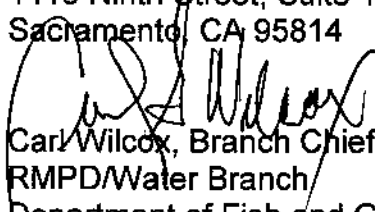


Memorandum

Date: August 19, 2008

To: John Kirlin, Executive Director
Delta Vision Task Force
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: 
Carl Wilcox, Branch Chief
RMPD/Water Branch
Department of Fish and Game
830 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Subject: The Purpose of this memorandum is to transmit to you the most current staff draft Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy for Stage 2 Implementation, for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh and Bay Planning area, (ERP Conservation Strategy).

The ERP Conservation Strategy is the product of work conducted over the last several years by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) in collaboration with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which together comprise the three implementing agencies for the program. It provides the foundation for regional implementation of the ERP guided by a science based adaptive management approach designed to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of fish and wildlife species. It represents a "single blueprint" for conservation and recovery of species and will integrate the NMFS recovery plan for Central Valley salmonids and the USFWS Delta Native Fishes Recovery Plan, once these plans are completed. While the ERP Conservation Strategy currently focuses on the Delta and Suisun Marsh it will be expanded to include the tributaries to the Delta.

The ERP Conservation Strategy has been developed to guide future ERP implementation based on evaluation of Stage 1 implementation, the first seven years of CALFED, and new information. It is a blueprint under which more detailed planning efforts such as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) can be accommodated. The BDCP is currently evaluating specific detailed actions which would implement at least in part those described more generally in the Conservation Strategy. In particular BDCP will be addressing the issues of conveyance and flows as a component of ecosystem restoration. The ERP Conservation Strategy represents the perspectives of the three fish agencies on what is needed at a programmatic level to achieve biological conservation and management goals in the Delta.

The draft staff ERP Conservation Strategy has recently undergone significant revision by the Department and is undergoing review by the three implementing agencies for adoption in September. We are providing this draft of the ERP Conservation Strategy to the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force for parallel review and for your consideration as the Ecosystem element of the broader California Delta Ecosystem and Water Plan currently envisaged in the Draft Strategic Plan.

The Department is available to discuss this conservation strategy and its use in more detail. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 916-445-1231.