

Some Thoughts on Delta Solutions

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- 1) **Eliminate the historical static Delta strategy.** Prolonging the current Delta strategy of relying on levees to protect land and water in the Delta is unsustainable with increasing costs and risks. Preserving the current strategy also increases the political difficulty of achieving long-term solutions which better serve most environmental, water supply, and other objectives for the Delta. It is in almost everyone's interest to eliminate the current static Delta strategy as a long-term option.
- 2) **Several long-term strategies are promising, but most would require a 10-20 year implementation period.** The details and actual implementation of each strategy are often more important than the particular strategy chosen. Each strategy and its details will have a different mix of winners and losers.
- 3) **An intermediate term solution is also desirable, for a 3-20 year period.** The long-term implementation period is long and the intervening risks are high. Some useful changes can be done in this intermediate period, many of which would complement most or all promising long-term solutions.
- 4) **Ecosystem solutions.** Defining, implementing, and funding ecosystem solutions for the Delta could be as expensive and controversial as water supply solutions. Defining implement-able ecosystem objectives and solutions has received inadequate policy and scientific attention.
- 5) **The details are more important than the strategy.** Any long-term solution proposed by the Delta Vision effort will require much detailed technical and regulatory work. Instituting and financing these details are important. (A conversation with the SWRCB might be mutually useful.)
- 6) **Doing it right.** The intermediate term (3-20 year) solutions program will require political will-power, as well as sustained funding and coordinated institutional arrangements and leadership to develop and implement details.
- 7) **"Failing" into solutions.** It behooves us to have an intermediate term solution which contributes to one or more long-term solutions. There is merit in intermediate and long-term solutions which can be "failed into."
- 8) **All Delta decisions are wrong, but some are useful.** Given the unavoidable uncertainties involved in short-term and long-term outcomes in the Delta, any decisions will involve regrets. There is a need for long-term physical flexibility with institutional and financial capability to adapt.