



COUNTY OF YOLO

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McGowan Represents Delta Counties in Washington, D.C.

(Woodland, CA) – On September 29, Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mike McGowan will attend a meeting with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, along with other federal and California officials, to discuss strategies for California’s Delta. Chair McGowan will be representing the Delta Counties Coalition, (Yolo, Solano, Sacramento, Contra Costa and San Joaquin – the five counties encompassing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta) formed to represent Delta communities in the myriad state proposals for change in the Delta.

Among the challenges to be discussed with Secretary Salazar are federal and state plans to address California drought impacts in 2010; the Bay Delta Conservation Plan; levees, climate change and adaptation possibilities; and federal and state actions.

“This region is fully aware of how fragile the Delta is and of its significance to California for water supply,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mike McGowan. “The Delta Counties have worked very hard to make sure that the Governor and Legislature know that they need to include us in solutions to the Delta’s problems, that they need our involvement for these plans to be successful. We are still working with the Legislature to improve the existing water package. The federal government will play a significant role in those solutions and I want to make sure they get the same message.”

“The hard part is that making this trip means I will have to miss a Board of Supervisors meeting – nearly unheard of in my 16-year tenure on the Board. But the Delta counties face enormous challenges in working with the state and federal governments as we try to restore the Delta’s ecosystem and ensure a reliable water supply. Preserving the Delta’s vibrant economy and protecting the four million residents of the Delta counties is of the utmost importance to Yolo County, the Delta counties, and to California and the nation. With this much at stake, I’m very willing to go to Washington to deliver that message.”

This is the second public meeting on California water challenges jointly held by Interior and California officials. The meetings are part of ongoing federal and state efforts to develop collaborative strategies to address major water resource challenges in California. Additional information on the agenda and scheduled speakers will be posted on the Interior's website: www.doi.gov as well as on the California Department of Water Resources website: www.water.ca.gov, when available.

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Attachment: Delta Counties Coalition Principles

Delta Counties Coalition Principles

The five members of the Delta Counties Coalition (Contra Costa County, Sacramento County, San Joaquin County, Solano County and Yolo County) have all adopted resolutions advocating their mutual interests as follows:

1. Protect and improve water quality and water quantity in the Delta region and maintain appropriate Delta outflow for a healthy estuary;
2. Protect the existing water right priority system and legislative protections established for the Delta;
3. Respect and safeguard Delta Counties' responsibilities related to land use, water resources, flood management, tax revenues, public health and safety, economic development, agricultural stability, recreation, and environmental protection in any new Delta governance structures;
4. Represent and include local government in any new governance structures for the Delta;
5. Protect the economic viability of agriculture and the ongoing vitality of communities in the Delta;
6. Support rehabilitation, improvement and maintenance of levees throughout the Delta;
7. Support the Delta pool concept; in which the common resource provides quality freshwater supply to all delta users, requiring mutual responsibility to maintain, restore and protect the common resource;
8. Support immediate improvements to through-Delta conveyance;
9. Require that any water conveyance plan for the Delta be aligned with the principles established by this resolution and supported by clearly demonstrated improvement to the entire state's water management;
10. Protect and restore the Delta ecosystem, including adequate water supply and quality to support it in perpetuity; and
11. Include the study of storage options and implementation of conservation, recycling, re-use, and regional self sufficiency as part of a state-wide improved flood management and water supply system.