



## Memorandum

Date: December 2, 1999

To: Mary Nichols, Secretary  
The Resources Agency

Patricia Beneke, Secretary  
Department of Interior

From: Steven R. Ritchie  
Acting Executive Director

Subject: Delta Protection Commission Comments on FY 2000 Projects

As directed at the November 17, 1999 Policy Group Meeting, Wendy Halverson Martin attended the November 18, 1999 Delta Protection Commission Meeting for the purpose of briefing the Commission on the FY 2000 Ecosystem Restoration Projects and receiving their comments. In addition to a discussion of the overall process, briefings on four specific projects were presented:

- 99-B116 Canal Ranch Habitat Restoration Phase II \$131,980
- 99-B165 Liberty Island Acquisition and Restoration Phase I \$2,623,043
- 99-B192 McCormack Williamson Tract Phase II Restoration Planning \$355,000
- 99-B193 McCormack Williamson Tract Phase II Monitoring Program \$556,200

The Commission had very few questions and comments on specific projects. Comments were focused on issues related to land acquisition and ecosystem restoration in the Delta in general. Some of the issues raised included:

- Concern about the volume of acreage of prime agricultural land that will be taken out of production for ecosystem restoration purposes.
- The lack of public and local input in the development and decision making process relative to ecosystem restoration in the Delta.
- Concern about impacts to adjacent and nearby property owners and third party impacts to agricultural and rural communities including economic and regulatory.
- The lack of a specific framework or plan for ecosystem restoration in the Delta and concerns about how specific projects will fit into that plan.

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- The Resources Agency
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Water Resources
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Department of Food and Agriculture

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- Department of the Interior
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Department of Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Department of Commerce
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Western Area Power Administration

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It was recognized at this meeting that these questions are being discussed and that the answers have not yet been developed. It will be critically important to the long-term success of the ecosystem program that answers to these questions be developed with local input and involvement. The Delta Protection Commission will be preparing specific comments consistent with the above issues and providing them to the Policy Group. The four projects identified will be included in the recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior for funding.