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**Delta Vision Foundation Comments on Final Delta/Water Legislation**

Sacramento - Today, the Delta Vision Foundation (formerly the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force) released an extensive analysis of the final Delta/Water bill package that the legislature failed to approve on September 11. The Foundation compared the legislation to major goals and recommendations in the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan*, and concluded that although progress was made, the package was not yet in substantial agreement with the major goals or recommendations of Delta Vision.

Phil Isenberg, Chair of the Delta Vision Foundation, commented: "California has been in political deadlock over water and the Delta for almost 30 years. It was encouraging to see the Governor and Legislature embrace the seven Goals of the Strategic Plan. However, last minute changes of these bills before the legislature weakened them dramatically. Perhaps most importantly, critical issues regarding effective financing and a clear governance were ducked."

Findings from the Delta Vision Foundation's analysis of the final bill package include:

- Selected sections of SB 68, the policy bill, are reasonably close to some recommendations of the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan*, but the bill does not incorporate detailed recommendations
- Sections of SB 68 fail to achieve an effective system of governance in the Delta
- AB 893, the bond bill, provides no financing sources for the council for preparation of a Delta Plan or for implementation of a Delta Plan
- Some elements of the proposed bills weaken the role of the existing Delta Protection Commission, resulting in worse outcomes

The Foundation concurs that it would be possible to bring SB 68 and AB 893 into closer agreement with the recommendations of the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan*. Earlier versions of both bills included language to serve that purpose. Furthermore, a few broad additions could achieve greater integration of the two bills, correspond more closely to recommendations of the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan*, and speed progress in implementation.

"The Delta Vision Foundation believes that three decades of inaction strongly suggest the need for a new approach --- one that is integrated and comprehensive," said Isenberg. "The *Delta Vision Strategic Plan* remains the best path forward for California."

The full analysis can be viewed at: <http://www.deltavisionfoundation.org/>

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*The Delta Vision Foundation is the successor to the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, the independent body established under Governor's Executive Order S-17-06. The Blue Ribbon Task Force held over 30 days of public meetings over two years, and involved hundreds of stakeholders, scientists and members of the public in its processes. It issued Our Vision for the California Delta (2007) and the Delta Vision Strategic Plan (2008).*