

September 2, 1997 No 1

To: Victor Pacheco P.E.

Subject: Delta Discussion

Dear Victor,

I want to thank you for your listening to my version of the Delta's long term land use.

As you know the Delta is not going to last very much longer unless this Land Subsidence and Oxidation is addressed as the major factor in the stabilizing of the Water Transference through the Delta and also the present Highway 12 that crosses the Delta.

If this factor of Land Subsidence and Oxidation is ignored the only other practical solution is the Peripheral Canal which will certainly lock the Federal and State water into the most positive means to bring it to the pumps at Clifton Court.

But the other needs of Salmon and Delta habitant will then take a minor role in the concern of the Southern Cities.

I would like to reaffirm my belief that there is a solution without resorting to this tremendous effort.

This entails a concept of stewardship of the habitant of the interior of the peat soil of the Lower Delta.

As I explained to you that the present 80 acre Agriculture zoning of the lower Delta does not address the true economic state of Delta income and unless that ongoing attrition of the Deltas ability to pay it's various taxes the role of the Federal and State to completely assume this responsibility of Delta stability is also the final answer .

The necessity of the Corn Trains to lower the cost of protein to the markets of California is a vital necessity but this is also the real reason for the failure of responsibility and present stewardship evidenced in the declining Delta lands both in value and elevation .

At the most the Delta land value is about \$ 2000.00 to \$3000.00 and acre and this is also dropping as the interior peat islands incurs increasing seepage .

I again want to call your attention to the several houses along Terminous Road on Georgiana Slough below the Ox-Bow resort, they

enjoy a value of \$650,000.00 each. This is a fact and it reinforces my belief that this stewardship of Delta life-style has not been explored by the new interest of water transference.

I brought up the Connecticut River Parkway with it's concept of Stewardship of Habitant and also the allied land values within this idea.

There has been no real effort to attempt a similar land use in the Delta for various reasons .

But now as the Delta has come to the end of it's economic life as a agriculture base it will have to move into a higher or lower future.

To fill the Central Delta Islands full of storm water will totally destroy all habitant in these Islands and also the question of long term ownership has a unknown and iffy future.

To totally destroy forever the migrating bird habitant for this scheme is just not acceptable to the needs of the environment .

I continually come back to the necessity of a stable ,long term tax base ,which can only come about from ideas which promote our Delta Breezes off of the ocean and our views from the Delta land.

As I presented the idea of meandering roads across the interior of the Delta Islands to elevated houses with potable water and sewerage placed in tanks above the minable flooded surface of the land ,I would expect that several Delta solutions would happen.

First the Land Subsidence and Oxidation would stop,next a acceptable habitant for the Delta wildlife will be created ,next a greatly increased tax base would be the result of a sought after life-style in nature participation and also Highway 12 would be relieved of the danger from levee failure from that factor.

It also comes to mind that with a increase of concerned citizens living in the Delta that the political implications of maintaining our present Water Transference across the present Delta would gain credibility and responsibility .

As far as mosquitoes are concerned they are a necessary wildlife food chain item. All baby ducks ect, have them as the major part of there diet. I am sure that with proper awareness of Delta wildlife needs that many of these habitant concerns will solve

themselves.

The greatest known Toxic Hot Spot in the State is from Freeport to Hood and the mouth of the Peripheral Canal will be placed at the bottom of this spot.

I would think it would be a distinct possibility that as the discharge water from the habitant enhanced islands would be considerably better quality than the present chemical laden water now coming from the Delta pumps.

Also the present myriad siphons would be totally eliminated as the seepage coming through the levees would give more than enough water inside the Delta islands.

In acreage of these parcels I should think that a practical area would be from twenty acres on up to whole islands but there would have to be stewardship rules to prevent the destruction of the responsibility to this whole Delta effort.

Which again brings up the value of this habitant and life-style land.

I would call your attention to a present ongoing effort west of the Consumnes River alongside of Twin Cities Road by the Army Corps and the Bureau of Land Management involved with a private land owner in Reclamation District 2124 in spending well over a million dollars to create 80 acres of limited flood protection for this land owner.

There are several other facets to this effort but it really boils down to habitant and allied concerns for nature enhancement .

This project again reinforces my belief that the Delta deserves a better fate than being ignored just because we are now traveling the path of total destruction .

Also the idea of setting back the levees in the lower part of the Delta will not work as these are soft peat placed in peat levees with a very iffy, wet, inside land to set these levees on. This is referring to the Mokelumne setback and I would suggest that Staten Island would be far more able to transfer flood water from the Cosumnes and the urban run off from Morrison and Laguna Creek development zone of Sacramento County.

A weir from Guisti's to the Walnut Grove Marina opened only on the event of flood danger and then only opened for the time of danger

to the Delta flood flow capacity. They would be opened for fifteen minutes or three days depending on the circumstances. The rest of the time the Staten Island reverts to normal daily use. Staten is being aggressively farmed with great dust clouds arising when the wind blows so I would assume that it's land is rapidly being removed and putting the island into a failing mode.

These dust clouds can be seen all across the Delta and it is very noticeable .

Another important factor is the daily drinking water for Contra Costa County and the absolute necessity of the Delta's present configuration to maintain the total integrity of the present Delta water control through the Carquinez Straits.

I hope you will forgive my creative spelling but this letter will express my viewpoint of the Deltas present status .

Thank You,
Bill Shelton

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