



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

January 25, 2012

Mr. Leo Winternitz
Delta Project Director
The Nature Conservancy
4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Dear Mr. Winternitz:

Thank you for your letter of January 25, 2012, supporting the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) next phase of review of the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). As you are by now aware, yesterday the State Water Board released a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Notice of Scoping Meeting for the comprehensive review of elements of the Bay-Delta Plan, other than those currently under review relating to southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flows.

In response to concerns expressed by some stakeholders interested in Delta planning processes late last week, I prepared the attached letter to provide context and further explanation regarding the scope and timing of the State Water Board's current planning efforts. In addition, the State Water Board will hear an informational item at its February 21, 2012 regular meeting to receive public comments on its overall schedule of Bay-Delta Plan actions and the relationship of these actions to the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).

Please contact me at (916) 341-5615, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Howard".

Thomas Howard
Executive Director