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From: Jherrlaw@aol.com [mailto:Jherrlaw@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, April 23, 2007 11:26 AM

To: Petersen, Polly@CALFED

Subject: Re: Blue Ribbon Task Force Meeting - 4/27/07

Dear Ms. Alvis and Ms. Petersen:

I am counsel and manager of the South Delta Water Agency. Our Agency is closely monitoring the Delta Vision process as it moves towards recommendations which will directly affect the beneficial users of water in our area.

We are working with Contra Costa Water District to produce a report which will clarify some of the serious mistakes contained within the PPIC Report. The Report asserts that the Delta is fresher now that it was historically; an incorrect assertion easily refuted. The Report lists fresh water as 3 ppt of salt and sea water as 35 ppt, and then goes on to state that agriculture in the Delta could survive and "adapt" to a ten-fold increase in salinity. Of course, farming could never "adapt" to seawater as a source. Further, the Report discusses a decrease in gross farming income in the Delta and speculates that such a decrease could still result in sustainable farming. A suggestion that changes in gross income can be evaluated without examining net income is preposterous. We are now gathering and reviewing the large amounts of data which are contrary to the Report's many false statements and hope to have it in a manageable form in the near future.

I would also like to note that the Report suggests we might allow significant salinity intrusions into the Delta as a means of improving the populations of many endangered and threatened species (a proposal which is contrary to the salinity data referenced above). The Report gives no indication of how often, how long or what magnitude such intrusions should be in order to assist these species. Hence, at best the Report suggests an experiment to determine how endangered species might react to a massive change in the critical habitat of these species; a poorly thought out idea which if undertaken, would create monumental damage to the existing beneficial uses of the Delta and which is certainly precluded by state and federal ESA statutes.

Before the process goes too far in its examination of the issues facing the Delta, we hope it takes note that the PPIC Report is not the "best science available" and in fact is incorrect in many of its statements. We look forward to the opportunity to make a presentation before the Blue Ribbon Task Force after our document is completed. In addition, we assume the process will eventually contact the various Delta interests including the South Delta Water Agency, Contra Costa Water Agency and Central Delta Water Agency before it decides on recommendations which might adversely affect the water users within those Districts.

Please make sure the members of the Task Force receive copies of this e-mail. JOHN

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