

## Governance and Finance Panel Questions

The purpose of the Governance and Strategic Finance component of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan is to develop a range of proposed governance and finance structures and mechanisms for consideration by the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

The BRTF's Delta Vision recommended establishing a "single entity" or "independent body" with "authority to achieve the co-equal goals of ecosystem revitalization and adequate water supply for California." The independent body must have a cohesive governing structure as well as stable financing.

1. What single entity could satisfy this objective of achieving the two co-equal goals of ecosystem revitalization and adequate water supply for California?
  - a. What successful governance programs have achieved similar co-equal objectives (if any)?
  - b. The BRTF's Delta Vision states that "it is desirable to use existing governance entities and systems where possible." Is there one or more existing entity which can serve as the basis for the governance entity called for in Delta Vision? If so, how could that entity be empowered to achieve the goals of Delta Vision?
  - c. To what extent do any (or all) of the existing regional governing bodies (e.g.– Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), Coastal Commission, Delta Protection Commission, Suisun Marsh Preservation Act, The American River Water Forum, and Tahoe Regional Planning Authority) provide valuable information, authority, and lessons that could be used to develop the Independent Body? If so, what?
  - d. The BRTF's Delta Vision identifies "seven attributes for success of a governance entity." How can those attributes be incorporated in a governance entity?
  - e. The BRTF's Delta Vision states that "the first issue to address [in developing a governance entity] is [to identify] what needs to be governed." Based on your experience what are the key elements of the Delta Vision recommendations needing governance?
2. The BRTF's Delta Vision state that "[i]n addition to this single entity, the new government system will need other structures to address critical issues or to provide arenas for stakeholders and experts to participate in decision-making processes [like land use decisions, mobilizing public involvement, and supporting Delta stewardship]." The vision also anticipates another entity "that helps to mobilize public involvement and motivate desirable outcomes consistent with this vision." For example, conservancies perform this role. What types of additional governing entities should be developed to support achieving this vision? What interaction will these additional entities have with the "independent body?"
3. The BRTF's Delta Vision stated that the single entity must "have sufficient financing to sustain activities over decades, including the ability to impose fees

on those who use water resources from the Delta watershed or otherwise impact the Delta ecosystem.” How would you finance the governance entities you propose?

4. Please provide other ideas which you believe will contribute to successful governance to support the recommended vision. Those ideas could include discussion of any of the following:
  - Specifying end states to achieve, such as *“carrying capacity” “environmental thresholds” or some other desired end state – where you want to be in 10, 20, 50, 100 years?*.
  - *Essential permitting and enforcement components?*
  - *A specific balance of review and oversight of minor activities and major projects?*