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For Immediate Release

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Delta Vision Task Force Seeks Participation From Communities *Fresno meeting will allow public to give input on strategic plan*

SACRAMENTO -- The Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force is hosting a public meeting today in Fresno to collect input on the Delta Vision Strategic Plan. The plan, now in its third draft, is a road map for implementing the Task Force's vision for a sustainable Delta. The plan will be finalized in October, with the expectation that state policy will be enacted in 2009.

The Fresno meeting is from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. today at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1600. Delta Vision Executive Director John Kirlin will share highlights from the strategic plan, and address questions about water supply and transport that will be of particular interest to Central Valley audiences.

Other meetings were held in San Diego, Los Angeles, Oakland and Chico and will continue in Ryde and Stockton. Details can be found at www.deltavision.ca.gov. Each meeting will be hosted by a Blue Ribbon Task Force member or its executive director, who will answer questions and receive public comments. Comments will also be accepted by email through September 30, at dv_context@calwater.ca.gov.

"Californians must dramatically change the way they think about water and environmental resources," said Task Force Chair Phil Isenberg. "This plan is intended to encourage, prod and ensure that change," he said. Isenberg hosted the Los Angeles meeting last night.

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“We have received hundreds of comments during the past 18 months, have had great attendance at Task Force meetings, and look forward to engaging citizens from across California during these public meetings.”

The strategic plan identifies two co-equal goals: protecting the Delta ecosystem and ensuring a reliable water supply for California. It makes recommendations in four major areas, including governance and finance, ecosystem, water supply reliability, and the continued vitality of the Delta region.

The strategic plan is the second part of a two-year effort by the Task Force, following a vision document they developed in December 2007. The plan outlines strategies for addressing a range of significant threats currently facing the Delta, including urbanization, earthquake risk, invasive species, climate change, decline of desirable species, a fragile levee system, and the lack of definitive governance.

“The strategic plan has implications for all Californians,” said Isenberg. “It truly is a statewide plan, outlining strategies for water conservation, transport, and storage. The result will be a reliable and sustainable supply of quality water for drinking, agriculture, and the Delta ecosystem.”

The Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force was established by Executive Order of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Sept. 17, 2006, to develop a durable vision for sustainable management of the Delta. The Task Force is chaired by Phil Isenberg and includes Monica Florian, Richard M. Frank, Thomas McKernan, Sunne Wright McPeak, William K. Reilly and Raymond Seed.

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The strategic plan, images, and meeting schedule can be found at www.deltavision.ca.gov. B-roll (Beta) is available by request.