

Preliminary Strategic Plan Concepts from “Delta as Place” workgroup

Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting, March 20, 2008

The following is a list of preliminary strategic plan ideas generated in the second “Delta-as-Place” working group meeting, held on March 4 at the Walnut Grove Public Library.

1. **Levees:** Have separate “beneficiary pays” funding sources for levees that protect a) urbanized areas, and b) infrastructure, so that these levees may achieve a higher standard than purely agricultural levees. Continue the DWR subventions program, with local cost share, to achieve and maintain PL 84-99 standard Delta-wide.
2. **Infrastructure:** The California Public Utilities Commission should require utilities with infrastructure in the Delta to study the benefits of co-location or re-location as part of capital improvement planning and disaster recovery planning. CPUC should also require coordination and joint study of cost-benefit ratios of fortified infrastructure corridors versus levee upgrades for the islands infrastructure passes over. This is especially critical for roads, since they are the evacuation corridors.
3. **Corridors:** Corridors define the Delta. The San Joaquin, Sacramento, and Cosumnes-Mokelumne rivers are water conveyance, flood conveyance, and habitat corridors, and should be jointly managed as such. They also contain elevation gradients that should be kept continuously intact, if possible.
4. **State ownership:** The state should come up with a master plan for the lands that it owns in the West Delta. These may be good places to do subsidence reversal, carbon farming or other innovative forms of agriculture, since the state can directly assign terms to the farming leases. Continuing tax revenue-generating activities on publicly owned land is important to the local economy.
5. **Recreation:** Sherman Island may be a good place to make big recreation investments to foster boating, biking, and many other activities. It is highly visible and accessible. A state or national designation might help achieve this.
6. **Tourism:** For visitors, the “Delta as Place” starts at the gateways: Sherman Island, Rio Vista, the Clarksburg area, and potentially the area around Old River. These locations deserve special attention and investment, and will serve as jumping-off points to other tourism destinations, such as Cache Slough, the Cosumnes River Preserve and others.