

### **Delta Counties Coalition**

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County

*"Working together on water and Delta issues"*

March 11, 2022

Dear Members of the Delta Congressional Delegation,

As you know, the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) works collaboratively to provide one voice for the protection and betterment of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta System on behalf of their four million residents. The DCC's primary objectives are to secure a more reliable water supply for the region and the State, improve the Delta ecosystem, and protect and enhance Delta communities.

The DCC would like to share our priorities with respect to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022, authorizing policy, programs, and projects for the Army Corps of Engineers, as the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee continues its deliberations.

We request the authorization of an environmental infrastructure program for the five Delta counties. Funding from such a program could be utilized for projects in the counties including those related to wastewater treatment, water supply, water conservation, stormwater retention and remediation, environmental restoration, surface water resource protection and development, the Delta Long-Term Management Strategy, repair and improvement to nonfederal Delta levees, and the removal and mitigation of commercial abandoned and derelict vessels. We would ask that such a program be authorized at \$50 million to be available until expended.

Secondly, with our continued appreciation for your work including the Delta counties as an eligible beneficiary of funding in the Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program created in WRDA 2020 – for which we will be asking for your assistance in securing funding in the FY '23 Appropriations bill – we would also ask that the Delta be added to the list of locales authorized by Section 501 of WRDA 2020 as those where the Corps may consider invasive species specific efforts.

Finally, we ask that this legislation include language that would bar the use of funding by the Army Corps of Engineers to support the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta isolated conveyance facilities. The voters of the State of California have consistently made clear their opposition to such a conveyance and the use of public funds to support the construction of an isolated Delta conveyance facility as long ago as the defeat of a ballot initiative to build the Peripheral Canal in 1982, through the Proposition 1 Water Bond of 2014, and as recently as Proposition 68 of 2018. In each instance, the voters affirmed that the costs of any new isolated Delta conveyance facilities would be the responsibility of the water agencies that benefit from the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of those facilities. This same limitation should apply to the use of any federal dollars to support water resource projects.

March 11, 2022

Page 2

Instead of directing resources to a controversial project that would benefit one region of the State at the expense of the Delta – while at the same time doing nothing to address California’s basic water supply challenges – we believe that federal assistance should be targeted to programs that could help California and other drought-stricken states secure resilient long-term, lower-cost water supplies while preserving and enhancing natural resources and improving equity for future generations. We believe that the environmental infrastructure program authorization requested above could provide one modest tool for enhancing water supply for the Delta region and the State.

We urge you to consider the inclusion of these provisions in WRDA 2022 and are pleased to address any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have.

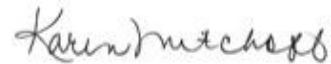
Sincerely,



Patrick Kennedy  
Supervisor, Sacramento County



Mitch Mashburn  
Supervisor, Solano County



Karen Mitchoff  
Supervisor, Contra Costa County



Oscar Villegas  
Supervisor, Yolo County



Chuck Winn  
Supervisor, San Joaquin  
County