Agriculture and Land Stewardship Planning

California Mitigation Summit
California Council of Land Trusts
July 15, 2014
Motivation

• Proposed projects could have huge impacts on agriculture

• Social and economic impacts not well addressed by CEQA or NEPA

• Public wants involvement in program planning
Critical Need & Response

• Engage Delta Farm Community in BDCP Agriculture Issues

• Form Agriculture & Land Stewardship Work Group
Stewardship Approach

• Gather mitigation ideas
• Meet with agricultural interests
• Build a set of creative options
• Refine options with input from agriculture
Principles

• Voluntary actions
• Consistent with project objectives
• Provide benefits where impacts occur
• Keep farmers on the land
Developed in Cooperation with

- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Department of Conservation
- Delta Conservancy
- Delta Stewardship Council
- Delta Protection Commission
Agency Group

- CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
- CA Department of Parks & Recreation
- State Water Resources Control Board
- CV Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Governor’s Office of Planning and Research
- USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- NOAA Fisheries
Briefings

- Delta Land Trusts
- Resource Conservation Districts
- California Farm Bureau Federation
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- Delta Five-County Farm Bureaus
- State Board of Food and Agriculture
- California Water Commission
- Reclamation Districts
Engagement

• **Formal** — commission meetings, conferences

• **Semi-formal** — local governments, permitting agencies, reclamation districts and other local agencies

• **Informal** — individuals, farm bureaus, nonprofits

• **Interactive Website**
Framework

Develop Agriculture and Land Stewardship Plans

- Integrate projects with existing uses
- Address economic and social impacts
- Mitigate for loss of farmland
ALS Strategy Tool Box Categories

- Help maintain agriculture
- Incentives for conservation on farmland
- Support agricultural economy
- Planning by project proponents
Examples of Strategies

Reduce Conflict Between Agriculture and Nearby Habitat Projects
Examples of Strategies

Agricultural Conservation Easements
Examples of Strategies

Improve Transportation Infrastructure
Examples of Strategies

Develop Land Use Studies

Promote Economic Development
Examples of Strategies

Identify Benefits of Funding for Open Space Subventions
e.g., Williamson Act
Implementation and Funding

Identify Governance for Agricultural Mitigation

• Land Trusts
• RCDs
• Conservancies
• Commissions
• Counties
• Other
https://AgriculturalLandStewardship.water.ca.gov/

Kamyar Guivetchi, PE
Statewide Integrated Water Mgmt
CA Department Water Resources
(916) 653-3937
Kamyar.Guivetchi@water.ca.gov