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 **Delta Stewardship Council**

The Delta Stewardship Council was established as an independent State agency by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009. The primary responsibility of the Delta Stewardship Council is to develop, adopt, and implement by 6 January 1, 2012, a legally enforceable, comprehensive, long-term management plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Suisun Marsh—the Delta Plan—that achieves the coequal goals of “providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem” and does this “in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place” (Water Code section 85054).

The coequal goals are the guiding principles for the Delta Plan. Additionally, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 states that the policy of the State is “to achieve the following objectives that the Legislature declares are inherent in the coequal goals for the management of the Delta:

(a) Manage the Delta’s water and environmental resources and the water resources of the state over the long term.

(b) Protect and enhance the unique cultural, recreational, and agricultural values of the California Delta as an evolving place.

(c) Restore the Delta ecosystem, including its fisheries and wildlife, as the heart of a healthy estuary and wetland ecosystem.

(d) Promote statewide water conservation, water use efficiency, and sustainable water use.

(e) Improve water quality to protect human health and the environment consistent with achieving water quality objectives in the Delta.

(f) Improve the water conveyance system and expand statewide water storage.

(g) Reduce risks to people, property, and state interests in the Delta by effective emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses, and investments in flood protection.

(h) Establish a new governance structure with the authority, responsibility, accountability, scientific support, and adequate and secure funding to achieve these objectives” (Water Code 28 section 85020 et. seq.).