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Legislators to Address the Reality of Funding for Delta Projects

Three California legislators will talk candidly about the realities and challenges regarding funding for future projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta during the **Oct. 18 forum “Changing Our Perspective: New Ways of Thinking about the Delta.”**

State Senators Lois Wolk (D-Davis) and Jean Fuller (R-Bakersfield) will be joined by Assembly Member Bill Berryhill (R-Stockton) for a panel discussion entitled “Reality Check: Status of Public Financing for Large-Scale Ecosystem and Economic Development Programs.” This will include questions regarding a multi-billion dollar water bond scheduled to be on the November 2012 ballot.

The Delta forum is sponsored by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy and the Water Education Foundation. The event will be held from 8 am – 4:30 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 18 2011 at the Haggin Oaks Golf Complex, 3645 Fulton Ave. in Sacramento.

The three legislators will provide candid and diverse perspectives about funding for large-scale programs in the Delta. One of the biggest financial concerns is related to future water policy regarding water conveyance and changes in infrastructure that affects the Delta and the State.

Sen. Wolk chairs the Senate Select Committee on Delta Stewardship and Sustainability and serves on the Natural Resources and Water Committee. Currently her Senate Bill 834 is on the Governor’s desk awaiting signature. The bill would require that regions receiving freshwater from the Delta watershed must identify how their Integrated Regional Water Management Plans reduce reliance on the Delta.

Fuller also serves on the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. She has been an advocate for water policy that focuses on conveyance improvements, additional storage and conservation. Fuller has stressed the importance of a system that will carry water from Northern California southward to ensure a sufficient water supply for farms, businesses and residents.

Berryhill, who currently serves on the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee and the Select Committee on Regional Approaches to Addressing the State Water Crisis, is an advocate for ample supplies of water for the San Joaquin Valley. He is on record as opposed to any plan that would create a large, expensive peripheral canal that would cut through San Joaquin County.

In addition to the legislator panel, **the forum will feature two other panels.** Ecosystem restoration and economic sustainability will be discussed by the executive directors of the Delta Conservancy, Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Protection Commission and the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency. The three state agencies each have Delta related plans in the works: these plans are the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan, the Council’s Delta Plan, and the Commission’s Economic Sustainability Plan. Another panel, comprised of authors with expertise in creatively approaching complex problems, will provide insight about shifting perspectives to conditions rather than solving too-complex problems.

Registration for “Changing Our Perspective: New Ways of Thinking about the Delta” is \$100, and scholarships are available. A hosted afternoon reception will feature Delta wines and products. Contact the Water Education Foundation for more information. For more details and to register, visit <http://www.watereducation.org/doc.asp?id=2164>

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