

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT (limit to 2 pages not including map and schedule)

Date: November 5, 2010

Applicant/Organization name: Semitropic Water Storage District

Project name: Delta Wetlands Project

Project objectives (check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Supply	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fisheries/Wildlife
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Habitat Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood Protection/Levees
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Conveyance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Storage	
<input type="checkbox"/> Data Collection	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	

Project description (define the problem):

The Delta Wetlands Project consists of four islands in the central Delta. The project proposes to convert two heavily subsided islands into reservoirs and to preserve two others as managed open space. Delta Wetlands Properties owns all of the land required by the project, funds the four reclamation districts that maintain the levees, and holds water rights that support on-going agricultural operations on the islands. The project's in-Delta water storage will be managed in conjunction with the south-of-Delta groundwater storage operations of the Semitropic Water Storage District (Semitropic). Semitropic and Delta Wetlands Properties have partnered to jointly implement the project.

Project goals/desired outcome (describe the solution):

- Water storage: 215 Kaf new water storage
- Water supply: 160 Kafa new water supply; 91 Kafa reliable supply south of Delta.
- Water quality: End of year releases to reduce Delta salinity
- Water conveyance: Storage proximate to export pumps enhances project ability to utilize regulatory pumping windows.
- Strengthened levees: 56 miles of levees improved to or above PL 84-99 standard
- Managed Habitat: 9,000 acres of managed habitat on two islands on the Pacific Flyway
- Recreation: Hunting, fishing, boating, eco-tourism
- Flood protection: Strengthened levees and through-Delta conveyance corridor; ability to manage Delta water quality after a flooding event.

List affected public agencies and/or those with jurisdiction. List any permits required and status:

- Semitropic Water Storage District
- State Lands Commission
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Department of Fish and Game
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Delta Stewardship Council Committee – Early Actions Review  
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- NOAA Fisheries Service

Is the project ready to start before 2012? (e.g., environmental analysis, identify agencies that require permitting, funding status):

The project's final EIR will be certified by the end of 2010, with biological opinions, incidental take statements, Corps of Engineers 404 permit, CDFG Incidental Take Permit and State Water Resources Control Board action following throughout 2011.

Once the EIR is certified, preliminary work on the islands will commence. Agricultural contracts and practices will be conformed to the intended land use, water development will start with fallowing transfers, and early implementation of habitat development will be initiated on the habitat islands.

All of the above actions, permits and approvals constitute early actions.

Estimate of fiscal impact (how much will it cost your organization and/or others):

\$\_\_\_\_\_ If you are not paying the entire cost of the project, please describe the source of funds and indicate if those funds have been approved or not. Also indicate if you have applied to the described funding sources.

Project proponent cost estimates and budget are proprietary. Of importance to public policy is the project's commitment to self finance (i.e., without reliance on state or federal funding) and to recover costs through payments from subscriber-beneficiaries.

Describe any potential adverse impacts on California's water supply or the Delta ecosystem to the best of your knowledge:

Project environmental review is pending. We expect that the final EIR will be certified by the end of 2010. Consistent with CEQA, all project impacts will be mitigated, reduced to less than significant levels, or determined to be unavoidable by the responsible agency.

Actual or potential support and opposition

<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>If opposed, provide concise reason</u>
Central Delta Water Agency		x	Concern with potential for seepage

The following are beneficiary agencies who support the project:

- Semitropic Water Storage District
- Golden State Water Company
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Valley Mutual Water Company
- Western Municipal Water District
- Coachella Valley Water District
- Indio Water Authority
- Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

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*Attach a map showing the project location (if applicable), schedule, and the completed  
Application Form for Consideration of a Plan or Project*

**Delta Wetlands Project Map**

