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Delta Vision Committee Seeks Public Comment at Dec. 5 Northern California Workshop

Public comment on balancing statewide water reliability and the Delta's fragile ecosystem will be solicited during a Northern California workshop on Friday, Dec. 5. The workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Bay-Delta Room of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, 650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor, Sacramento. A Southern California workshop had previously been held. Comments from the two workshops will be incorporated into a sustainable management plan for the region currently being developed by the Governor's Delta Vision cabinet committee.

"Finding a long-term solution to address the problems of the deteriorating Delta is critical to all Californians," said Delta Vision Committee Chair and Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman. "As we build on the hard work of the Delta Vision Task Force in prioritizing and developing recommendations for the Governor, it is important we listen to what the public has to say about these proposals and how they should be implemented. No matter where you live in the state, these decisions will ultimately affect you – affect all of us."

The Delta Vision Committee is comprised of five Cabinet members, including Secretary Chrisman; Business, Transportation and Housing Secretary Dale Bonner; Food and Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura; Environmental Protection Secretary Linda Adams; and Public Utilities Commission President Michael Peevey. The committee will ultimately give its stamp of approval to a final set of Delta recommendations presented to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger by year's end.

Delta Vision was initiated by Governor Schwarzenegger's Executive Order S-17-06 in September 2006, to develop a durable vision for sustainable management of the Delta. A Governor-appointed independent Blue Ribbon Task Force was tasked with finding long-term solutions to the deteriorating Delta's many problems, such as levee fragility and land subsidence, encroachment of urbanization and declines of important fish species populations. The Task Force completed its strategic plan in October 2008, after 20 months and hundreds of hours of fact-finding, public and expert testimony, and science advice. This plan was forwarded to Secretary Chrisman's Delta Vision Committee for final consideration. The plan is available for download at www.deltavision.ca.gov.

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Chaired by former state Assembly Member Phil Isenberg of Sacramento, Task Force members included: Ray Seed, Monica Florian, William Reilly, Thomas McKernan, Sunne Wright McPeak and Richard Frank.

No reservations are necessary to attend the workshop, which also will be webcast.

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