

Delta Counties Coalition

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County

"Working together on water and Delta issues"

May 25, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairs Skinner and Ting,

The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) writes in support of two budget items included in the May Revision. The DCC is an alliance comprising the California Counties of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo. We seek to protect and enhance Delta communities, improve water quality and the Delta ecosystem, and provide a more sustainable water supply for the State. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy projects are necessary to advance these goals and implement a statewide water solution. The Governor's May Revision included two important proposals that the DCC wishes to extend its support to:

The first proposed revised item, 3875-101-0001, would provide \$41.2 million in local assistance to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy to augment wetland restoration efforts, strengthen climate resilience, improve community access, and enhance natural resource protection; \$36 million of the local assistance would go towards wetland restoration efforts. These efforts are essential to improve the Delta ecosystem and enhance Delta communities. Maintaining healthy estuaries and wetlands are priorities that need immediate attention to protect communities that rely on these areas economically and agriculturally.

The second item proposes amendments to Budget Bill Items 3840-001-0140 and 3840-001-0890. The amendments would increase reimbursements for installing wayfinding and interpretative signs in the Delta by funding \$215,000 in ongoing support through a contract with the California Department of Transportation. They would also increase reimbursements by \$150,000 to support the development of the National Area Management Plan associated with the National Heritage Area. These reimbursements are necessary to educate the public on the Delta's historical significance which will create a more accessible Delta. Caltrans' existing capabilities can be leveraged through this collaboration on expanding Delta access and navigation. Additionally, increased reimbursements are needed to ensure the preservation of the Delta's historical significance through the National Area Management Plan and other National Heritage Area considerations.

May 25, 2022

Page 2

The DCC would greatly appreciate the support of your committees to ensure appropriate funding for these vital projects. Feel free to contact DCC Coordinator Natasha Drane at dranen@saccounty.gov for any reason.

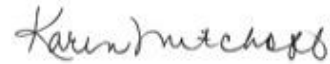
Sincerely,



Don Nottoli, Supervisor
Sacramento County



Mitch Mashburn, Supervisor
Solano County



Karen Mitchoff, Supervisor,
Contra Costa County



Oscar Villegas, Supervisor
Yolo County



Chuck Winn, Supervisor
San Joaquin County