



### **Delta Counties Coalition**

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County  
*"Working together on water and Delta issues"*

May 3, 2016

Campbell Ingram, Executive Director  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

#### **Re: Delta Region Agriculture Economic Sustainability Strategy**

Dear Mr. Ingram,

The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) reviewed the proposed Delta Region Agriculture Economic Sustainability Strategy scope of work, which proposes to use the Rural Urban Connection Strategy (RUCS) model. Each Delta County extensively discussed the proposal with its respective Agricultural Commissioners and Farm Bureau representatives. As a result of these discussions, the DCC does not believe that RUCS is the most effective planning tool; however, the DCC agrees that using Proposition 1 funds for planning efforts is necessary and prudent. It is also important that all Proposition 1 funding be used efficiently and result in region-wide benefits.

The DCC supports the development of an agriculture economic analysis specific to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that produces tangible and implementable outcomes. Due to varying degrees of readiness for agriculture projects in each County, the Delta Counties propose to meet with their respective Agricultural Commissioners and Farm Bureau representatives to develop an alternative work scope. The DCC envisions that the scope of work will identify specific agriculture-related needs and constraints of each Delta County and will include significant input from the region's farmers and growers.

Given that the 2016 planting and irrigation season has begun, it is difficult for the farming community to meaningfully participate in this process at this time. The DCC proposes to begin working with the Conservancy on a revised scope of work beginning this fall, which is better aligned with the harvest cycle, including the development and approval of individual work plans unique to each Delta County with the possibility of the Conservancy providing funding directly to Counties for this effort.

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We appreciate the Delta Conservancy's leadership on this very important issue. We look forward to our continued work with you to develop and agree on the best agricultural planning effort for our region.

Sincerely,



Mary Nejedly Piepho  
Supervisor, Contra Costa County



Skip Thomson  
Supervisor, Solano County



Don Nottoli  
Supervisor, Sacramento County



Jim Provenza  
Supervisor, Yolo County



Chuck Winn  
Supervisor, San Joaquin County