



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

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September 30, 2011

Via E-Mail

Chad Dibble  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Department of Fish and Game  
830 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

**Re: Comments on the Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy for Restoration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecological Management Zone and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Regions**

Dear Mr. Dibble:

We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy for Restoration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecological Management Zone and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Regions. The following are general comments.

On page 4 the Delta Conservancy is characterized as being governed by a 13-member Board. The Conservancy is governed by a 23-member Board, including 11 voting members, 2 non-voting members, and 10 liaison advisors.

In the introduction to the Conservation Strategy the coordination between DFG, the State implementing agency for the CALFED ERP, and the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Conservancy is articulated. This coordination is further discussed in Section 4 and it is stated that the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force recommended the ERP Conservation Strategy be the foundation of the ecosystem components of the BDCP. It has been our experience that even within the inner circles of the various efforts there is still much uncertainty about how the ERP Conservation Strategy is intended to inform the Delta Plan and the relationship between the Delta Plan and the BDCP. We believe it would be beneficial to expand more on these relationships, specifically the expectation that BDCP will negotiate the restoration targets that will be carried out by a variety of entities, in the introduction to the document.

As the Conservancy moves forward with the development of its strategic plan and the Delta Plan and BDCP are progressing toward completion, we envision the following as the process by which these planning efforts will coordinate on ecosystem restoration in the Delta. The foundation for restoration actions in the Delta is outlined in the Delta Plan. It calls for restoration projects to comply with the Habitat section of the ERP Conservation Strategy and that large-scale restoration planning should be coordinated through the Delta Conservancy. Our expectation is that the Delta Conservancy's strategic plan will be

consistent with the ERP Conservation Strategy and Delta Plan and will provide guidance on how the Conservancy will prioritize projects based on best available science and our legislative mandates. The ERP Conservation Strategy will not establish targets for restoration in the Delta and nor will the Conservancy's strategic plan. We anticipate that habitat restoration targets will be set forth in the BDCP and that if the BDCP is ultimately approved as a Natural Community Conservation Plan and is deemed to be consistent with the Delta Plan, those targets will be carried out by the Conservancy and other entities.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,



Campbell Ingram  
Executive Officer

