

Delta Vision Stakeholder Coordination Group

Delta Management Objectives (includes Suisun Marsh)

Note: This list represents a compilation of Delta “management objectives” developed by the Stakeholder Coordination Group (SCG), drawing originally from the interests identified in the Stakeholder Assessment Report. They are still in draft form but will be revised prior to use as a major ingredient of the visioning charrette planned for the June SCG meeting.

Environment

1. Maintain, restore and build terrestrial and aquatic habitat necessary to support desired population levels of native and desirable non-native species, including migratory species
2. Recover all native aquatic species, especially threatened and endangered species, to sustainable (or greater) population levels
3. Recover all native and migratory terrestrial species, especially threatened and endangered species, to sustainable (or greater) population levels
4. Maintain important non-native species at sustainable population levels
5. Discourage, and if possible eliminate, invasive exotic species that adversely affect desirable species
6. Manage the Delta to sequester carbon to reduce global warming
7. Ensure that fish and wildlife used for food are safe to eat
8. Ensure that conditions in the Delta contribute to healthy fisheries of anadromous species upstream of the Delta
9. Maintain management flexibility to respond to changing ecological conditions

Levees/Land Form

10. Maintain current Delta land form
11. Create a Delta land form that decreases long-range levee maintenance costs
12. Create a Delta landform that provides ecological water supply and economic benefits under future conditions
13. Minimize the possibility of a multiple-island failure
14. Ensure that any levee breaks can be repaired quickly and economically
15. Establish a minimum level of protection for all levees
16. Prioritize levee repairs and improvements based on public safety and benefits
17. Prioritize levee repair and maintenance in accordance with benefits and payment responsibility
18. Encourage land uses that minimize subsidence where it may affect levee stability, and where appropriate establish subsidence reversal programs
19. Create green levees that provide adequate flood protection, habitat, recreation and visual benefits, where opportunities exist
20. Ensure that levee maintenance and rehabilitation enhance or restore floodplain or ecosystem processes

Urbanization

21. Ensure economic opportunities associated with urban growth

22. Expand supply of affordable housing
23. Maintain current local control over land use
24. Reduce public (state) liability risks associated with local government land use decisions
25. Maintain quality of life in the Delta
26. Ensure better regional coordination over land use decisions
27. Include Delta landowners in Delta land use planning and decision-making
28. Prevent urbanization of lands in deep flood plains, below future sea levels, or within important habitat areas
29. Provide statewide land use guidance to ensure local land use coordination

Economic Considerations

30. Protect the channels and levees that support shipping and other maritime industries
31. Maintain and expand business opportunities and jobs associated with Delta industries, including agriculture, shipping, maritime, recreation and construction
32. Ensure that local governments have sufficient revenue sources to provide local services
33. Maximize the opportunity for Delta towns and cities to sustain their local culture, economy, diversity and unique heritage without becoming dependent bedroom communities, gentrified communities or museum ghost towns
34. Ensure that Delta solutions contribute to statewide economic growth
35. Provide maritime, road and rail routes for interregional goods movement that protect Delta communities, species, and habitats

Agriculture

36. Maintain the current agricultural land area
37. Ensure that in-Delta farmers have secure, reliable, high-quality irrigation water supply
38. Encourage expansion and diversification of economic opportunity for owners and operators of working Delta landscapes, including farms, duck clubs, etc.
39. Encourage economically viable and environmentally friendly agriculture
40. Provide for secondary and primary zone buffers to protect primary zone agricultural uses
41. Maintain the potential for historical agricultural crop yields and crop diversity

Infrastructure

42. Ensure security and reliability of aqueducts
43. Ensure security and reliability of energy infrastructure, including pipelines, transmission lines, and gas storage fields
44. Ensure security and reliability of transportation infrastructure, including rail lines and roads
45. Ensure that levee failures do not result in major adverse impacts to transportation, water supplies and other services and infrastructure

Recreation and Tourism

46. Maintain and enhance opportunities for recreational boating and water sports
47. Maintain and enhance opportunities for hiking and biking
48. Maintain and enhance opportunities for agricultural tourism

49. Ensure that all fishable, huntable and birdwatching species are maintained at healthy and harvestable population levels
50. Enhance tourism potential of “legacy towns” along Sacramento River (e.g. Walnut Grove, Locke)
51. Reduce impacts of recreation water sports on Delta levees and water quality
52. Encourage the development of facilities serving boaters and other recreational interests
53. Maintain access to recreation for people of all social classes
54. Ensure that the quality of Delta water is swimmable and safe for contact recreation
55. Protect and develop the primary and secondary channels that support recreational activities (dredging)

Water Conveyance

56. Ensure that state and federal water project customers have secure, reliable, high-quality water supply
57. Ensure that Contra Costa Water District customers have secure, reliable, high-quality water supply
58. Ensure that North Bay Aqueduct customers have secure, reliable, high-quality water supply
59. Ensure that environmental water users dependent on Delta have secure, reliable high quality water supply
60. Ensure that cost of exported water is as low as possible
61. Minimize possibility of water supply interruption due to disaster
62. Reduce energy consumption associated with water conveyance
63. Enhance management flexibility in operations of Delta-dependent water systems that allows for the ability to be responsive to changing ecological conditions and climate change
64. Ensure adequate inflows
65. Ensure conveyance facilities and operations are compatible with ecosystem health and in-Delta water quality

Water Export

66. Maximize efficiency in use of water extracted or exported from Delta
67. Maximize economic productivity of water extracted or exported from Delta
68. Ensure that all drinking water exported from Delta meets water quality standards
69. Ensure that amount and timing of exported water does not exceed a “safe yield” (flows that will not harm the Delta ecosystem)
70. Change the cost structure for water exports to encourage efficient use to protect social and public values and pay for public restoration and mitigation projects
71. Ensure that water exports are maintained at viable levels for regions dependent on water supplies from the Delta
72. Protect water rights of water appropriated outside the Delta that is currently conveyed through the Delta
73. Promote policies that reduce reliance of areas currently exporting from the Delta on future imported water supplies
74. Conduct water export operations from the Delta which are consistent with protection of in-Delta agriculture and in-Delta water rights

Public Safety

75. Ensure that Delta communities and their vital resources are protected from floods (especially catastrophic floods) and earthquakes
76. Ensure that Delta communities have evacuation routes and other emergency response necessities
77. Encourage all new urbanization to protect itself from floods and earthquakes
78. Ensure regional coordination of state and local first-responders/emergency responders
79. Implement sustainable flood management strategies.
80. Encourage local responsibility to protect Delta communities from levee failure

Environmental Justice

81. Ensure that any negative impacts of Delta management are not disproportionately borne by disadvantaged communities or communities of color, and that positive impacts are available to them
82. Ensure that Delta solutions and project siting decisions include early participation by disadvantaged communities
83. Avoid further loss of tribal land through dam and reservoir expansion
84. Ensure the preservation of cultural resources within the Delta and Suisun Marsh
85. Address concerns related to health risks for those who rely on subsistence fishing

Water Quality

86. Improve water quality in tributaries feeding into Delta
87. Reduce Delta water quality degradation from urban and agricultural discharges
88. Maintain a reliable high quality supply that continues to maintain baseline needs for all water uses

Other

89. Adopt management objectives that can and will be funded
90. Consider existing effective cooperative programs benefiting environmental resources
91. Incorporate real adaptive management, including monitoring, evaluation, staged decision-making and course-corrections to respond to new information and changed conditions
92. Recognize the Delta as a special status area and design appropriate institutional, governance and regulatory arrangements