

# Working with Delta Counties Can Create a Pathway to Success

Friday December 5, 2008

- Delta County Coalition
  - Contra Costa – Supervisor Mary N. Piepho
  - Sacramento – Supervisor Don Nottoli
  - San Joaquin – Supervisor Larry Ruhstaller
  - Solano – Supervisor Mike Reagan
  - Yolo – Supervisor Mike McGowan

## Why We Care

- Five counties have met for the past year.
- Five counties have adopted a common set of principles on the Delta/Water issues.
- Five Counties are joined by colleagues in CSAC to adopt a statewide platform on Delta issues.



## Key Common Principles

- Water quantity, water quality, Delta outflow
- Water rights
- Respect and safeguard Delta Counties' current responsibilities in any new governance structure
- Local representation
- Economic vitality
- Levees

## Key Common Principles

- Common Delta pool
- Through-Delta conveyance improvements
- Require that any water conveyance plan for the Delta be aligned with the Delta County resolution and supported by system-wide improvement
- Delta ecosystem
- Regional self-sufficiency

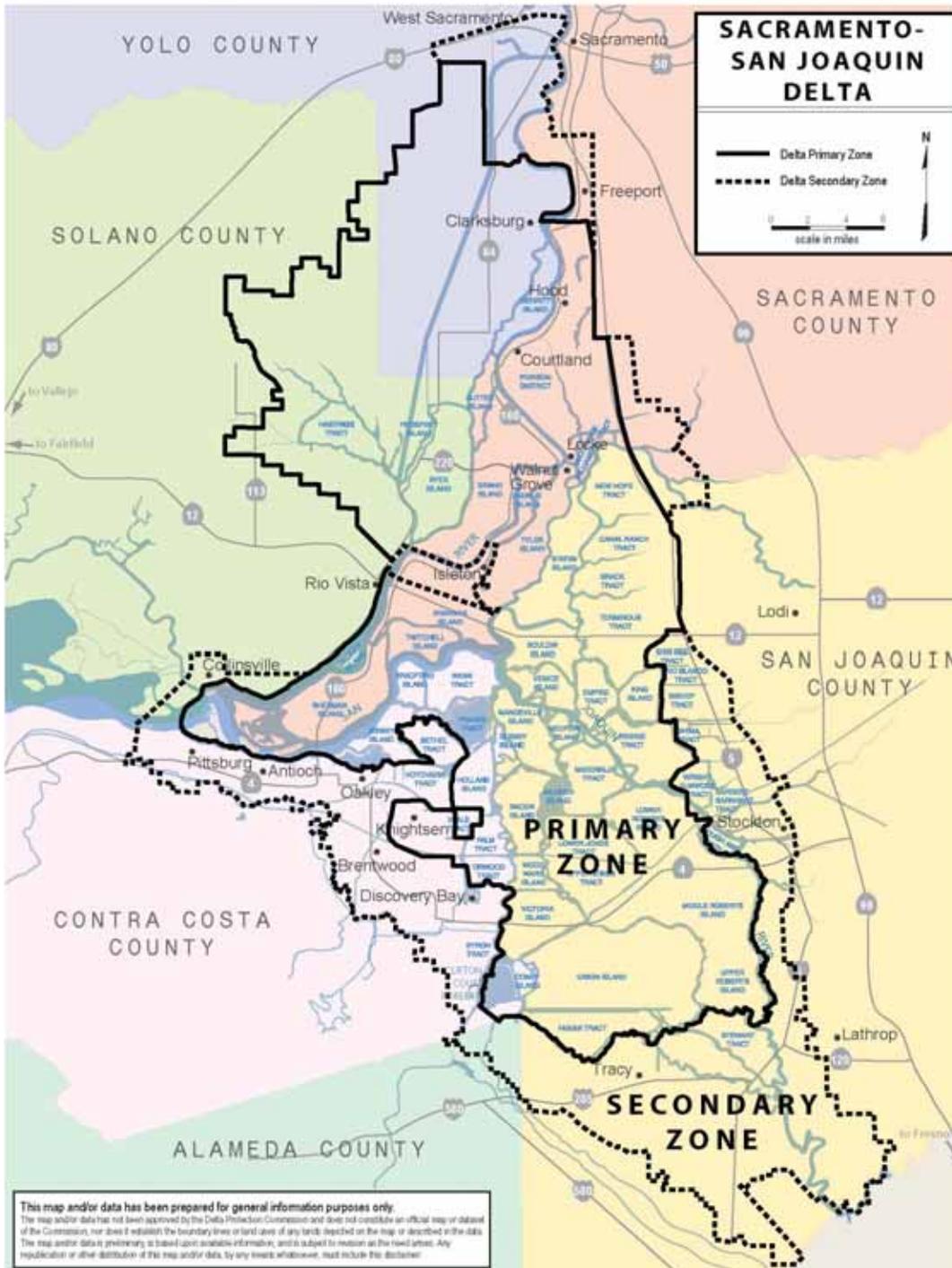
# The Importance Of The San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary



- 1,100 miles of levees
- 70 reclaimed islands
- 700 miles of waterways
- 738,000 acres
- Agricultural lands support \$500 million economy annually
- 500,000 Population
- Significant infrastructure, roads, railroads, gas pipelines, shipping routes, aqueducts

# Statutory Delta

- Delta Protection Commission
  - Primary Management Zone
  - Secondary Management Zone
- Encompasses 5 counties



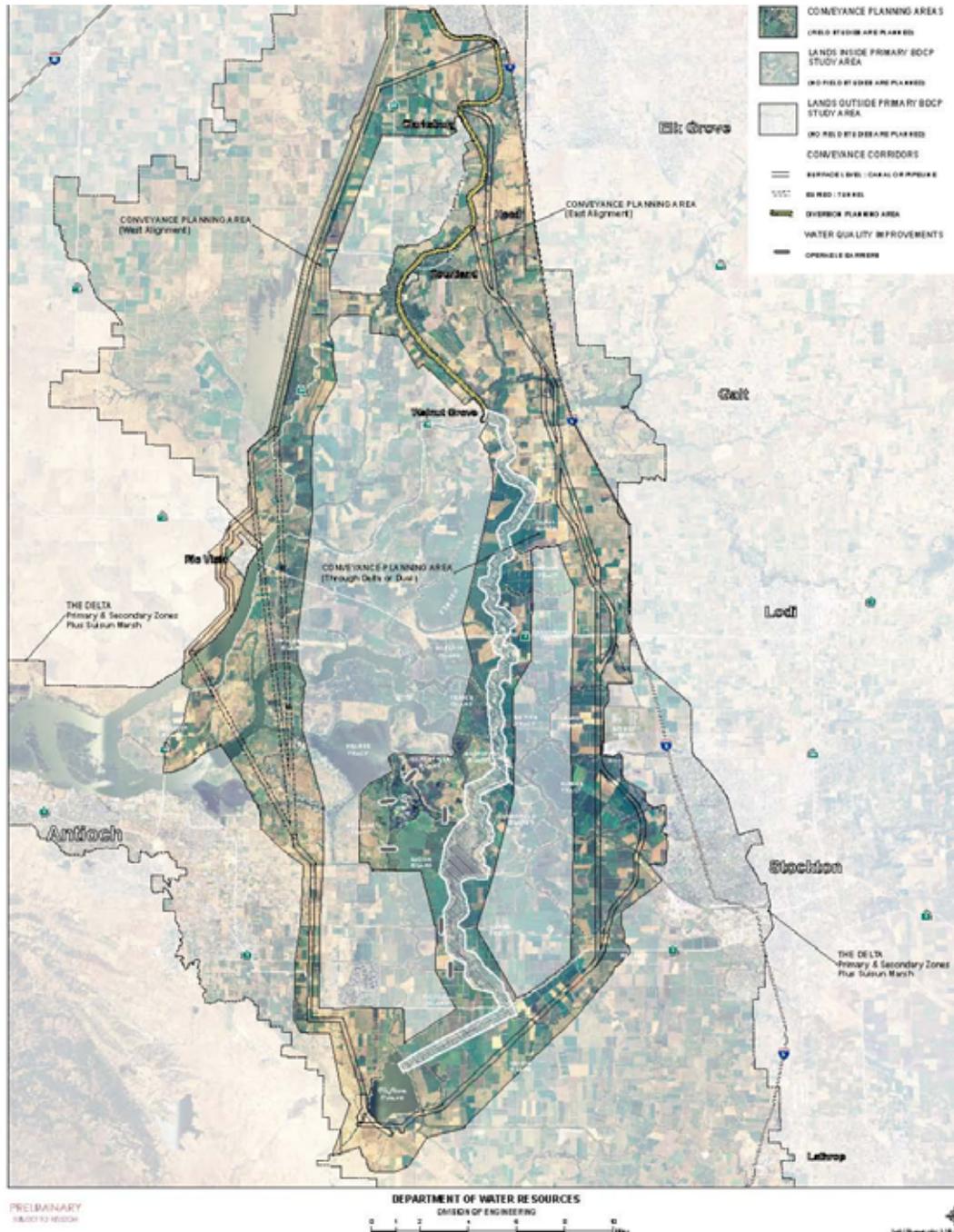
Source: Delta Protection Commission



# Scale Of Proposed Changes

## Bay Delta Conservation Plan

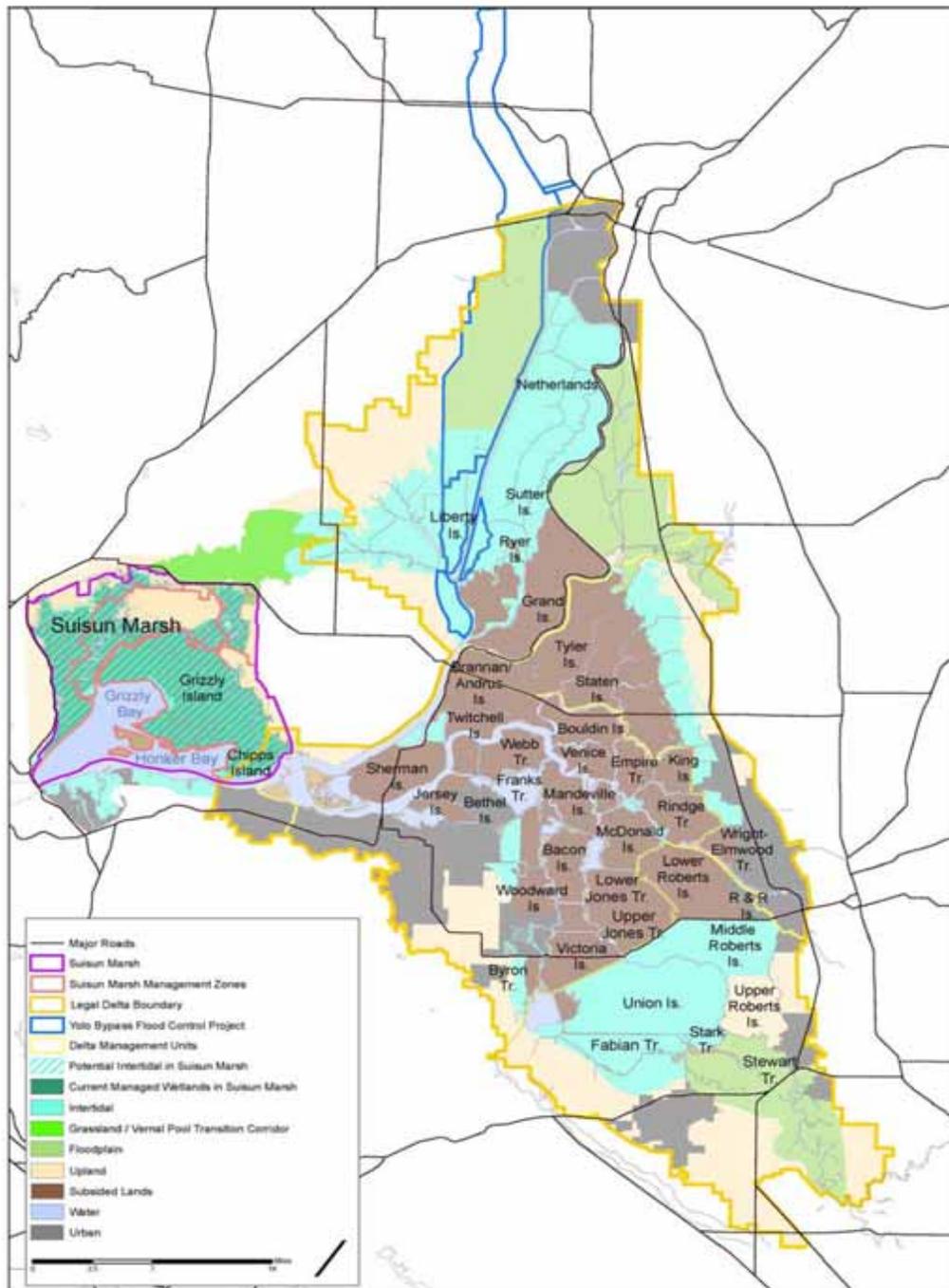
- Potential conveyance routes
  - West canal/pipe
  - East canal/pipe
  - Middle River conveyance



## Scale Of Proposed Changes

### Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft Conservation Strategy

- Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, NOAA
- Floodway and floodplain expansion



Source: Draft Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy 12-2007

# Potential Impacts Of Large-Scale Changes On The Delta Counties

- Changes in water quality for agriculture, municipal, and industrial intakes; groundwater
- Substantial impacts of 100,000 acres of land conversion to habitat
- Loss of agriculture to habitat, peripheral canal, floodplain/floodway expansion
- Significant loss of tax base for acreage moving into public ownership
- Loss of small communities to agriculture
- Changes in governance structures, increased state involvement usurping county, city land use authority

## Governance

- Partnership with local government creates a pathway to success.
- State can't do it all on its own, long term success will depend on collaboration with and assistance to Delta Counties.

# Habitat and Agriculture



- Monumental scale of land conversion
- Major changes in the Delta will require local government support to be successful
- Loss of tax base as habitat lands move into public ownership—will require payment in lieu of taxes outside of budget process
- Requires long term adaptive mgmt of habitat lands

# Infrastructure

- Secure financial support for the North Bay Aqueduct and other water delivery systems, levees/flood control/storage, bridges, railways, transportation corridors including shipping channels and electrical/natural gas transmission.



# Ecosystem

- Multiple impacts of habitat restoration activities— example of Suisun Marsh and the impacts of salinity intrusion on water quality, habitat conditions and wetland resource values.



## Socio-Economic Impacts

- Recommend that the State work with the Delta Counties to identify projects and programs that can improve the economic vitality of the Delta.
- Delta Counties' understanding of the businesses and housing environment can be helpful in creating new opportunities.

# Emergency Preparedness

- Local government has a unique ground-level perspective and can play an important role in identifying emergency preparedness needs (such as earth moving equipment and supplies of rock and sand and communications equipment) and recommending solutions.
- Local government can help structure meaningful studies.

## Economic Stimulus

- Opportunity to identify projects that can benefit the Delta and ease the burden on local government and the State.

## Loss of Tax Base

- In addition to funding increased law enforcement, elevated public health threats--mosquito abatement that must be in place in advance of area wide habitat restoration.

## **Levees—Actions that need to be implemented immediately**

- **Initiate large-scale levee repair now; the state's water supply and the Delta ecosystem depend on it.**
- **Stockpile rock in the Delta (and in the western Delta) specifically for levee repair.**
- **Set up a multi-year funding commitment to restore levees, using PL-84-99 as a minimum design standard for levees remaining after transition to habitat, floodplain and a 200-year standard for urban communities (including small communities).**

## Levees—Actions that need to be implemented immediately

- **Active support and advocacy for the state-federal Delta Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) and the beneficial reuse of dredged materials for levee rehabilitation.**



# Water Quality



# Urban Flood Protection



# Water Rights



- Area of Origin

# **Governance--California Delta Ecosystem and Water Council**

- **Three members of the Council should be elected members of local government, representing the north, south, western and central Delta.**
- **These members would work collaboratively among themselves and rotate responsibilities.**
- **Note: SJC wants a majority of local elected officials on this governance body.**

## **Governance—California Delta Conservancy**

- **Recommend that the Delta Conservancy be modeled on the Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy with heightened powers.**

## **Governance—Delta Protection Commission**

- **Recommended structure of DPC  
Commissioners: Resources Agency;  
Business, Transportation and Housing;  
Food and Agriculture; and CAL/EPA  
Secretaries--5 County Supervisors--3  
COG Cities--3 Water Reclamation  
District Representatives or just the  
local government electeds. This group  
could include a non-voting advisory  
committee for flood control.**

**THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO  
SHARE OUR PERSPECTIVE**

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

**WORKING WITH THE DELTA COUNTIES**

**CREATES A**

**PATH TO SUCCESS**