

Delta Counties Coalition

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

"Working together on water and Delta issues"

May 21, 2015

Ms. Darcie Luce, Water Policy Specialist
Friends of the San Francisco Estuary
P.O. Box 791
Oakland, CA 94604

Re: Fresh Water Flows in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay

Dear Ms. Luce:

This letter is written on behalf of the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), consisting of the Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano and Yolo counties.

As you know, the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are integral and dependent parts of the West Coast's largest estuary, consisting of a labyrinth of islands, sloughs, and channels that, in turn, flow into the San Francisco Bay region and to the ocean. The system's freshwater flows mingle with salt water from ocean tides, creating a rich and diverse aquatic ecosystem. The Delta also serves as a collection point for runoff from much of the northern portions of the watershed and is a primary water supply source for much of the State.

Given the Bay-Delta's unique and irreplaceable resources, the DCC has long advocated for and supported policies and actions to help ensure a healthy estuary in perpetuity and has opposed those that have the potential to degrade or destroy the estuary. The DCC's strong position on this critically important objective is embodied throughout its 12 adopted operating principles, which are attached. Three of these principles are specific to a healthy estuary. They include the following:

- Protect and improve water quality and water quantity in the Delta region and maintain appropriate Delta outflow for a healthy estuary;
- Support the Delta pool concept; in which the common resource provides quality freshwater supply to all delta users, requiring mutual responsibility to maintain, restore and protect the common resource; and
- Protect and restore the Delta ecosystem, including adequate water supply and quality to support it in perpetuity.

The DCC supports the efforts of the Friends of the San Francisco Estuary to protect and enhance the health of the estuary and for sufficient fresh water flows. We support actions, consistent with our principles, that will foster and enhance the long-term health of the estuary. These actions include, but are not limited to: (1) promoting regional self-sufficiency throughout the State, (2) reducing reliance on the Delta, and (3) supporting flows that will help preserve a critically important fishery. The DCC looks forward to collaborating with you in protection of this most important resource.

Sincerely,



Mary Nejedly Piepho
Supervisor, Contra Costa County



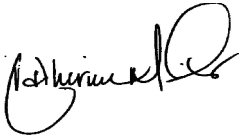
Skip Thomson
Supervisor, Solano County



Don Nottoli
Supervisor, Sacramento County



Jim Provenza
Supervisor, Yolo County



Katherine M. Miller
Supervisor, San Joaquin County

Attachment