



**Delta Counties Coalition**

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

July 14, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 821 (Committee on Natural Resources and Water): Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Delta Independent Science Board – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) is formed to speak with one voice on the health of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. We write to request your signature on SB 821, which provides that members of the Delta Independent Science Board (DISB) are not state employees and specifies the rate of members' hourly compensation. As a result, SB 821 seeks to reinforce the independence of the Science Board.

The DCC recognizes the importance of both the Delta Stewardship Council's (Council) and the Science Board's roles in furthering the goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. SB 821 would require the members of the Science Board to exercise their scientific judgment and perform their functions independently from the Council, which is needed to ensure that decisions are made based on independent science and free from any bias. In creating the DISB, the Delta Reform Act was explicit that its members not be state employees, but rather independent and impartial arbiters of scientific research pertaining to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. SB 821 reinforces this independence of the Science Board by providing that members of the Board would not be classified as employees of the Council, which also resolves the Science Board compensation and funding issues that have recently arisen.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you sign SB 821. If you have any questions about our position, please contact us through our coordinator, Natasha Drane, at 916-874-4627 or [dranen@sacounty.net](mailto:dranen@sacounty.net).

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy  
Supervisor, Sacramento County

Mitch Mashburn  
Supervisor, Solano County

Karen Mitchoff  
Supervisor, Contra Costa County

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Oscar Villegas  
Supervisor, Yolo County



Chuck Winn  
Supervisor, San Joaquin  
County

cc: Hazel Miranda, Deputy Legislative Secretary for Governor Newsom  
Members, Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Delta Counties State Legislative Delegation  
Members of the Delta Stewardship Council  
Members of the Delta Independent Science Board