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September 23, 1994

Mr. Steve Yeager
Deputy Executive Officer
State of California
Bay-Delta Oversight Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Yeager:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the recreation draft briefing paper.

PAGE 10 - Future Recreation Opportunities

DWR should be encouraged to accelerate development of the recreational potential of the thousands of acres of Sherman and Twitchell Islands. Bank fishing sites should be developed on State owned land. Flooding of grain fields after harvest has proved it's value to migratory game birds and should be required under terms of DWR farm leases.

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The permit requirements by the DFG and SLC are so difficult, expensive and time consuming that they discourage or prevent the development of private recreational facilities.

These agencies should be required to complete the review process in a reasonable time frame and encourage the development of private recreational facilities.

The Department of Parks and Recreation has recently acquired additional acreage in the Delta Meadows and should accelerate development of this excellent site.

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Section II - Major Recreation Issues

Wide variation of conditions make it difficult to measure damage from boat wake corrosion.

For example, consider the west levee of Bradford Island compared to Georgiana Slough. The west levee at Bradford is facing a long reach across the San Joaquin River where the prevailing wind generates waves against the levee for long periods. Contrast this with Georgiana Slough where almost all the erosion is caused by boat wakes. Wind is a minor factor due to the high levees and the absence of long reaches. These extreme examples illustrate the difficulty of studying erosion for the entire Delta.

I would recommend strong emphasis on Section IV, Issue One, Action B and include support for State programs such as SB34. In addition to Reclamation Districts, funding should come from agencies that benefit from the levees, such as the DWR, Federal Bureau of Reclamation, USCOE, FWS, DFG, and DBW. All of these Agencies have an interest in the Delta and should be involved in levee repair and maintenance.

ISSUE THREE

Boat wake/erosion studies, while interesting, will not be of much use and may well delay process of levee repair and maintenance. Additional studies should not be an excuse for doing nothing.

ISSUE SEVEN - Action G

Expand Action G to require development and encourage the use of Delta Meadows, Franks Tract, Twitchell and Sherman Island. Purchase of additional land should be discouraged until these and other State owned facilities are fully utilized.

Please accept my compliments on an excellent and comprehensive report. Reclamation Districts recognize the Delta as a resource that benefits the public in many ways and, appreciate the efforts of the Bay-Delta Oversight Council.

Sincerely,



Tim Wilson
Trustee
Reclamation District 563
(Tyler Island)

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DWR REPROGRAPHICS

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