

**For Immediate Release:**  
Thursday, August 6, 2009



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**Delta Vision Foundation Says New Delta Legislation Offers Path Forward**  
*Analysis shows progress on implementation of Delta Vision Strategic Plan*

Sacramento – Today, members of the Delta Vision Foundation (formerly the Governor’s Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force) released an assessment of “pre-print” bills in the California Legislature that address the ongoing crisis in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

“The language in the bills released on Tuesday encompass the critical elements of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan, particularly regarding governance and a plan to integrate state and local government actions,” said Phil Isenberg, chair of the Foundation. “We stand ready to speak to how these bills will serve California well by implementing the recommendations of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan we adopted in October 2008.”

The Foundation analysis findings include:

1. All seven goals of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan are addressed in the package of bills.
2. The independence of the proposed Delta Stewardship Council is not explicit, nor are provisions included ensuring that independence.
3. While the bills include effective provisions for ecosystem restoration, they fail to include targets for acreage of habitat for restoration.
4. The bills include useful additional proposals consistent with the Delta Vision Strategic Plan, including the creation of a Delta Water Master as an agent of the State Water Resources Control Board.

According to Thomas McKernan, chief executive officer of the Automobile Club of Southern California and Foundation member, “The clock is running out on the Delta and its infrastructure. The crisis in this irreplaceable resource is escalating, and the current drought drives home the immediate need to address California’s unsustainable water supply.”

The Delta Vision Strategic Plan was released in October 2008. The plan included a set of integrated recommendations by which the fundamental and co-equal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration could be met by adopting the package in full.

The recommendations stated in the Delta Vision Strategic Plan and largely adopted by the Governor’s cabinet-level Delta Vision Committee are:

- Make the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration the legal foundation of Delta and water policy
- Recognize and enhance the unique cultural, recreational and agricultural values of the California Delta as an evolving place
- Restore the Delta ecosystem as the heart of a healthy estuary
- Promote statewide water conservation, efficiency and sustainable use
- Build facilities to improve the existing water conveyance system and expand statewide storage; operate both to achieve the co-equal goals
- Reduce risks to people, property and state interests in the Delta by effective emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses and strategic levee investments
- Establish a new governance structure with the authority, responsibility, accountability, science support and secure funding to achieve these goals

View the Delta Vision analysis at: <http://www.deltavisionfoundation.org/>