Web site: http://SnugHarbor.net

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May 11, 2013

Open letter to neighbors on Ryer Island, Grand Island and Sutter Island

Dear Neighbors,

By now, I am sure you have all read the news of the plans to divert Sacramento River water away from the Delta. The diversion points would be north of Steamboat and Sutter Sloughs and would therefore GREATLY reduce summer and fall fresh water flow into these historic waterways.

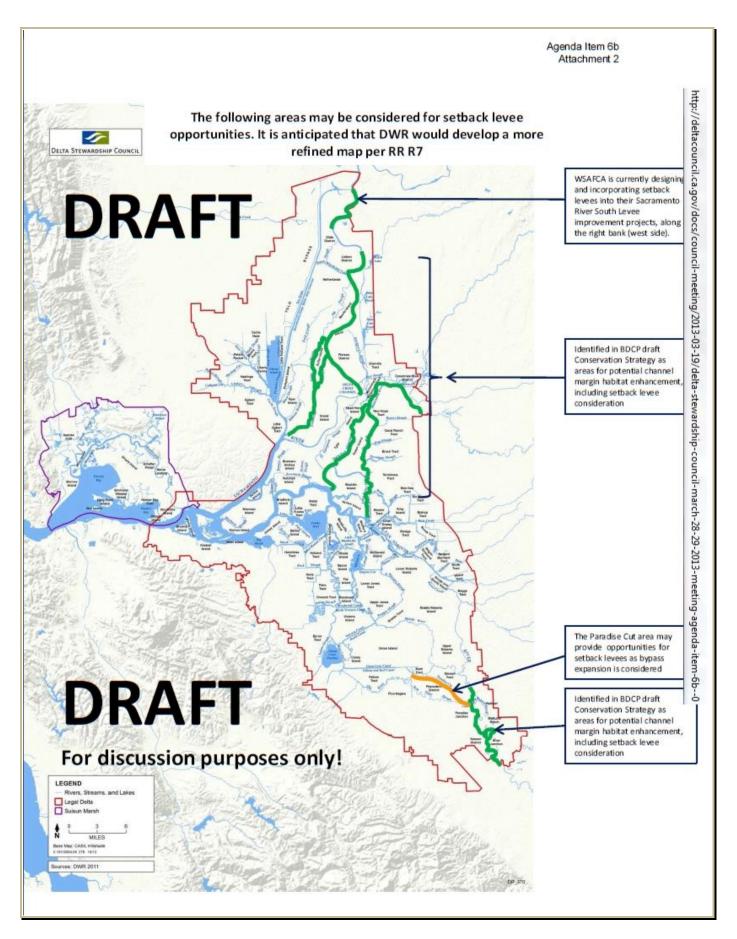
But that is not the only "bad news" for us. The proposal to set back the levees of Grand, Ryer and Sutter Islands could also have tremendous negative impacts on all of us and also on the natural environment the Delta Plan pretends to protect. The levees would be set back to create more shallow water habitat for native fish species, while destroying the beautiful trees and landside habitat of the native land-side species, including us humans! What happens to the beautiful old homes on the levees and the families who will be displaced? Will the roads be useable on top of the levees or will driving access be much more limited as is indicated from the 2035 transportation plans, and based on a current proposal for revised access on Sherman Island after levee improvements. Most likely, powerboat navigation on both Steamboat and Sutter Sloughs would be eliminated because the waterways would be silted in, based on many maps found online and in reports over the last 5-10 years. However, in times of high water or floods, the waterways would still be used to divert excess flood waters. Meaning we'll have too little fresh water flow summer and fall and too much flow in very wet rain years. Even the name of the waterway could be changed-see the USFWS 2013 map for an example.

Looking at the wider picture and impacts on the aquifer in our area, the 7 Bay and Delta area congresspersons have finally woken up to the fact that the Deltas' fresh water will be exported to the south, and also possibly diverted before ever reaching the Delta, allowing saltwater intrusion further inland. Water agencies will blame it on global warming but the truth is that diverting Sacramento River water into tunnels to be exported means our whole Sacramento & Bay Area aquifer does not get replenished as nature intended. If our awuifer tables are lowered or saltwater intrudes, guess what happens to all the private and city drinking water wells in our area? Hence the race to build all the new surface intakes on the Sacramento River north of the city of Sacramento-will there even be water left for the tunnels?

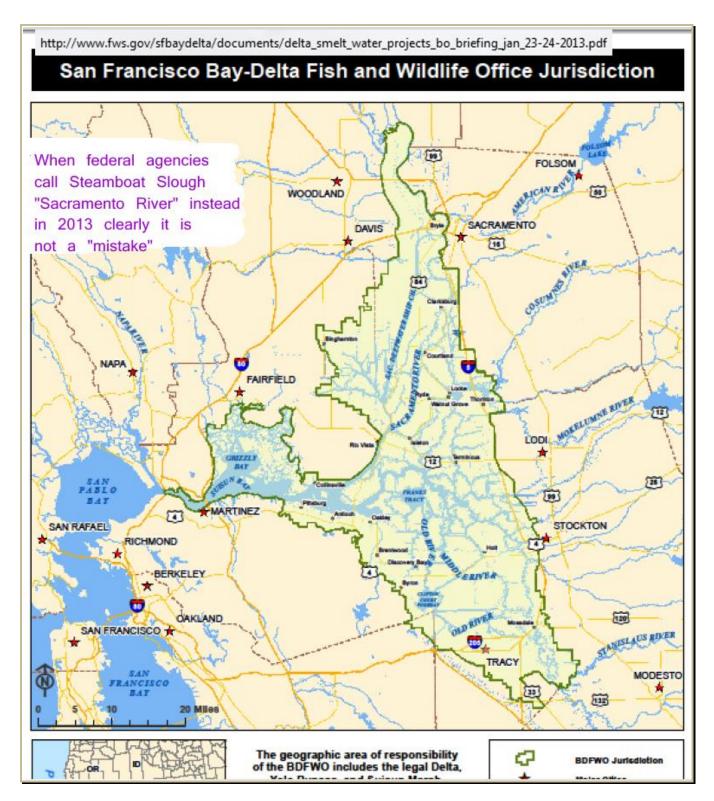
The media and most of the reports that discuss IMPACTS from the proposed Delta Plan simply ignore the impacts to us, as well as the impacts to the native species the plan is supposed to protect. Note that the governor has said the water agencies who will get the water will fund the project and therefore no vote by the people of the state is needed. (If you drink water in California YOU will pay for the costs of exports, in reality). Since so many of the elements of the Delta Plan and BDCP are already under construction, you can bet the second the Delta Plan is approved there will be immediate and swift construction to complete the water conveyance projects while the "restoration" projects will take a bit more time most likely.

Please look at the next few pages, including the website links and meeting dates and times regarding the Delta Plan. If you want an opportunity to speak or better yet, to WRITE to give an opinion of the impact to you personally, I'd suggest you speak up now if you haven't already!

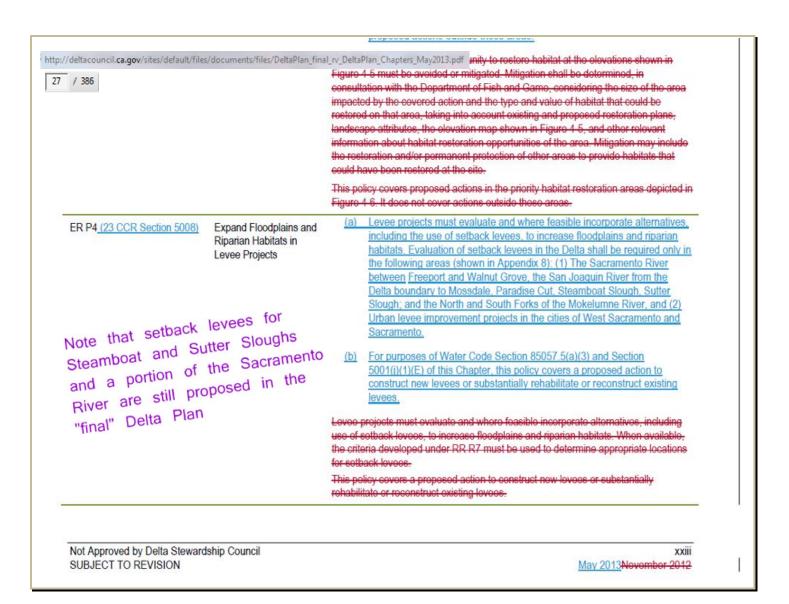




The Delta Plan and BDCP call for "setback levees" on Steamboat and Sutter Sloughs. The map above is a screen print from the website link shown at the right side of the map.



Notice where this 2013 USF&W map locates the "Sacramento River"? Notice how McCormack/Williamson is shown as a lake?



Many of the people who are making decisions about our properties, uses and the water have not considered the actual "on the ground" impacts to all of us in the Delta. Or if they did recognize the negative impacts, they simply do not care what happens to us in the Delta and Bay area-they just want the water.

If YOU care about what the future of the Delta and Bay area will be, you might want to speak up NOW. Put it in writing and distribute your concern to your local media, county supervisors, and on up the line of political channels. The more people they hear from, the better. But don't wait for mainstream media to report the truth of the matter-the mainstream media is no doubt owned by the people who want the water and land, and the gas and oll under the Delta as well.

## **UPCOMING DELTA-RELATED MEETING DATES, LOCATIONS, AND WEBSITE LINKS**

Delta Plan: Delta Stewardship Council

Delta Plan links:

http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Pages%20from%20Agenda Item 6b Attach 2.pdf

Http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan-0

EIR/EIS: <a href="http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/final-programmatic-eir">http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/final-programmatic-eir</a>

Rule making: http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/regulations-and-rulemaking-process

Meeting: Thursday, May 16, 2013 and Friday, May 17, 2013 9::00 am to 4:30

Location: Ramada Inn and Suites, 1250 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento, California 95691

BDCP (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) DWR Website links:

BDCP document links: <a href="http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/Library/DocumentsLandingPage/BDCPDocuments.aspx">http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/Library/DocumentsLandingPage/BDCPDocuments.aspx</a>

http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/Library/DocumentsLandingPage/EIREISDocuments.aspx

<u>USACE</u>: Report on California Flood history and protection and actions for the future:

Http://www.water.ca.gov/sfmp/resources.cfm#floodreport

Website links: <a href="http://www.spd.usace.army.mil/Portals/13/docs/regulatory/publicnotices/PRD">http://www.spd.usace.army.mil/Portals/13/docs/regulatory/publicnotices/PRD</a> FFR 4-3-13(full).pdf

Comment period: Until Monday May 20, 2013 at 5 PMemail comments to: use form at

http://www.water.ca.gov/sfmp/resources.cfm#floodreport

You might want to send letters or email to your governor, congresspersons, county supervisors and the media!

More information and links of non-government Delta info:

Http://www.DeltaREvision.com (depository of documents & actions leading up to current Delta issues)

Http://www.restorethedelta.com (focused on San Joaquin River restoration and keeping water in the Delta)

Http://www.salmonwaternow.org (video's about the impacts on salmon and other fish)

http://www.snugharbor.net/California Delta water wars.html (Delta plans that might affect Snug Harbor and use of Steamboat Slough and the Delta for recreation and navigation)