

# Delta Plan adoption another major milestone

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Solving a problem as broad and complex as the Delta crisis is bound to take time.

The 2009 Delta Reform Act itself was years in the making itself. Implementation has taken even longer, but progress is becoming more evident every day. The latest milestone is the adoption of the Delta Plan.

After four years of study and deliberation, the Delta Stewardship Council unanimously approved the Delta Plan, along with the corresponding rulemaking package and environmental study, clearing a major hurdle for the Brown administration and California by providing a framework for the future of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), which will include a comprehensive conveyance plan designed to improve water supply reliability and provide greater long-term protection for endangered species, is on track for completion in 2014. Meanwhile, the legislature is gearing up to tackle revising the water bond for the 2014 ballot.

Now is the time for Governor Brown's

administration to seize the momentum and move forward with a comprehensive statewide plan that can secure California's entire water system for the next century. The BDCP is a key component of that plan, but a broader vision for California's water future should include much, much more.



A window of opportunity has opened. With climate change and growing population demands already stressing an outdated water system, the time to act is now.

A comprehensive plan must address not only water conveyance and the declining Delta ecosystem, but the myriad other issues that face the state's water supply: water storage, clean drinking water for disadvantaged communities, water quality protection, and local supply reliability, including conservation, recycling, and desalination programs.

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The Delta Plan is an important step, but it is only one small piece of the puzzle. The dire need for a new water vision in California is on the horizon. Hopefully Governor Brown's leadership can get us there.



# Delta Watch

**A Project of the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta**