Department of Conservation & Development

Water Agency

County Administration Building 651 Pine Street North Wing, Fourth Floor Martinez, CA 94553-1229

Phone: (925) 335-1201

August 31, 2011

Chad Dibble
Department of Fish and Game
830 S Street
Sacramento CA 95811

Dear Mr. Dibble:



I have reviewed the online draft *Conservation Strategy for Restoration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecological Management Zone and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Regions*, dated July 2011. I offer the following comment for your consideration.

The document on pages 28 and 29 refers to increased salinity as a means of improving Delta ecosystem health. This strategy appears to lack any scientific foundation, and should be deleted or else supported with technical references. On this point we agree with the comments expressed in a letter to you from the Contra Costa Water District, dated August 22, 2011. We strongly suggest that the unsupported narrative in the document should be either removed or supported by adding citations to peer-reviewed research, if there are any to be found.

Like many others, we would be extremely concerned about the impacts of high salinity levels on fish populations, agriculture, and the drinking-water supply for Californians.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Conservation Strategy.

Sincerely.

John Greitzer

Delta and Navigation Staff

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- S. Goetz, Deputy Director-Redevelopment, Conservation and Transportation Planning Programs
 - J. Kopchik, East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan Association
 - G. Gartrell, Contra Costa Water District
 - R. Denton, Richard Denton and Associates