

LETTERS: Praise Wolk, don't chastise her

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Woodland

A recent column in The Daily Democrat criticized state Sen. Lois Wolk for working to protect Yolo County's interests in the delta instead of focusing solely on the budget. Thank God, our good senator has the ability to multi-task.

With more than \$100 million in Yolo County agriculture that could be jeopardized by some delta proposals and similar impacts in other counties, Wolk has emerged as a hero to those who wish to save the delta while protecting vital community interests.

Wolk is working on the budget and protecting the delta.

She's authoring budget legislation (SB 676 county fees) on behalf of Yolo County, and authoring two budget reform measures, SB 777 and SCA 22.

SCA 22 would provide for a majority vote to approve the state budget, provided there was no more than a 5 percent increase from the prior year. This would end the gridlock we face today but would still provide protection against a Legislature and governor teaming up against the minority to approve excessive spending and taxes.

Senate Bill 777, which has bipartisan support, would establish a performance-based budget for California, requiring state agencies to identify goals and desired outcomes for each state-funded program as well as measurement tools for evaluating the program's performance in achieving those goals and outcomes.

That being said, working on the budget doesn't preclude taking action on other critical issues.

It can be noted that those who want delta water would love nothing more than to do it behind closed doors while everyone is focused solely on the budget.

But Sen. Wolk is representing the best interests of her constituents — all of them. As the representative of four of the five counties in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, she is living up to her responsibilities by working to ensure that the delta has an ongoing role in its own management. She's been a strong advocate for the delta's more than half a million residents since becoming a public servant — and she's one of the only voices in Sacramento actually speaking for the needs of the delta community.

For that, we should thank her, not chastise her.

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