

October 18, 2013

Mr. Mark Cowin  
California Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1115-1  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: California Statewide Water Action Plan

Dear Mr. Cowin:

The Delta Vision Foundation is encouraged by and supports recent efforts to develop and define a California Statewide Water Action Plan to be implemented in concert with a Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) to achieve meaningful progress and implementation to achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability through comprehensive, statewide action. In March, the Delta Vision Foundation reaffirmed a commitment to an integrated "Delta fix" that includes dual conveyance, habitat restoration, a suite of statewide water management actions, and legally reliable assurances to ensure funding and implementation (see March 27, 2013 letter, attached).

The California Statewide Water Action Plan (SWAP) will be successful if it integrates five key elements to assure progress:

1. Strong, clear leadership and direction from the Governor and the Administration to reinforce alignment and focus.
2. A coordinated policy framework and performance management structure to link actions to results.
3. Specific, realistic actions, timetables, approval processes, and funding sources to define and advance implementation.
4. Commitments, linkages, and assurances to reinforce and ensure progress and results in all areas.
5. Agency coordination, public transparency, and stakeholder alignment to accelerate action and increase accountability.

The 2008 *Delta Vision Strategic Plan* and the 2009 water legislation establish the foundation for this linked, integrated approach for addressing California's water and environmental challenges, beginning in the Delta.

The Delta Vision Foundation has reviewed the recommendations from the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and several environmental interests provided to the Administration on September 30<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup> respectively. As part of the DVF review, staff has prepared a table comparing the recommended actions in the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan*, the ACWA SWAP, and the environmental community letter, by topic area. Notably, the ACWA SWAP did not discuss increased flows for the environment and the environmental community letter did not discuss storage and conveyance infrastructure. An effective SWAP must include sufficient plans to modify Federal, State, regional, and local infrastructure, policies, and operating strategies to achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals. It is also notable that neither document addresses critical needs regarding Delta as Place, such as economic development and cultural preservation. The comparison document is attached and additional comments follow.

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The Delta Vision Foundation was established by former members of the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, the independent body convened under Governor's Executive Order S-17-06.

The mission of the Delta Vision Foundation is to encourage implementation and progress by the State of California toward achieving the Two Co-Equal Goals as defined in the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan*:

Restore the Delta Ecosystem

Ensure Water Supply Reliability

The Delta Vision Foundation monitors, evaluates, and provides information to government officials, policymakers, and the public about implementing the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan* recommendations as a set of integrated and linked actions.

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The ACWA effort is commendable in that it represents agreement among diverse water agencies across the state. Generally, it discusses the major components of a comprehensive solution (with the important exception of the policies and operating strategies to achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals while protecting and enhancing the Delta as an evolving place, as noted above). The ACWA SWAP lacks the specificity of realistic performance targets, actions, implementation strategies, and funding to qualify as an action plan. The few targets and timelines referenced are apparently drawn from the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, which is now nearly 15 years old. Based on recent discussions with DWR and others, the Administration's action plan is focusing on implementation in the next five years. This immediate focus is appropriate given the limited implementation of near-term actions since the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan* was released in 2008. However, an effective Statewide Water Action Plan should be specific about actions and targets and the policy and funding framework to ensure implementation and monitor progress in the immediate term (1 to 5 years), mid-term (5 to 15 years), and long-term (15 years or more). The Action Plan must be more than a wish list for various interest groups.

The ACWA SWAP recognizes that California's regulatory framework must evolve to adapt to new understanding of ecosystem function. That is, the Two Co-Equal Goals now guide water management planning and operations. The ACWA SWAP also appropriately notes the importance of avoiding or mitigating redirected impacts from one region of the state to another. However, beyond the broad guiding principles, there are few specifics that demonstrate a co-equal approach to water management, seek to lessen conflicts between water users and the environment in the Delta watershed, and foster a partnership among the State of California and regional interests to address long-standing problems. For example, the ACWA SWAP suggests that increased local and regional water use efficiency should not provide benefits to the Delta ecosystem. Further, the ACWA SWAP recommends State investment in water use efficiency actions that are not locally cost effective without the concomitant return of water supply to meet State objectives. This approach supports local water supply reliability at State expense without linkage to the Co-Equal Goals and resolving Delta conflicts. The California Statewide Water Action Plan must be guided by the Two Co-Equal Goals and implemented through collaboration, performance management and incentives, and regulatory oversight.

Interagency coordination, implementation, and public transparency are fundamental to the success of a Statewide Water Action Plan. The Natural Resources Agency, Delta Stewardship Council, State Water Resources Control Board, and other agencies have critical, and in some cases overlapping, responsibilities for ensuring success. The California Statewide Water Action Plan should include executive direction from the Governor to all relevant State agencies to implement and cooperate with an effective Interagency Coordination Committee, as directed by the 2009 Delta Reform Act and recommended in the DVF Report Cards. This committee should include public transparency, regular progress reporting, and a stakeholder oversight committee. As recommended by the ACWA SWAP, this committee should develop a coordination and implementation plan within 90 days.

Most importantly, neither the ACWA SWAP nor the environmental community letter include urgent, realistic near-term actions, particularly related to the Delta, such as actions to improve through-Delta conveyance, protect fish, improve water quality, and secure Delta levees. The 2011, 2012, and 2013 water years demonstrate the urgency for action to address existing conflicts and invest now in improvements until new storage and conveyance are implemented and operated consistent with the Two Co-Equal Goals. The following are specific, immediate actions to include in the California Statewide Water Action Plan.

#### **1. Near-term Ecosystem Restoration**

- a. Immediately direct State agencies to coordinate and accelerate approvals and implementation of Delta ecosystem restoration pilot projects and biological opinion compliance projects. Provide necessary funding and science oversight to streamline implementation and assure adaptive learning.

## **2. Strategic Levee System and Through-Delta Conveyance**

- a. Immediately conduct a hydrodynamic analysis of potential fish protection benefits of widening and/or deepening Old and Middle Rivers to increase capacity to divert water in wet periods (and allow for reduced diversions in dry periods).
- b. Immediately convene an expert panel with stakeholder input to review existing information and recommend water quality and fish protection actions in the Delta, including physical and non-physical barriers, fish screens, levee restoration, and operations (such as turbidity management). Actions to consider include, but are not limited to: Middle River Corridor two barrier project, Three Mile Slough barrier project, demonstration fish protection screen at Clifton Court Forebay, Delta Cross-Channel gate operations and barriers, and a barrier at Head of Old River.
- c. Fund and accelerate floodplain improvements in the lower San Joaquin River and lower Sacramento River.
- d. Based on the analysis results and expert panel input, develop a strategic levee plan to improve diversion and flood conveyance capacity and timing while protecting fish and water quality. Identify priority actions for implementation within six months. Direct State agencies to accelerate review and implementation of the most promising pilot projects, implementation actions, and operational changes. Identify and secure funding and accelerate implementation.
- e. Complete a preliminary Delta levee investment strategy for public review by April 2014 and the final levee investment strategy by January 1, 2015.
- f. Continue implementation of the recommendations of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Multi-Hazard Coordination Task Force Report of 2012.

## **3. Reservoir Operations**

- a. Immediately identify reservoir operations modifications to increase Delta inflow at all times and reduce Delta watershed diversions in dry years.

## **4. Storage and Retention**

- a. Immediately establish water storage performance measures to achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals including increasing Delta inflow at critical times for fish and retaining water in wet periods for all beneficial uses.
- b. Immediately conduct a survey of water districts and other interested stakeholders to identify immediate, mid-term, and long-term water storage and retention opportunities.
- c. Establish an outcome-based, competitive funding process with specific benefits that warrant State investment.

## **5. Delta as Place**

- a. Through the Delta Protection Commission, Delta Conservancy, and Delta Stewardship Council, immediately develop and fund an economic investment strategy for the Delta region, including agriculture, recreation, tourism, and other appropriate regional businesses.

## **6. Regional Water Management**

- a. Immediately identify and quantify the realistic potential benefits of regional water management strategies (water use efficiency, recycled water, desalination, stormwater management, watershed management, groundwater treatment, etc.) for each major region of the state and for the Delta. Estimate the level of investment necessary to achieve these benefits.

## 7. Policy and Performance Framework

- a. Immediately define the policy objectives and water management strategies that will guide State investment and regulation to achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals, building on the work of the Delta Stewardship Council. For example, define how the State will guide and reinforce the co-equal strategy of capturing more water in wet periods when it is surplus to the needs of the environment and diverting less in dry periods when conflicts with ecosystem needs are greatest.
- b. Direct all State agencies to modify policies and regulations to be consistent with the Two Co-Equal Goals.
- c. Immediately establish statewide and regional performance measures that evaluate progress toward the Two Co-Equal Goals, building on the measures in the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan* and the *Delta Plan*. Report at least annually on performance.
- d. Immediately provide public accountability and reporting of State efforts to coordinate and implement actions, approvals, oversight, regulation, and funding through the Interagency Coordinating Committee.

## 8. Funding and Financing

- a. Establish open, transparent reporting of available bond funds, including delineation of projects or programs for which funds have been obligated but not expended.
- b. Establish performance targets for administrative overhead costs for bond programs and provide public reporting of expenditures for administrative overhead, studies and evaluations, and implementation.
- c. Develop a funding and financing strategy for the California Statewide Water Action Plan based on the principles of beneficiaries pay.
- d. Immediately establish a Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District as recommended in the Delta Plan.

## 9. Linkages and Assurances

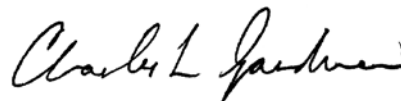
- a. Linkages and assurances are critical articulating a path forward on immediate actions to implement and commit the funding on the companion "Plus" components. Immediately negotiate legally-reliable assurances and commitments among the State of California, the Federal Government, and stakeholders to assure funding, incentives, progress, action, and results.

The Delta Vision Foundation is working with a broad cross-section of stakeholders to refine a Framework for an Integrated Water Action Plan with specific actions and assurances (see attached Framework and work groups). Incorporating these actions and principles into the California Statewide Water Action Plan will help ensure implementation of the solutions envisioned in the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan* to achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals and secure the economic and environmental future for California. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further clarification.

Sincerely,



Sunne Wright McPeak  
President, Delta Vision Foundation  
Former Secretary, California Business, Transportation,  
and Housing Agency



Charles L. Gardiner  
Executive Director

Cc: Dr. Jerry Meral, California Natural Resources Agency

March 27, 2013

Secretary John Laird  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: *"BDCP Plus" is Needed to Accomplish Two Co-Equal Goals*

Dear Secretary Laird:

Congratulations on beginning the release of the Administrative Draft Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The Administrative Draft is a significant accomplishment for the Natural Resources Agency and its departments and it provides a comprehensive scientific basis for development of an overall Delta solution. The Delta Vision Foundation (DVF) preliminary review of the initial chapters finds that it is advancing important elements of a plan to address the challenges in the Delta. However, it falls short of the linked-actions approach set forth in the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan* and is insufficient to achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals: it does not include essential facilities to capture water when it is truly surplus to the environment to provide water supply reliability while leaving enough water for fish at critical times to restore the Delta ecosystem. A workable solution, referred to by DVF as "BDCP Plus" and described in the *2012 Delta Vision Report Card*, can be accomplished by establishing legal commitments and assurances for the other vital elements of the "Delta fix" without delaying implementation of BDCP. The Administration must move expeditiously to embrace a "BDCP Plus" strategy or risk increasing dissipation of stakeholder consensus for BDCP.

It is worth noting that several environmental and business organizations proposed in January a "Portfolio-Based Conceptual Alternative" to BDCP that includes conveyance, storage, water use efficiency, alternate regional water supplies, improved regional water systems integration, habitat restoration, independent science, and most importantly, an operational strategy for Delta exports and ecosystem restoration. These additional components are generally acknowledged as critical to achieving the Two Co-Equal Goals. Although the Portfolio Alternative lacks critical near-term actions for a Strategic Levee System and Improved Through-Delta Conveyance and proposes an isolated conveyance facility that is likely too small to optimize beneficial uses, its significant group of proponents have underscored the wisdom of linked actions and have signaled serious problems for a BDCP-only solution.

The Delta Vision Foundation urges the Governor's Administration, the Legislature, and stakeholders to develop legal commitments that will assure implementation of the linked integrated actions for a workable Delta solution. The Natural Resources Agency and the Delta Stewardship Council should collaboratively lead this effort, beginning immediately.

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The Delta Vision Foundation is concerned that the Governor's Administration continues to focus solely on conveyance and habitat restoration in BDCP without sufficient attention on the linked and integrated actions outlined in the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan* that are supported by the scientific evidence to 'fix' the Delta: fish need more water at the right time of the right temperature than conveyance alone will provide; and, unless both fish and farms are going to continue to suffer shortages in most years, then additional facilities are needed to capture water when it is truly surplus to the environment. For the Administration and some stakeholders to consider isolated conveyance as the equivalent to the "Delta fix" is to betray the scientific facts that fish need more water in most years. While BDCP was not initiated or developed as the comprehensive solution for water resource management, it has been held out as the "Delta fix" and, thus, its limited scope ignores both science and politics. BDCP cannot enjoy the broad support necessary for implementation without clear, concise linkages and commitments to the other actions and facilities that comprise a comprehensive Delta solution. That is, BDCP must be linked to facilities and investments to implement the big gulp-little sip strategy (storage, alternate supplies, and water use efficiency) and to protect and enhance Through-Delta Conveyance. Attachment A includes a summary of the critical linked components.

The Portfolio Alternative proposes the core concept of linked actions to identify efficient, effective means for accomplishing the Two Co-Equal Goals while protecting and enhancing the Delta as an evolving place. However, the conveyance facilities in the Portfolio Alternative are likely too small to effectively accomplish three important objectives: (1) minimize fish degradation; (2) divert more water in wet years and less in dry years; and (3) provide long-term security against seismic and flood catastrophes. It is interesting to note that the CALFED Bay-Delta Advisory Committee recommended a 5,000 cubic feet per second isolated conveyance facility combined with Improved Through-Delta Conveyance and storage north and south of the Delta.

Taken together, BDCP and the Portfolio Alternative present an opportunity to craft actions and commitments necessary to ensure immediate and long-term progress. Implementing conveyance improvements and substantial habitat restoration as part of BDCP is critically important and should move forward promptly. However, BDCP cannot and should not proceed without legal requirements and commitments to assure implementation of the other elements of "BDCP Plus" as a workable solution. The opportunity is now.

The Delta Vision Foundation recommends that the Natural Resources Agency and Delta Stewardship Council immediately begin discussions with stakeholders to develop specific policy, legal, and financial linkages through agreements, mitigation requirements, bond covenants, permit requirements, contract terms, and other mechanisms. Further, the two agencies should describe, and quantify where possible, the economic, cost, water supply reliability, ecosystem, and risk reduction benefits of the integrated, linked actions. The Governor and Legislature should validate this approach and direct the necessary resources to assure progress this year.

These actions will reinforce the critical concept of linked, integrated actions to address Delta conflicts and achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals. The "BDCP Plus" concept can be the framework for a broadly supported Delta solution. Stakeholders are finding common ground on the major elements of a true "Delta fix." It is important to capitalize on this opportunity.

The Delta Vision Foundation stands ready to assist the Natural Resources Agency, Delta Stewardship Council, and others in developing these linkages to assure a workable, durable solution. We look forward to working with you on these issues as BDCP advances and the Delta Plan is adopted. Please contact Charles Gardiner if you have any questions or additional needs.

Sincerely,



Sunne Wright McPeak  
President, Delta Vision Foundation  
Former Secretary, California Business, Transportation,  
and Housing Agency



Linda Adams  
Former Secretary, California Environmental Protection  
Agency



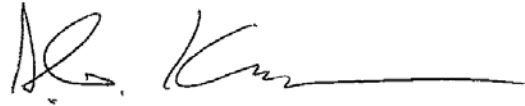
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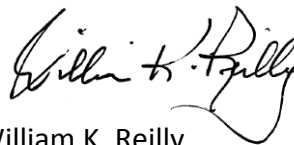
Richard M. Frank  
Former Chief Deputy Attorney General for Legal Affairs,  
California Department of Justice



Thomas McKernan  
CEO, Automobile Club of Southern California



A.G. Kawamura  
Former Secretary, California Department of Food and  
Agriculture



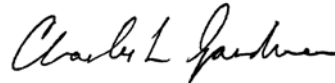
William K. Reilly  
Former Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency



Raymond Seed  
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering,  
University of California, Berkeley



Michael Madigan  
Former Chairman of the California Water Commission  
and the Bay-Delta Advisory Council



Charles L. Gardiner  
Executive Director

Cc: Phil Isenberg, Chair, and Councilmembers, Delta Stewardship Council  
Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of the Interior  
Secretary Rebecca Blank (Acting), Department of Commerce  
Commissioner Michael Connor, Bureau of Reclamation

## Attachment A

The following are the core elements of a workable Delta solution as outlined in the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan* and embodied in “BDCP Plus:”

**Delta Operations.** The Bay-Delta system must be operated to achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals by diverting more water in wet years and less in dry years (the big gulp-little sip strategy outlined in the Portfolio Alternative). Water is the most important part of fish habitat. However, current operations divert more water in dry years than in wet years. Water use for families, farms, and factories should rely on water that is surplus to the ecosystem needs in wet years. Delta operations must link diversion constraints in dry years with diversion opportunities in wet years.

**Conveyance and Storage.** The Delta system must be rebuilt with facilities that support and enable the big gulp-little sip strategy and optimize facilities investments. Surface and groundwater storage upstream and downstream of the Delta must be expanded. Conveyance capacity through and around the Delta must be sufficient to move water in wet years, yet have constraints in dry years. Linked storage and conveyance will outperform independent strategies in achieving the Two Co-Equal Goals cost-effectively.

**Through-Delta Conveyance.** Enhancing through-Delta conveyance to support the big gulp-little sip strategy can provide fish protection and water quality improvement while optimizing the size and cost-effectiveness of new north Delta diversion and conveyance facilities. This concept is absent from both BDCP and the Portfolio Alternative, as well as near-term Delta planning.

**Strategic Levee System.** Critical levee investments are needed to increase the security of through-Delta conveyance, protect the Delta as place and other critical infrastructure, and provide aquatic habitat in channels that are not primary conveyance corridors. The State lacks any effective strategy for achieving these objectives and integrating actions with BDCP.

**Habitat Restoration.** The BDCP outlines a comprehensive set of habitat restoration actions. The successful implementation of these actions will depend in large part on adaptive management, independent science reviews, and effective performance monitoring. The success will also depend on minimizing conflicts with existing land uses and mitigating economic impacts in the Delta.

**Delta Channel Hydrology.** The BDCP includes water operations and several physical changes to improve Delta habitat water quality and fish migration through the Delta. Absent from BDCP and other State planning are barriers, gates, and island restoration that could improve water quality (particularly salinity management) for Delta uses and for fish while reducing the need for reservoir releases.

**Water Use Efficiency and Alternate Water Supplies.** Regional self-sufficiency and alternate water supplies are almost universally acknowledged as critical for meeting future water demands. These actions are also critical for supporting the big gulp-little sip strategy. The State lacks an adequate strategy for ensuring that all Delta water users make sufficient investments.



**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<p><b>Vision/ Guiding Principles/ Preamble (emphasis added)</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>The Delta ecosystem and a reliable water supply for California are the primary, co-equal goals</b> for sustainable management of the Delta.</li> <li>2. <b>The California Delta is a unique and valued area</b>, deserves recognition and special legal status from the state of California.</li> <li>3. <b>The Delta ecosystem must function as an integral part of a healthy estuary.</b></li> <li>4. <b>California's water supply</b> is limited and <b>must be managed with significantly higher efficiency</b> to be adequate for its future population, growing economy, and for the whole environment.</li> <li>5. The foundation for policymaking about California water resources must be the long-standing <b>constitutional principles of “reasonable use” and “public trust”</b>; these principles are particularly important and applicable to the Delta.</li> <li>6. The goals of <b>conservation, efficiency, and sustainable use</b> must drive California water policies.</li> <li>7. <b>A revitalized Delta ecosystem will require reduced diversions—or changes in patterns and timing of those critical diversions</b> upstream, within the Delta, and exported from the Delta—at critical times.</li> <li>8. <b>New facilities for conveyance and storage, and better linkage between the two</b>, are needed to better manage California's water resources for both the estuary and exports.</li> <li>9. <b>Major investments in the California Delta and the statewide water management system must integrate and be consistent with specific policies in this vision.</b> In particular, these strategic investments must strengthen selected levees, improve floodplain management, and improve water</li> </ol>	<p><b>Long-term water supply reliability and improved ecosystem health</b> are the core objectives....We must ensure that one region’s increased reliability does not adversely affect another’s near- or long-term water supplies.</p> <p>A <b>new regulatory approach</b> is essential to reflect today’s realities and better serve the needs of California water users and the ecosystem. State agencies should commit to using collaborative processes as extensively and transparently as possible to achieve regulatory goals in a way that satisfies water supply, water quality, and ecosystem needs.</p> <p><b>The best available science</b> should be used to support every action, report, or decision.</p> <p><b>Water rights and contract terms</b>, including area-of-origin protections, are foundational to our water system and should be respected and adhered to.</p> <p><b>Bold actions guided by strong leadership</b> at the state, federal and local levels are essential for successful implementation. Increased commitments by federal partners are needed to ensure the plan moves forward.</p> <p><b>Financing:</b> The state should fund investments that provide broad public benefits such as improved water supply reliability, water quality and ecosystem health. The state should also incentivize local projects that advance statewide water priorities and require public assistance to be cost effective.</p>	<p>Our organizations strongly support the development of a meaningful Water Action Plan that includes <b>sufficient funding, deadlines, and other commitments to ensure that the Plan will be implemented</b> and these goals are achieved. We would like the opportunity to work with the Administration to estimate the total funding needed for Plan implementation, identify reliable and sustained funding sources, and a timeline for implementation. A <b>beneficiary pays approach to funding</b> is essential to the success of this Plan, with public funding expended on public benefits including ecosystem preservation and restoration, safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities, <b>cost-sharing to incentivize local supply development</b> that meaningfully reduces reliance on the Delta, and related co-benefits. A <b>suite of funding tools, including bonds and fees</b>, should be considered.</p> <p>Any action or project that is implemented as part of the Water Action Plan should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be consistent with the Delta Stewardship Council’s Delta Plan.</li> <li>2. Advance the dual goals of providing for a more reliable water supply for California, and protecting, restoring, and enhancing California’s aquatic environment.</li> <li>3. Increase water, ecosystem, and economic resiliency in the face of climate change.</li> </ol>

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
	<p>circulation and quality.</p> <p>10. The current boundaries and governance system of the Delta must be changed. <b>It is essential to have an independent body with authority to achieve: equal goals of ecosystem revitalization and adequate water supply for California—while also recognizing the importance of the Delta as a unique and valued area.</b> This body must have secure funding and the ability to approve spending, planning, and water export levels.</p> <p>11. <b>Discouraging inappropriate urbanization of the Delta</b> is critical both to preserve the delta’s unique character and to ensure adequate public safety.</p> <p>12. Institutions and policies for the Delta should be designed for <b>resiliency and adaptation.</b></p>		

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Goals</b>	<p>Goal 1: Legally acknowledge the <b>co-equal goals</b> of restoring the Delta ecosystem and creating a more reliable water supply for California.</p> <p>Goal 2: <b>Recognize and enhance</b> the unique cultural, recreational, and agricultural values of <b>the California Delta</b> as an evolving place, an action critical to achieving the co-equal goals.</p> <p>Goal 3: <b>Restore the Delta ecosystem</b> as the heart of a healthy estuary.</p> <p>Goal 4: Promote statewide <b>water conservation, efficiency, and sustainable use.</b></p> <p>Goal 5: Build facilities to improve the existing <b>water conveyance system and expand statewide storage, and operate both to achieve the co-equal goals.</b></p> <p>Goal 6: Reduce risks to people, property, and state interests in the Delta by effective <b>emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses, and strategic levee investments.</b></p> <p>Goal 7: <b>Establish a new governance structure</b> with the authority, responsibility, accountability, science support, and secure funding to achieve these goals</p>		<p>Any action or project that is implemented as part of the Water Action Plan should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be consistent with the Delta Stewardship Council’s Delta Plan.</li> <li>2. Advance the dual goals of providing for a more reliable water supply for California, and protecting, restoring, and enhancing California’s aquatic environment.</li> <li>3. Increase water, ecosystem, and economic resiliency in the face of climate change.</li> </ol>

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Flows</b>	<p>Action 3.2.2: Provide adequate flows at the right times to support fish migrations, and reduce conflicts between conveyance and migration, by 2012.</p> <p>Action 3.4.1: Charge DFW with completing recommendations for in-stream flows for the Delta and high priority rivers and streams in the Delta watershed by 2012 and for all major rivers and streams by 2018.</p> <p>Action 3.4.2: Develop and adopt management policies supporting increased diversion during wet periods, a joint effort of the State Water Board, DFW, DWR, and related federal agencies, to be completed by 2012.</p> <p>Action 3.4.3: Adopt new State Water Board requirements by 2012 to increase spring Delta outflow. Commence implementation no later than 2015.</p> <p>Action 3.4.4: Adopt new State Water Board requirements by 2012 to reintroduce fall outflow variability no later than 2015.</p> <p>Action 3.4.5: Increase San Joaquin River flows between February and June by revising the State Water Board’s Vernalis flow objectives and the state and federal water projects’ export criteria. Revise flow objectives and criteria no later than 2012 and commence implementation as soon as possible thereafter.</p> <p>Action 3.4.6: Provide short-duration San Joaquin River pulse flows in the fall starting by 2015.</p> <p>Action 7.1.5: Improve the compliance of diversions and water use with all applicable laws.</p>	Not discussed.	<p>Provide the flows necessary to meet the state’s mandate to produce 990,000 naturally spawning chinook salmon annually, support viable, self-sustaining populations of a broad range of other native aquatic species, and ensure sustainable river and estuary habitat conditions for a healthy, functional Bay-Delta ecosystem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure a major increase in ecologically vital freshwater flows into, through, and from the Delta to San Francisco Bay at all critical times, with a primary goal of cumulatively moving significantly closer to the public trust target of 75% of the watershed’s winter-spring flows reaching San Francisco Bay.</li> <li>• SWRCB completes Phases 1 and 2 of the update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan by December 31, 2014 to reestablish more natural flow patterns and increase Delta inflows, through-flows, and outflows to achieve salmonid doubling, viable fish and wildlife populations, and functional habitats.</li> <li>• SWRCB completes Phase 3 by 2017 to allocate responsibility for meeting Phase 1 and 2 requirements.</li> <li>• SWRCB completes Phase 4 by 2018 to establish instream flows and temperature requirements for tributaries in the Central Valley watershed.</li> <li>• Cal-EPA and Resources Agency adopt a plan by 2014 to implement habitat, fish passage, and other actions, including actions upstream of the Delta, in the WQCP program of implementation that complement a water rights decision.</li> </ul>

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Storage</b>	<p>Action 5.1.2: Direct DWR, DFW, and other allied agencies to recommend the size and location of new storage and conveyance facilities by the end of 2010. Develop a long-term action plan to guide design, construction, and operation, and present the recommendation and plan to the Delta Stewardship Council for a consistency determination.</p> <p>Action 5.1.3: Complete substantial development and construction of new surface and groundwater storage and associated conveyance facilities by 2020, with the goal of completing all planned facilities by 2030.</p> <p>Action 5.2.1: Change the operating rules of existing reservoirs to incorporate and reflect modern forecasting capabilities.</p>	<p>California’s water infrastructure has proven inadequate to meet the state’s needs in a two-year drought, let alone a multi-year drought. This deficiency, coupled with the already measurable effects of climate change, makes construction of new storage facilities and expansion of existing storage imperative. A wide range of options should be on the table, including new surface water projects; re-operation and expansion/enlargement of existing storage projects; groundwater and conjunctive use; and development of other local and regional storage facilities to add flexibility to the water management system and help ensure a more reliable water supply, including drought resilience and ecosystem protection (improved temperatures and flows).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Studies and Permitting.</b> Complete storage studies by June 2014 and determine if projects are environmentally and economically sound and provide benefits for water supply and the ecosystem. Expedite permitting.</li> <li>• <b>Financing.</b> By June 2014, local water agencies should provide a plan outlining their commitment to the benefits and steps they will take to pay for those benefits. Any 2014 water bond should provide for continuous appropriation for the public benefits of storage.</li> <li>• <b>Construction.</b> By January 2018, construction should commence for new groundwater and surface water storage projects with an initial target of 1.5 million acre-feet of new storage capacity, as documented in the 2000 CALFED ROD.</li> <li>• <b>Local Construction.</b> As soon as practicable, construction of local facilities with a target of 1 million acre-feet should be completed.</li> <li>• <b>Reoperation.</b> DWR should complete its study of reservoir reoperation by June 2014.</li> </ul>	Not discussed.

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Groundwater</b>	Action 5.1.3: Complete substantial development and construction of new surface and groundwater storage and associated conveyance facilities by 2020, with the goal of completing all planned facilities by 2030.	<p><b>Groundwater Resources:</b> More sustainable management of groundwater is needed, but in order to succeed the state must invest in improvements to its water storage and Delta conveyance infrastructure to optimize both surface and groundwater supplies. Consistent with ACWA’s strategic policy document, <i>Sustainability from the Ground Up: A Framework for Groundwater Management in California</i>, the state should support and incentivize effective local and regional groundwater management, resolve conflicting state regulatory requirements and streamline its policies to optimize and increase surface and groundwater storage opportunities.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DWR should convene a multi-agency workgroup with participation by local groundwater agencies to coordinate, review, and facilitate implementation of local and regional groundwater management performance objectives.</li> <li>• DWR and State Water Board (and Regional Boards) should support and facilitate groundwater recharge, banking and conjunctive use projects.</li> <li>• DWR should develop a single data portal on a publicly accessible website for groundwater quality information and continue to expand the CASGEM database for groundwater quantity.</li> <li>• The Regional Boards should support and incentivize local agencies’ efforts to develop long-term, sustainable solutions for cleanup of existing groundwater contamination and prevention of future contamination.</li> </ul>	<p>Effectively integrate groundwater use into comprehensive water supply management to reduce impacts of groundwater withdrawals on stream flows and surface water supplies, reverse trends of overdraft, and enable more effective groundwater storage and conjunctive use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen current groundwater management plan requirements by establishing clear guidance on reducing impacts to surface water in effective groundwater management.</li> <li>• Accelerate pilot tests of managed groundwater recharge approaches.</li> <li>• Encourage and fund local and regional conjunctive management and groundwater banking programs.</li> <li>• Provide funding and incentives to clean up contaminated groundwater basins.</li> </ul>

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Conveyance</b>	<p>Action 3.3.1: Reduce fish kills in Delta pumps by instituting diversion management measures by 2009, implementing near-term conveyance improvements by 2015, and relocating diversions.</p> <p>Action 3.4.7: Reconfigure Delta waterway geometry by 2015 to increase variability in estuarine circulation patterns.</p> <p>Action 5.1.1: Direct the Department of Water Resources and other allied agencies to further investigate the feasibility of a dual conveyance facility, building upon the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan effort.</p>	<p><b>Bay Delta Conservation Plan:</b> A Delta solution, including a BDCP, is a critical component of a broader set of actions that will address water supply reliability and ecosystem health in California.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within the scope of existing regulatory statutes, all state agencies involved in developing a BDCP should exercise their discretion and authority to ensure the final project is consistent with the principles of this Statewide Water Action Plan.</li> <li>• A Delta solution is expected to provide substantial public benefits, which will be funded from public sources including a revised 2014 water bond. The state should work with its federal partners to secure long-term, non-reimbursable federal funding to pay for the federal share of these public benefits.</li> <li>• Any large construction project, including a BDCP, may have adverse impacts related to the project’s “footprint.” Where feasible, a BDCP should be designed to avoid or minimize adverse impacts in the first place. When adverse impacts cannot be avoided, the permittees of a BDCP should mitigate project-related environmental impacts, including water supply impacts, in accordance with existing law.</li> <li>• The permittees of a BDCP, including the CVP and SWP contractors, should work collaboratively with other water users in good faith on all statewide water issues to find mutually acceptable solutions on the broader statewide water issues.</li> </ul>	Not Discussed.

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<p><b>Regional Water Management</b></p>	<p>Action 4.1.1: Improve statewide water use efficiency and conservation.</p> <p>Action 4.1.2: Reduce urban per-capita water demand through specific recommended actions.</p> <p>Action 4.1.3: Ensure the most efficient use of water in agriculture.</p> <p>Action 4.2.1: Modify the Water Recycling Act of 1991 to add a statewide target to recycle on the order of 1.5 million acre-feet of water annually by 2020.</p> <p>Action 4.2.2: Enact legislation now to encourage local water agencies to at least triple the current statewide capacity for generating new water supplies through ocean and brackish water desalination by 2020.</p> <p>Action 4.2.3: Request that the State Board set goals by 2015 for infiltration and direct use of urban storm water runoff throughout the Delta watershed and its export areas.</p> <p>Action 4.2.4: Request agencies to ensure that accurate and timely information is collected and reported on all surface water and groundwater diversions in California by 2012.</p> <p>Action 4.2.5: Require that all water purveyors develop an integrated contingency plan by 2015 in case of Delta water supply curtailments or drought.</p> <p>Action 4.2.6: Establish a regulatory framework that encourages efficient and integrated management of water resources at local, regional, and statewide levels, with a focus on specific actions.</p>	<p><b>Water Use Efficiency:</b> Water conservation and water use efficiency are central elements of the state’s strategy to enhance water supply reliability, restore ecosystems, and respond to climate change and a growing population. It should continue to be the state’s policy to encourage investments in water conservation and water use efficiency by ensuring that the right to conserved water remains with the conserving entity. The state should acknowledge that local agencies are in the best position to determine compliance with new state requirements enacted in law and should respect local determinations as sufficient.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state should provide funding for water use efficiency activities in disadvantaged communities and support programs that are not locally cost effective but contribute broad benefits to CA.</li> <li>• DWR and local water agencies should coordinate with GW mgmt. agencies to enhance conjunctive use and minimize impacts on GW recharge that may result from water use efficiency efforts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Improved Regional Self-Reliance:</b> The state should continue to support development of local and regional water resources that improve each region’s water supply reliability and, where applicable, augment imported water supplies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local agencies should improve self-reliance by planning and implementing projects consistent with decisions made by local and regional water agencies.</li> <li>• Develop a statewide strategy to improve regional supplies, in accordance with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act.</li> <li>• Continue State support to IRWMP efforts that successfully provide for regional and local needs.</li> <li>• Evaluate the state’s IRWM program and identify areas for improvement.</li> </ul>	<p>Implement the state’s policy to reduce reliance on the Delta watershed by substantially reducing demand and diversions from the Bay-Delta watershed from current average diversions, and investing in local and regional water supply tools. The current BDCP cost/benefit analysis prepared by DWR identifies an approximate 25% reduction in future diversions as a likely and reasonable target (establishing a future export baseline of 3.45 MAF on average, as compared to a 4.7 MAF average under existing requirements).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand wastewater recycling sufficient to exceed the state’s water recycling goal of 1 MAF over 2002 levels by 2020.</li> <li>• Expand agricultural and urban water conservation and efficiency to exceed SB 7x7 targets and requirements.</li> <li>• Expand stormwater capture and re-use sufficient to meet or exceed the SWRCB’s goal of increasing stormwater re-use by 500,000 acre-feet over 2002 levels by 2020.</li> </ul>



**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<p><b>Levees and Flood Management</b></p>	<p>Action 3.1.1: Increase the frequency of floodplain inundation and establish new floodplains.</p> <p>Action 3.2.3: Immediately use the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan to identify areas of the San Joaquin River within and upstream of the Delta where flood conveyance capacity can be expanded.</p> <p>Action 5.2.1: Change the operating rules of existing reservoirs to incorporate and reflect modern forecasting capabilities.</p> <p>Action 5.2.2: Require DWR to immediately create a flood bypass along the lower San Joaquin River.</p> <p>Action 6.3.1: Require DWR, in cooperation with local Reclamation Districts and other agencies, to develop a comprehensive plan for Delta levee investments.</p> <p>Action 6.3.2: Prioritize the \$750 million appropriated by Proposition 1E and Proposition 84 funds for the improvement of Delta levees, including in legacy towns.</p> <p>Action 6.3.3: Require those preparing the comprehensive levee plan to incorporate the Delta Levees Classification Table to ensure consistency between levee designs and the uses of land and water enabled by those levees.</p> <p>Action 6.3.4: Continue the existing DWR levee subventions program until the comprehensive levee plan is completed.</p> <p>Action 6.3.5: Vest continuing authority for levee priorities and funding with the Delta Stewardship Council to ensure a cost-effective and sustainable relationship between levee investments and management of the Delta over the long term.</p>	<p><b>Levee Improvement and Maintenance:</b> Levees in the Delta and throughout California are key features of the state’s water system and are subject to many risks, including those associated with earthquakes and floods. To protect against and prepare for future levee failures, the state should continue to support and prioritize the maintenance of levees in accordance with state law, including critical near-term actions and the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Delta Stewardship Council should complete its prioritization plan by July 1, 2014.</li> <li>• The state should continue to support DWR’s Delta Levee Maintenance and Special Projects programs and provide support for local flood protection measures throughout the Central Valley by partnering with local agencies in projects that can incorporate public benefits.</li> </ul>	<p>Reduce the risk of catastrophic flooding and significantly expand the area of frequently inundated floodplain habitat for fish and wildlife.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect undeveloped and agricultural floodplains.</li> <li>• Expand floodplain and floodway capacity to safely accommodate large floods, provide increased habitat, and enable more flexibility in reservoir operations.</li> <li>• Restore the area of frequently inundated floodplain habitat for native fish and wildlife species:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–called for in the 2009 salmonid biological opinion by 2020;</li> <li>–called for in the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improve levees in selected locations to provide needed flood protection, appropriately incorporating our modern understanding of flood hydrology and risk management.</li> </ul>

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Water Quality</b>	<p>Action 3.5.1: Require the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to conduct three actions:</p> <p>a. Immediately re-evaluate wastewater treatment plant discharges into Delta waterways and upstream rivers, and set discharge requirements at levels that are fully protective of human health and ecosystem needs. This process should involve formal consultation with the California Department of Public Health.</p> <p>b. Adopt by 2010 a long-term program to regulate discharges from irrigated agricultural lands.</p> <p>c. Review by 2012 the impacts of urban runoff on Delta water quality and adopt a plan to reduce or eliminate those impacts.</p> <p>Action 3.5.2: Relocate as many Delta drinking water intakes as feasible away from sensitive habitats and to channels where water quality is higher.</p> <p>Action 3.5.3: Establish Total Maximum Daily Load programs by 2012 for upstream areas to reduce organic and inorganic mercury entering the Delta from tributary watersheds.</p> <p>Action 3.5.4: Begin comprehensive monitoring of water quality and Delta fish and wildlife health in 2009.</p>	<p><b>Water Quality:</b> Protecting water quality is a critical aspect of water management in California. The state should continue to pursue actions to protect, maintain, and enhance surface water and groundwater quality for all applicable beneficial uses, consistent with meeting all applicable standards, agreements, and regulatory requirements.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Public Health should fund the development and use of new analytical methods and cost-effective treatment technologies to better detect and remove chemical and microbial contaminants from drinking water supplies.</li> <li>• The state should provide funding support for local water agencies to develop and implement salt and nutrient management plans that will reduce salinity in surface and groundwater supplies and provide enhanced conjunctive use opportunities.</li> <li>• The State Water Board and the Regional Boards should review and better match water quality standards to the locally appropriate and demonstrated use of the water. Water quality program expenditures should be focused where they will provide the greatest water quality benefits. Source water quality for municipal uses should continue to be protected.</li> <li>• The state should continue to develop solutions for assisting disadvantaged communities that do not have safe drinking water.</li> </ul>	<p>Improve water quality to provide drinkable and swimmable water for all people with special attention provided for disadvantaged communities and a healthy ecosystem for aquatic organisms.</p>

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<p><b>Headwaters and Watershed Management</b></p>	<p>Action 5.2.3: Request that the Department of Water Resources encourage greater infiltration as part of watershed management planning.</p>	<p><b>Headwaters:</b> Because nearly all of the state’s water supplies originate in California’s headwaters, more effectively managing these areas is integral to optimizing the water supplies that nature provides. Adapting to climate change and improving watershed resiliency to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic wildfires and increase water yield and quality will require substantial investments by the state.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State land and resource management agencies with jurisdiction in headwaters areas should draft a joint report to the Governor and the Legislature analyzing the impacts of climate change on headwaters. The report should identify the benefits that headwaters currently provide, identify models to assess the impacts of climate change on these resources and outline strategies to adapt to those impacts.</li> <li>• The Natural Resources Agency, in consultation with the Sierra Nevada Research Institute (UC Merced) and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, should provide a report to the Governor outlining and prioritizing investments that can be made on public lands to improve the condition and functions of California’s headwaters to benefit water supply reliability for the state.</li> <li>• Working with local agencies, the state should assess and support solutions for legacy issues affecting water quality and supply to improve the condition of affected watersheds.</li> <li>• The state should seek to partner with the U.S. Forest Service in meadow restoration projects that can control excessive soil erosion and sediment delivery in California's watersheds to help maintain reservoir storage capacity, reduce flood risks, and increase conjunctive use capability.</li> </ul>	<p>Protect and restore natural watershed processes in both urban and rural environments to reduce flooding and polluted run-off and to increase groundwater recharge and dry season stream flows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and restore mountain meadows and forested lands.</li> <li>• Invest in green infrastructure to infiltrate stormwater in developed areas.</li> <li>• Implement the current state policy of “no net loss” of wetlands, including finalizing the proposed SWRCB’s State Wetlands and Riparian Protection Policy.</li> </ul>

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Assurances</b>	<p>Action 1.1.2: Incorporate the co-equal goals into the mandated duties and responsibilities of all state agencies with significant involvement in the Delta.</p> <p>Action 1.1.3: Require the achievement or advancement of the co-equal goals in all water, environmental, and other bonds, and operational agreements and water contracts or water rights permits that directly or indirectly fund activities in the Delta.</p>	<p><b>Water Supply Assurances:</b> California law establishes a goal of improving water supply reliability throughout the state. A BDCP is being developed in part to improve and protect water supply reliability for the agencies that will benefit from its completion. When the CVP and SWP were built, assurances were incorporated in their authorizing statutes that water needed to meet present and future beneficial uses in the areas of origin would be available to those areas when needed. The state should commit to implementing an action plan that augments storage and modifies regulatory approaches to ensure that positive storage balances can be maintained at all times.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All relevant agencies should adhere to water rights protections in state law and comply with existing water rights and contractual requirements.</li> <li>• The Administration should continue to affirm that the implementation of a BDCP will not adversely affect existing water rights, nor will it impose any obligations on area-of-origin water users to supplement flows in and through the Delta.</li> <li>• Those seeking to secure permits for a BDCP will be responsible for meeting all applicable conditions in their BDCP permits, including any obligations in those permits for Delta flow, must avoid redirected impacts to area-of-origin water users, including in the Delta, unless provided for in voluntary agreements or settlements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Operational Assurances:</b> Recent modeling indicates that, in the driest 10% of years, some major reservoirs will hit “dead pool” and no operable storage would exist to deliver water for supply, environmental, and power generation purposes. It should be the policy of the state to adopt regulations, develop operating rules, or take other actions that will ensure that reservoirs are not drawn to dead pool conditions.</p>	Not discussed.

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Water Transfers</b>		<p><b>Water Transfers:</b> While federal and state laws promote transfers, DWR’s current approval processes should be streamlined.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DWR should convene stakeholder meetings, including with Reclamation, to identify and resolve the following issues by December 1, 2013:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify a process to expedite transfers within a region;</li> <li>○ Assess the role of CEQA in water transfers,</li> <li>○ Review DWR and Reclamation processes and criteria that are used to determine what water is transferrable; and</li> <li>○ Investigate and review contracting practices within Reclamation and DWR for approving agreements to use conveyance and storage facilities of the CVP and the SWP.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• DWR also should review the 2002 SWRCB report, <a href="#">Water Transfers Issues in California</a>, for background and relevant recommendations.</li> </ul>	Not discussed.

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	<p>Action 6.1.1: Complete a Delta-wide regional emergency response plan by 2010 that establishes legally binding regional coordination.</p> <p>Action 6.1.2: Immediately begin a comprehensive series of emergency management and preparation actions.</p>	<p><b>Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety:</b> A robust emergency response plan is essential for minimizing disruption due to floods, earthquakes, wildfires, power outages, or contamination of drinking water supplies. The state, working with federal partners, should continue efforts to improve response strategies to enhance public safety during these unforeseen events.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DWR should implement pertinent recommendations of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Multi-Hazard Coordination Task Force Report of 2012.</li> <li>• To reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) should review and, if necessary, revise relevant state regulations to better accommodate and effectuate the use of forest management tools such as forest thinning, biomass removal and controlled burns that reduce fuel loading.</li> <li>• DWR should coordinate with the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure public safety in the Delta and upstream will not be compromised by actions that might otherwise degrade the performance of flood management facilities; create or redirect hydraulic impacts; or, interfere with or impede flood facility improvements, operations, or maintenance.</li> <li>• DWR should implement the pathway strategy adopted in its draft Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This effort includes all measures to facilitate restoration of an emergency freshwater pathway to water export facilities in approximately six months.</li> </ul>	Not discussed.

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Land Stewardship</b>		Not discussed.	Promote a sustainable and vibrant agricultural economy, including maintaining the Williamson Act and developing and investing in programs designed to compensate farmers and ranchers for good stewardship practices that provide public trust benefits.
<b>Delta as Place</b>	<p>Action 2.1.1: Apply by 2010 for the designation of the Delta as a federally recognized National Heritage Area.</p> <p>Action 2.1.2: Expand by 2010 the State Recreation Area network in the Delta, combining existing and newly designated areas.</p> <p>Action 2.2.1: Establish special Delta designations within existing federal and state agricultural support programs.</p> <p>Action 2.2.2: Conduct needed research and development for agricultural sustainability in the Delta.</p> <p>Action 2.2.3: Establish new markets for innovative agricultural products and enterprises in the Delta.</p> <p>Action 2.3.2: Establish special enterprise zones at the major “gateways” to the Delta as part of the economic development plan.</p> <p>Action 2.4.1-3: Initiate the Delta Investment Fund with state funding; structure the Fund so that it can accept revenues from federal, state, local, and private sources; and place the Fund under the joint management of the DPC and a consortium of local governments.</p>	Not discussed.	Not discussed.

**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Governance</b>	Action 7.4.1: Use existing authority under the CALFED Record of Decision to maximize participation of federal agencies in implementation of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan until the Delta Plan is completed.	<p><b>Governmental Coordination:</b> For this plan to be successful, improved coordination among state agencies and between the state and federal government will be critical.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Governor’s Administration should follow up with their federal counterparts, including the President, to assess actions, policy direction, and commitments in the CEQ memo directing that a BDCP be a priority for the Obama Administration. Coordinate with federal agencies to advance other actions identified in the CEQ memo, including conservation and water use efficiency, enhancing water supplies and storage, and water transfers.</li> <li>• The secretaries of the CA Natural Resources, Cal EPA and the HHS and their responsible subsidiaries, should produce within 90 days of the Governor’s approval a joint report on how the State will exercise its authorities to implement this plan in an expeditious and integrated manner.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan:</b> Negotiated programs and planning efforts have been and likely will be the most effective tools to protect beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta. The State Water Board has the opportunity to lead this coordination through its review and update of the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan. In its review, the State Water Board should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and facilitate negotiated programs, planning efforts and settlements that will implement flow and non-flow actions consistent with the need to protect beneficial uses and public trust balancing.</li> <li>• Require a tri-annual review of water quality objectives and implementation accountability through annual reports by local agencies, state offices, departments, and boards with responsibility to implement the Bay-Delta Plan.</li> </ul>	Create a transparent, equitable, and efficient decision making process that allows all Californians to shape decisions that determine the allocation of water and water management resources as well as the management of beneficial uses of the state’s water.



**Comparison Chart: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan – Environmental Water Action Plan**

Topic	Delta Vision Strategic Plan	ACWA Statewide Water Action Plan	Environmental Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
<b>Funding and Finance</b>	<p>Action 7.3.1: Enact a series of principles regarding design of financing into legislation authorizing the Delta Stewardship Council.</p> <p>Action 7.3.2: Establish a base of revenues outside the state General Fund for the work of the Delta Stewardship Council, the Delta Conservancy, the Delta Protection Commission, and related core activities DFW, DWR, and the State Water Board.</p> <p>Action 7.3.3: Find new revenue sources beyond the traditional bond funds or public allocations.</p>	<p><b>Water Bond:</b> Significant investments in California’s water infrastructure, water management improvements, and ecosystem health are critically needed and long overdue.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The water bond currently set for the November 2014 ballot should be modified, consistent with the ACWA Board of Directors’ Water Bond Policy Principles, in early 2014 to ensure its placement on the November ballot. An appropriately crafted general obligation bond can fund broad public benefits associated with investments identified in this Statewide Water Action Plan. Priorities for funding should include new surface and groundwater storage; local and regional projects that support greater regional self-sufficiency; investments in Delta ecosystem restoration; safe drinking water projects and water quality improvements; water conservation and water use efficiency; and watershed management.</li> </ul>	Not discussed.



**Framework for an Integrated Water Action Plan  
To Achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals**

*As Set Forth in the Delta Vision Strategic Plan  
Bay Delta Conservation Plan + Delta Plan = "BDCP Plus"*

**Purpose and Overview**

The purpose of this Framework for an Integrated Water Action Plan is to outline the essential elements to reach consensus among a "critical mass" of stakeholders to move forward on a course of action that achieves the Two Co-Equal Goals set forth in the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan (DVSP)* and established as State policy in the 2009 Delta legislation. The Framework should be considered a measure of a "sincere commitment" by the State of California to expeditiously implement both the *Delta Plan* prepared by the Delta Stewardship Council and the *Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)* proposed by the Governor. The Delta Vision Foundation referred to this approach in the 2012 Delta Vision Report Card as "BDCP Plus" and described the path forward in a letter to Natural Resources Agency Secretary John Laird (March 27, 2013). The bedrock of a viable stakeholder consensus is the following understanding: (a) BDCP alone is not an acceptable "Delta fix" but can be a critical component if linked to other actions; and (b) BDCP can move forward without delay if there are legally-reliable assurances that compel action on the other core components. A workable integrated Water Action Plan has 3 essential elements:

1. Core Components for a Workable "Delta Fix"
2. Plan of Action and Timetable for Immediate Implementation
3. Legally-Reliable Assurances that Compel Action

**Core Components for a Workable "Delta Fix"**

At the heart of a workable "Delta fix" is the recognition that there are unsustainable and increasing conflicts in water demands among "fish, farms, and factories" and that: (a) a "Delta fix" means restoring the Delta ecosystem so that there are healthy, increasing fish populations in the Delta and, in order to do that, fish need more water at the right time at the right temperature than the current system allows; and (b) unless politicians are willing to cripple agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley with permanently-reduced water supplies and intermittently short supplies for the rest of the state's economy, then the solution must involve sufficient infrastructure to capture, convey, and store more water when it is truly surplus to the environment. The fatal flaw with BDCP is that it does not and cannot physically do that. The touchstone for a workable "Delta fix" is the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan (DVSP)* with the obligation placed on the State of California to achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals and the conclusion based on science that can be accomplished only with a set of integrated and linked actions. The following summarizes the Core Components (not intended to exclude any *DVSP* component or what stakeholders may negotiate), which would be implemented consistent with the principles of "adaptive management:"

**Near-Term Actions: Advance the Two Co-Equal Goals**

- Optimize water-use efficiencies and conservation.
- Reoperate SWP and CVP to optimize existing groundwater storage.
- Construct Strategic Levee System and Improved Through-Delta Conveyance (Proposition 1E Bond).
- Implement pilot habitat restoration (consistent with local HCPs, sufficient scale, less land use impacts).
- Reduce other stressors to extent possible (such as waste discharges, invasive species, and predators).
- Begin implementation of adopted plans to advance "Delta as Place" commitments.
- Complete assessment of potential and action plan for areas of origin watershed management.

Longer-Term Actions: Achieve the Two Co-Equal Goals

- Implement additional appropriate Delta channel hydrology improvements and fish protection.
- Implement BDCP (further informed and refined by results of Improved Through-Delta Conveyance).
- Design, engineer, and construct sufficient surface storage (above, in, and below the Delta).
- Develop groundwater storage in the San Joaquin River water basin.
- Complete Delta habitat restoration (consistent with local HCPs).
- Implement action plan for areas of origin watershed management.
- Continue to implement and complete all other above actions.

Please note that the grouping of “Near-Term and Longer-Term” Actions is intended to recognize that construction of essential facilities will take a longer timeframe, but progress on all Core Components must move forward expeditiously with the intent to complete actions as soon as possible.

**Plan of Action and Timetable for Immediate Implementation**

It is essential that a realistic plan to implement Core Components be developed and agreed upon that includes a timetable for observable progress and commitments for funding implementation. However, it is recognized that the Administration is focused only on BDCP and appears unable to lead and manage other actions that need to move forward and/or be linked to BDCP. An alternative approach is for the Delta Stewardship Council to exercise its statutory responsibility and authority to coordinate implementation of the “Plus” complementary linked and integrated actions. This plan of action should involve Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee but needs to go beyond typical bureaucratic coordination meetings to organize Work Teams to focus on high-priority Core Components that move forward in parallel to BDCP. Given the limited State funding resources, the Work Teams can be comprised of dedicated-loaned-assigned personnel from stakeholders (water agencies and others) with a designated Convener-Facilitator, a group of Technical and Science Advisors, and other contributing stakeholders.

The participants must be specifically identified for clarity of responsibility and accountability and all meetings of Work Teams should be open and publicly noticed for transparency. There also needs to be an entity that serves to coordinate the Work Teams (“Work Team Coordination Council”), which can be done by the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee or an expanded group which includes the Work Team Conveners-Facilitators. This group needs a schedule for regular public reporting of the Work Teams progress and should meet no less frequently than quarterly, although initial monthly meetings as the scope of work is being developed and finalized would be appropriate. (Note: The following are examples of conveners who could be tapped to step forward and all volunteers would be welcomed.)

<b>Delta Plan Priority Action for Implementation</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Examples of Work Teams Prospective Convener(s) and/or Facilitator and Technical Advisors</b>
Near-Term Actions to Advance Two Co-Equal Goals	<i>Overall Near-Term Actions</i>	<i>Delta Protection Commission (DPC)</i>
	Delta As An Evolving Place	DPC, Delta Communities, State Parks, Caltrans, Boating and Waterways
	Delta Projects Coalition Consensus Projects	Delta Projects Coalition
	12-County Coalition Consensus Projects	SJVP-Delta Counties Coalition, CSU Fresno California Water Institute (CWI)
	Strategic Levee System	Delta Water Agencies (CCWD, EBMUD, Reclamation Districts), MWD, KCWA, Westlands
	Improved Through-Delta Conveyance	Delta Water Agencies (CCWD, EBMUD, Reclamation Districts), MWD, KCWA, Westlands, DWR

Delta Ecosystem Habitat Restoration	<i>Overall Ecosystem Restoration</i>	<i>DPC, DC, DFW, DWR, USACE, SWRCB</i>
	Habitat Ecosystem Project 1	DPC and/or DC
	Habitat Ecosystem Project 2	DPC and/or DC
	Habitat Ecosystem Project 3	DPC and/or DC
Water Banking Storage to Capture Water When Truly Surplus to the Environment for Increased Flexibility in Operations	<i>Overall Water Banking System</i>	<i>ACWA, DVF, CA Water Commission</i>
	Local Storage Projects Inventory	DSC, ACWA
	Shasta Dam	CVP Contractors, ACOE, MWD
	Sites Reservoir	NCWA, ACWA, DVF
	Los Vaqueros Expansion	CCWD, EBMUD, State Water Contractors
	Temperance Flat	Friant Water Agency, CWI
	San Luis - Los Banos Grandes	State Water Contractors
	Groundwater Recharge San Joaquin Watershed Basin	CWI, SJV Agencies in Watershed, Farm/Ag Associations

These actions need to be informed by the Delta Science Program to pool resources, jointly plan research, share data, and otherwise foster consensus on the understanding of scientific results on managing the Delta ecosystem to promote collaborative science (and reduce “combat science”) and optimize practical use and applications of science.

### **Legally-Reliable Assurances that Compel Action**

The following are potential mechanisms for providing legally-reliable assurances to complete action on an Integrated Water Action Plan. Ideally, all of the mechanisms should be employed. Perhaps the most important “breakthrough” concept is a compact among all willing and interested stakeholders that is a legally-binding contract to perform for which performance becomes the basis for the parties to hold harmless and indemnify one another thereby promising not to sue. This approach allows the stakeholder to have a higher level of legal assurance than political promises or legislation that is ignored without timely recourse. The compact can be the mechanism to compel action on the Core Components in addition to BDCP that is evidence of good faith and commitment.

- Compact Signed by State and Major Stakeholders with Commitments for Linked Actions
  - Performance Requirements and Metrics for Adaptive Management
  - Work Plan to Implement Linked Actions
  - Timeframe to Perform
  - Commitment and Schedule for Funding (and deposit of funds into designated accounts)
  - Mutual Hold Harmless and Indemnification (commitment not to sue if actions are implemented)
- Companion Legislation to Bond Measure (existing or renegotiated Bond Measure)
- Bond Covenants
- Contract Requirements for Isolated Conveyance Facility
  - Legal Obligation to Operate to Achieve Two Co-Equal Goals
  - Obligation to Optimize Water Conservation and Use Efficiencies (“Water Ethic”)
  - Operational Performance Requirements
  - Deposit of Funds Into Storage Account (in proportion to assigned benefit and statutory constraints: >50% costs and <50% public benefit funded by GO Bond)
  - Limitations on Amount of Water Exported Through Isolated Conveyance Until Storage is Constructed (timing; requisite outflows for kinds of years)
  - Oversight Responsibilities and Rights
- Stakeholder Oversight Council (comprised of parties to the Compact)

# Comprehensive Delta Strategy and Assurances Framework

## Work Groups

### 1. Delta Policy Framework, Performance Outcomes, and Metrics

The work group would explore and develop the appropriate policy and performance framework to define, measure, and assure accountability for achieving the Two Co-Equal Goals.

**DVF Director Leadership:** John Kirlin and William Reilly

**Potential Co-Conveners:** Tim Quinn, ACWA; Jonas Minton, PCL; Jason Peltier, Westlands Water District

### 2. Strategic Levee System and Through-Delta Conveyance

This work group would evaluate near-term actions (10-15 years) to optimize through-Delta conveyance (water supply and flood), improved protection and enhancement for fish and habitat, and levee investments to secure critical channels and islands for water supply, water quality, ecosystem protection, and Delta land uses.

**DVF Director Leadership:** Sunne McPeak

**Potential Co-Conveners:** Randall Neudeck, Metropolitan Water District; Tom Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency; Marguerite Patil, Contra Costa Water District; and John Cain, American Rivers

### 3. Water Storage

This work group would have two sub-groups, surface storage and groundwater storage, to develop targets, actions, and mechanisms to promote “more in wet, less in dry” water management through storage and retention for ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability, including increased Delta inflow and reduced diversions at critical times.

**DVF Director Leadership:** Mike Madigan and Mike Chrisman

**Potential Co-Conveners:** Ron Jacobsma, Friant Water Users; Thad Bettner, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District; Sarge Green, California Water Institute; Leo Winternitz, TNC; Greg Zlotnick, San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority

### 4. Delta as Place

This work group would report on existing efforts by the Delta Protection Commission, the Delta Conservancy, and the Delta Stewardship Council to identify the actions and programs to preserve the cultural values of the Delta and enhance economic productivity for the region.

**DVF Director Leadership:** NA

**Potential Co-Conveners:** Erik Vink, Delta Protection Commission; Campbell Ingram, Delta Conservancy; Randy Fiorini, Delta Stewardship Council; Doug Brown, Delta Counties Coalition

### 5. Delta Ecosystem Restoration

This work group would report on existing coordination activities and implementation plans for near- and mid-term restoration in the Delta, including actions to comply with existing Biological Opinions, mitigation actions for flood management and levee improvement programs, and pilot studies.

**DVF Director Leadership:** NA

**Potential Co-Conveners:** Campbell Ingram, Delta Conservancy; Randy Fiorini, Delta Stewardship Council; Byron Buck, State and Federal Water Contractors Agency

### 6. Regional Water Management and Efficiency

This work group would identify targets, actions, and investments for each region of the state to improve water management, increase water use efficiency, and develop alternate supplies.

**DVF Director Leadership:** Mike Chrisman and A.G. Kawamura

**Potential Co-Conveners:** Rich Atwater, Southern California Water Coalition; Kate Poole, NRDC; David Guy, NCWA; and Jim Levine, Bay Area Council; Jim Tischer, California Water Institute

### 7. Headwaters Management

This work group would identify and quantify Delta and regional benefits from watershed management investments upstream of major reservoirs (above the rim).

**DVF Director Leadership:** Mike Madigan

**Potential Co-Conveners:** John Kingsbury, Mountain Counties WRA; Steve Frisch, Sierra Business Council

## **8. Funding, Financing and Assurances**

This work group will identify necessary funding levels and potential funding and financing mechanisms (including the water bond) to assure continued investment in core components.

**DVF Director Leadership:** Linda Adams

**Potential Co-Conveners:** Pete Weber, Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley; Mario Santoyo, Latino Water Coalition; Jim Earp, California Alliance for Jobs

### **Proposed Work Group and Roundtable Schedule**

**September 18** – Distribute Roundtable summary and proposed work group structure and schedule.

**September 18-October 18** – DVF staff works with conveners and key interests to develop draft framing questions and scope for each work group.

**October 24 (Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA 95827)** – Work group Kick-off Meeting to review and confirm work group charters, scopes, participation, and schedule.

**November 22 (Bay Area Council, San Francisco)** – Roundtable meeting to receive first reports from work groups.

**January 2014 (3<sup>rd</sup> week, location TBD)** – Roundtable to report on work group progress and results.

**March 2014 (date and location TBD)** – Roundtable to report on work group progress and results.

**April 2014 (date and location TBD)** – Work groups completed and results compiled into comprehensive policy framework and action and investment strategy.