

## **Dante John Nomellini, Sr. Comments on DSC Delta Adapts Survey**

As confirmed by the California Legislature the key for the future of the Delta is to preserve the Delta levees as a system. See Water Code section 12981. Sea level rise of 1 foot by 2050 and more questionable earthquake threats are the challenges. Current minimum levee freeboard objective is about 18 inches. In some areas settlement is ongoing. Widening crowns to about 24 feet and widening toe berms in subsiding areas will facilitate height of levees to be increased as sea level rise is manifested. This also increases resistance to earthquake failure. Improved flood response capability (which is in progress) and the clear commitment to immediately close levee breaks, dewater and otherwise restore the levee system are also critical. Seepage and wind waves during delayed restoration make the domino impact a real threat to the system. Big Franks Tract, Little Franks Tract and Mildred Island are good examples of the problem.

Agriculture is the primary reliable source of funding for levees and provides frontline floodfight manpower to maintain the levee system. To sustain viable Delta agriculture adequate water quality with the continued right to apply the water and the ability to grow profitable crops is necessary. Viable agriculture requires a critical mass to support services. Conversion to habitat and uses other than productive agriculture detracts from maintaining the critical mass. Agriculture has a limited ability to pay and higher levels of development are restricted. Recreation and tourism could help, but with the decimation of the fisheries (including Striped Bass and Salmon) and degradation of water quality (microcystis, methyl mercury, Egeria densa, water hyacinth and the like) recreation in the Delta has suffered has suffered and is slow in recovery.

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