



Short report on California mission, February 3-4, 2011

The Delta Alliance mission to California was well prepared by Mr. Will Travis, Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and Peter Wijsman and Piet Dircke (Arcadis).

On February 3, BCDC presented various projects to the Delta Alliance representatives, including the project 'Adapting to Rising Tides'. BCDC has taken a leading role in addressing sea level rise in regional climate change adaptation planning in the San Francisco Bay. In 2009, BCDC joined in a partnership with Delta Alliance and Dutch researchers and private sector representatives to develop climate change adaptation strategies for shoreline typologies (or development types) along San Francisco Bay. The next phase in this process is to test this strategy development method at the sub-regional level to develop concrete adaptation plans working in collaboration with BCDC, local governments and the public. The project, entitled Adapting to Rising Tides (ART), is designed to evaluate the impact that the geographic scale may have on participation and outcomes. While work at the sub-regional level will be conducted primarily with agency stakeholders, the community level work will include participation of the public and allow for input regarding the communities concerns and values. The project will also have a component which will specifically assess the vulnerability of transportation assets within the sub-region. The California Wing would like Delta Alliance to contribute to this project. Through involvement of Delta Alliance, BCDC would like to have an outside party participate as an observer in this process and evaluate this against other adaptation planning processes that are ongoing at other place in the world. Currently, Arcadis is further developing the project proposal together with BCDC and the consulate.

The day ended with a pleasant and useful dinner with the Dutch consul Mr. Bart van Bolhuis.

On the 4th of February a visit was paid to the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC). In 2011, DSC is developing a delta plan for the Sacramento San Joachim delta. Despite the fact that DSC is quiet busy with this delta plan, it indicated an interest to cooperate with Delta Alliance. The aim is that from 2012 onwards DSC and Delta Alliance will cooperate more closely. An interesting point of cooperation could be the Delta Science program by exchange of students and researchers and organization of conferences (e.g. the Delta Science Conference in 2012).