



Delta Counties Coalition

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"Working together on water and Delta issues"

August 14, 2020

Mr. Wade Crowfoot
Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Email: Wade.Crowfoot@resources.ca.gov

Re: Meeting with Governor and Natural Resources' Staff Relating to Delta Stewardship Council Appointment Process

Dear Secretary Crowfoot,

On behalf of the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), thank you for coordinating a meeting with Appointment Advisor, Kristi Stauffacher and Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Water, Tom Gibson on July 30, 2020. Through this meeting, we learned about the appointment process and we also shared our thoughts about the relevant knowledge and experience we believe important for the next Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) appointment.

DSC policies and decisions have a profound impact on Delta communities and the counties. The Delta political, regulatory and scientific landscape is complex. The more knowledgeable about the Delta that a DSC appointee is, the more quickly the member will be able to ramp up and help make well-reasoned decisions on the DSC.

The DCC believes a good candidate for a DSC appointment would:

- Be aware of the basic geography and communities of the Delta as well as the regulatory landscape governing management of resources in the Delta, including the DSC.
- Have some experience with agriculture, whether as a farmer or in some other capacity, such that there is an understanding of what is involved in successfully bringing crops to market.
- Have some experience with the State Plan of Flood Control or basic flood control concepts.
- Have some familiarity with restoration projects, with some understanding of the physical changes involved in carrying out restoration as well as potential offsite impacts and other challenges.

We also discussed with Ms. Stauffacher and Mr. Gibson the experience and challenges faced by previous DPC appointees to the DSC. The DPC chair always serves a two-year term on DSC, and all other appointees serve for four-years. This means that the DPC appointee does not have as much time to develop relationships with other DSC members and staff. It has also been our experience that DPC appointee motions rarely receive a second, limiting deliberative discussion at the DSC about concerns raised by the DPC appointee. We are concerned that the lack of support for DPC motions essentially shuts out the voice of DPC appointees on vital issues impacting the Delta, ignoring the special expertise on the Delta possessed by the DPC chair.

We hope that Governor Newsom considers our thoughts and experience as he makes the next appointment to DSC. In particular, we would like to see the next appointment be of a person with the experience outlined above. We think such a person would understand the concerns and ideas voiced by the DPC member and to make well-considered decisions affecting the Delta. Thank you again for coordinating the meeting with Governor's Office; we greatly appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,



Skip Thomson
Supervisor, District 5
Solano County



Diane Burgis
Supervisor, District 3
Contra Costa County

cc: Kristi Stauffacher, Appointment Advisor, Governor's Office
Tom Gibson, Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Water, Natural
Resources Agency