



**SUMMARY MINUTES**  
**Delta Protection Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2019**

Courtland Auditorium  
146 Primasing Avenue  
Courtland, CA 95615

**ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Villegas called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Commission Clerk Ashley Medina called the roll. Present at roll call: Chair Villegas, Vice Chair Nottoli, Commissioners Winn, Kott, Nakanishi, Biagi Jr., van Loben Sels, Moosavi (for Annis), and Roberts (for Crowfoot). Commissioner Lester-Moffitt (alternate for Ross) arrived at 5:43 p.m. Commissioners Burgis, Thomson, Cabaldon, Bugsch, and Ruiz (alternate for South Delta Reclamation Districts) were absent with no alternate present.

**3. Welcome and Public Comment- Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission Regarding Items Not on the Agenda**

Chair Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**4. Approval of January 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Vice Chair Nottoli and seconded by Commissioner Kott to approve the January 17, 2019 meeting minutes; in a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously with 9 aye votes (all Commissioners present at roll call).

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**5. Receive Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Vink asked the Commission for ideas on distributing more nutria pocket guides in the south Delta; spoke about the recent passage of federal legislation for the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA); stated the Commission's first implementation task for the NHA will be to prepare a management plan, and mentioned that Congressman Garamendi is interested in having an event with Commissioners to celebrate the NHA passage. He also mentioned the next Delta Heritage Forum will be held on Thursday, June 6 in Walnut Grove, and spoke about state legislation related to the Delta; Senate Bill 204 and Assembly Bill 1194.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

**6. Receive Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) Report & Consider Appointment of DPAC Member Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 29753(a)**

DPAC Chair Mark Pruner gave a brief update on the committee's March 6 meeting where members discussed the Delta Stewardship Council's update of Delta Plan Chapter 4 (Ecosystem Restoration), and the National Heritage Area legislation.

Executive Director Vink provided background information on the DPAC appointment process and requested Commission approval to appoint Russ Ryan, manager of Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) Delta islands, to fill the committee's vacancy for a member representing water exporters. Russ Ryan introduced himself to the Commission as a longtime MWD employee now based out of MWD's Sacramento office and residing in Elk Grove.

Commissioners asked Mr. Ryan questions about his intentions for joining DPAC, with some expressions of concern because of MWD.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Vice Chair Nottoli and seconded by Commissioner Roberts to approve the appointment of Russ Ryan as a member of DPAC; in a roll call vote, the motion passed with 8 aye votes (Chair Villegas, Vice Chair Nottoli, and Commissioners Winn, Kott, Nakanishi, Moosavi, Lester-Moffitt, and Roberts) and 2 no votes (Commissioners Biagi Jr. and van Loben Sels).

**7. Delta Leadership Program 2019 Presentation**

Executive Director Vink provided background information on the 2019 Delta Leadership Program and stated the 4<sup>th</sup> class of program participants completed their final seminar on March 15, 2019. Program participant Michael Neuharth provided a presentation on the group's class project, focused on a Delta Water Trail.

Chair Villegas presented legislative commendations to the program participants who were at the meeting.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

**8. Receive Presentation on Results of Delta Recreation and Tourism Survey**

Dr. Amy Mickel of California State University, Sacramento provided a presentation on the results from the Delta Recreation and Tourism survey, including findings on: participant characteristics, preferred recreation activities, spending patterns, information sources, economic impact and significance, and labor income and employment impacts from events.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

**9. Receive Presentation on the Agricultural Chapter Update of Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP)**

Executive Director Vink introduced Dr. Jeffrey Michael from the University of the Pacific, to provide a presentation on the updated agricultural chapter of the ESP. The presentation covered recent Delta crop data, including top crops by acreage and revenue, value-added processing supported by Delta Agriculture, and the modeled economic impact of Delta agriculture on the state and local economies.

Commissioners asked questions and expressed an overall appreciation for the report.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment: Melinda Terry (California Central Valley Flood Control Association) requested a comparison of the numbers in this update to the 2012 data.

**10. Update to the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta (LURMP)**

Commission Program Manager Melinda Dorin provided a presentation on the LURMP update which covered the staff draft document structure, summary of comments received to date, and the next steps the Commission could take.

Executive Director Vink requested the Commission reappoint a subcommittee that would work with Commission staff on the LURMP update. Chair Villegas appointed four Commissioners to the Subcommittee: Commissioners Winn, Kott, Lester-Moffitt, and van Loben Sels.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment: Melinda Terry (California Central Valley Flood Control Association) supported a Commission subcommittee and suggested more evaluation should occur to decide what policies should be kept or deleted from the existing LURMP.

**11. Consider Approval of Commission Letter Supporting Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station (RVERS)**

Executive Director Vink requested approval of a letter to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supporting funding for Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station (RVERS).

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Kott and seconded by Vice Chair Nottoli to approve the RVERS support letter; in a voice vote the motion passed unanimously (all 10 Commissioners present).

**12. Consider Approval of Revised Scope of Work for Recreation Chapter Update of Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP)**

Commission Program Manager Virginia Gardner provided background information on the recent updates of the recreation chapter of the ESP and spoke about upcoming actions Commission staff will take upon approval of the revised scope of work (SOW).

Chair Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Nakanishi and seconded by Commissioner Kott to approve the revised SOW for the recreation chapter of the ESP; in a voice vote the motion passed unanimously (all Commissioners present at roll call, and Commissioner Lester-Moffitt).

### **13. Receive Update on CA WaterFix (CWF)/Delta Tunnel Project**

Chair Villegas excused himself from the meeting prior to the update on CWF item.

In the absence of Chair Villegas, Vice Chair Nottoli took over the meeting. Executive Director Vink provided an update on recent CWF activities, mentioning Governor Newsom's statement that he did not support a twin tunnel project, but did support a single tunnel, and stated DWR is anticipating filing a new certification of consistency with the Delta Plan sometime this year. He also mentioned the Commission has requested to be a part of the early discussions on this process and will continue to monitor the status of this project and update the Commission appropriately.

Vice Chair Nottoli asked for public comment and there was none.

### **14. Commissioner Comments/Announcements**

The next Commission meeting will be on May 16, 2019 in Walnut Grove.

### **15. Adjourn**

Vice Chair Nottoli adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.