Look beyond the geographic Delta and land use controls for other actions to achieve goals.
2. Do not limit the Delta Plan only to what is legally enforceable.
3. Define performance outcomes and measures, particularly related to salinity fluctuation and natural flows.
4. Provide better guidance to BDCP and the State Board.
5. Convene discussions to look at alternate scenarios for managing the water system with existing and new storage.
6. Incorporate more specific action recommendations into the Delta Plan.
7. Incorporate more risk reduction and mitigation into Delta Plan.

Natural Resources Agency

1. Refine work group processes to deal with issues. Stop cancelling meetings. Improve responsiveness to stakeholder issues.
2. Define performance outcomes, particularly related to salinity fluctuation and natural flows.
3. Do not constrain the analysis or solutions sets that could address the problems.
4. Step out of the BDCP silo. Address the broader water and environmental challenges too.
5. Provide regular reporting to Congressional representatives and staff.
6. Commit BDCP to achieving the Two Co-Equal Goals.
7. Complete a cost-benefit analysis of the BDCP.

Department of Water Resources

1. Expand role of DWR through the Water Plan to serve as stewards of the State's water resources.
2. Separate the management and operation of the SWP from DWR.
3. Implement operable barriers.
4. Develop a better description of what is needed for Delta flood protection.

Department of Fish and Game

1. Streamline responsibilities and eliminate mandates that are not relevant.
2. Establish stable funding for land management.

Delta Protection Commission

1. Use the Economic Sustainability Plan to establish measures for Delta economic development.
2. Build on the Economic Sustainability Plan to identify economic growth and investment opportunities.
3. Secure funding for economic development.

State Water Resources Control Board

1. Do good science and staff work to show the way to a workable negotiated solution.
2. Consider the multiple and varied factors that influence the Delta, not just flows.
3. Improve engagement on solution-finding.
4. Identify ways to streamline processes.
5. Establish fees for riparian and pre-1914 water rights holders.

Emergency Management Agency

1. Continue coordination with regional interests.
2. Continue to conduct exercises in the Delta.
3. Prepare for a catastrophic levee failure from a seismic event.

Science Programs

1. Expand science program and science plan to ensure independent review in all areas.
2. Foster research in all areas.
3. Expand efforts to synthesize and interpret research and results.

Federal Agencies

1. Develop mechanisms for making decisions in the face of uncertainty.
2. Improve reporting to Congressional representatives and staff.
3. Describe a system approach (portfolio of actions) for managing California water issues. Adjust actions based on water year types.
4. Support pilot projects to increase learning and understanding.