

~~Strikethrough print~~ represents text which has been deleted.

Bold and italicized print represents text which has been added or modified.

Resolution

Alternative Strategies and Potential Funding/Financing of Structural Approaches for Water Balance

Delta Council supports the full evaluation of all known and future alternatives identified for addressing our groundwater overdraft. Also, we seek to embrace a project after all member organizations and agencies on the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Task Force have built a consensus for the desired project(s).

Delta Council prefers to consider a project after the Commissioners of YMD have voted to support the project, in consultation and coordination with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Also, Delta Council would prefer that the Water Management District has voted in favor of a funding plan and requested assistance from all member organizations on the Task Force, prior to Delta Council taking action related to a specific project proposal or funding mechanism.

Delta Council officially requests that MDEQ Commissioners from the Delta take the necessary steps to request that the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the YMD Water Management District provide Delta Council and other Task Force members relevant opinions and interpretations regarding their legal and regulatory opinion of all Mississippi code sections pertaining to the authority of the State and/or the water management district to:

- Levy millage,
- Collect fees,
- Levy assessments,
- Issue bonds,
- Incur debt,
- And/or retire debt

for the physical construction, operation, and maintenance of any potential future water supply project. Delta Council also requests similar legal opinions and explanation pertaining to the agencies' opinion regarding permitting. Specifically, Delta Council requests that code sections which warrant explanation by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the YMD Water Management District include those related to permitting of withdrawals and for water supply project construction, operation, maintenance, and funding issues in State or District law. This explanation should include, but not necessarily be limited to Code Sections 51-8-31 through 51-8-47.

In conclusion, Delta Council places highest priority on the accuracy, and the completeness of the information submitted for approval by the permitter.

Delta Council is extremely grateful to the U.S. Geological Survey, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District, the Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service-USDA, Delta F.A.R.M., the Delta Research and Extension Center-MSU, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, and the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission for the efforts to develop data helpful in measuring the impacts of past and current irrigation practices, in addition to performing research on a cost/benefit analysis of alternative structural alternatives to reverse current groundwater declines.

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors
June 2, 2023

