



## Westlands Water District

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### **Westlands Water District Files Legal Action Against Delta Plan**

**FRESNO, CA** – Raising serious objections to the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan, today the Westlands Water District joined the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority in a legal action filed in the Sacramento Superior Court to require the Delta Stewardship Council to revise the Delta Plan to be consistent with the 2009 Delta Reform Act, which created the Council. In particular, the action asserts that the Delta Plan fails to achieve the co-equal goals of Delta ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability established by the Act.

"The fundamental problem with the Delta Plan is that it goes well beyond the statutory authority granted by the Legislature," stated Tom Birmingham, General Manager of the Westlands Water District. "That extension of authority will impact the ability of the State to manage current water supplies and develop new infrastructure to secure California's future needs."

The Delta Reform Act established four significant roles for the Council: coordinating numerous state agencies around the Delta to ensure consistency, managing the development of a new Delta Science Plan, prioritizing levee investments in the Delta, and providing a forum for appeals to assess consistency with the Delta Plan.

Instead, the Delta Plan undermines the coequal goals of water supply reliability by seeking to *reduce* water conveyed through the Delta for existing needs. Ironically, it *limits* the use of exported water instead of promoting or identifying actions that will *meet* water needs.

Since the Delta Plan Reform Act requires that the BDCP be incorporated into the Delta Plan, the Plan must be consistent with the goals of the BDCP. Rather than meeting the requirement of the Act, the Delta Plan impedes rather than promotes effective implementation of the BDCP.

"As growers continue to struggle with chronic water shortages and adverse regulatory decisions, further actions like this only thwart progress toward a reliable water supply that provides food, jobs and economic activity that our region depends upon," said Tom Birmingham.

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