



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SENT VIA EMAIL

July 15, 2021

Susan Tatayon, Chair
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Chair Tatayon,

Thank you to the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) for the work to advance the goals for the Delta – a more reliable statewide water supply and a healthy and protected ecosystem achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique characteristics of the Delta as an evolving place. Additionally, thank you for the Council's consideration of the Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project (Lookout Slough Project), which is the largest tidal habitat restoration project currently planned in the Delta and will provide critical ecosystem restoration for species that are increasingly imperiled by climate change.

California is experiencing the consequences of climate change like we have never seen before, more frequent and intense droughts, extreme heat events and record-breaking wildfires. The Lookout Slough Project is an example of a multibenefit approach to increasing the resilience of our integrated water system in the Delta and reflects some of the key principles of the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio: to protect and enhance natural ecosystems; and, build capacity to respond to more intense and frequent droughts and floods. Multibenefit approaches like this project are needed now to expeditiously combat the real-time climate change impacts that threaten the survival of species in the Delta.

At the same time, the Lookout Slough Project must balance priorities including protection of public access and recreational opportunities. I have asked the Department of Water Resources to promptly pursue solutions and collaborative approaches that provide better public access and recreational opportunities for the region than are currently available.

I urge the Council to find a path forward that does not delay the Lookout Slough Project from achieving critical ecosystem restoration for imperiled species in the Delta, and also realizes increased public access and recreational opportunities for the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christine Hironaka".

Christine Hironaka
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

cc:

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Nancy Vogel, Deputy Secretary for Water, California Natural Resources Agency
Chris Calfee, Deputy Secretary for Legal Affairs, California Natural Resources Agency
Karla Nemeth, Director, Department of Water Resources
Cindy Messer, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Water Resources
Jessica Pearson, Executive Officer, Delta Stewardship Council