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November 17, 2006

Mike McGowan, Chairman
Delta Protection Commission
c/o Yolo County Board of Supervisors
625 Court Street, Room 204
Woodland, California 95695

Dear Chairman McGowan:

Thank you and I applaud the work that the Delta Protection Commission has initiated to address Delta emergency preparedness issues. The Commission is in an excellent position to be the core organization to address these issues and become the catalyst for progressive change. Your current and future work could serve as a model for efforts throughout the region and indeed the state. The critical experience your esteemed Commissioners collectively bring to the challenge for this area provides the diversity and commitment that is required to address what is increasingly recognized as a regional challenge. In an area as geographically and culturally unique as the Delta, no one county or group can plan comprehensively on their own.

Recent national and regional events have underscored the need for heightened preparedness to address large-scale emergencies. Pursuing such preparedness requires the combined efforts and partnership of many diverse entities. These efforts are not easy. In our increasingly complex society, such tasks require a heightened commitment to the health, safety and welfare of our public, a dedication to innovate, and the unified leadership and vision of diverse individuals and jurisdictions. Advanced coordination is the key to jointly addressing challenging issues in emergency management.

In closing, I want to again thank the Commission for its leadership on this topic. I am eager to learn more about the steps the Commission is taking to address this compelling challenge, and I am committed to provide whatever assistance I can offer to support this valuable regional approach.

Sincerely,

HENRY R. RENTERIA
Director