



SUMMARY MINUTES

Delta Protection Commission Meeting Thursday, January 16, 2020

Oakley City Council Chambers
3231 Main Street
Oakley, CA 94561

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair Villegas called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commission Clerk Shelley Eckler called the roll. Present at roll call: Vice-Chair Nottoli, Commissioners Burgis, Thomson, Kott, Nakanishi, Mussi, van Loben Sels and McElhinney (for Kim). Ex-officio member Sen. Galgiani arrived at 5:41 p.m. and Commissioner Bugsch arrived at 6:14 p.m. Commissioners Villegas, Winn, Cabaldon, Ross, and Crowfoot 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

Vice-Chair Nottoli asked for public comment; Oakley Mayor Kevin Romick welcomed Commission members to the City of Oakley.

4. Commissioner comments/announcements

There were no Commissioner comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of November 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Thomson and seconded by Commissioner Burgis to approve the November 21, 2019 meeting minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously with all 8 Commissioners present at roll call voting aye.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Receive Executive Director Report

Executive Director Vink presented an overview of the Commission's recent social media metrics, reported on the Community Design Workshop in Walnut Grove on January 11, mentioned that there were no land use project comment letters since the last Commission meeting report, and highlighted upcoming events in the Delta.

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

7. Receive Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) Report

DPAC Chair Mark Pruner provided a report on the January 9 DPAC meeting in Walnut Grove, where the Committee received a report on the Delta Conveyance and Design Authority Stakeholder Engagement Committee, discussed transportation challenges in the Delta region, and received an update on Commission staff activities. Commissioner McElhinney mentioned that he is involved in a Caltrans Delta Bridges Steering Committee.

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

8. Consider Approval of Delta Protection Commission 2019 Annual Report

Commission Communications Specialist Stacy Hayden presented several highlights from the Commission's 2019 activities and asked for Commission approval of the draft 2019 annual report. Commissioner Burgis suggested that the report pages could be reformatted to utilize more of the photos.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Thomson and seconded by Commissioner Kott to adopt the 2019 Annual Report pending the incorporation of photo reformatting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously with all 8 Commissioners present at roll call voting aye.

9. Delta National Heritage Area (NHA)

Commission Senior Environmental Planner Blake Roberts and Executive Director Vink presented an update on the Delta National Heritage Area, including recent efforts on the management plan development and the anticipated schedule for Commission contractor Point Heritage Development Consulting to submit its work products. They also requested Commission authorization for the Executive Director to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service and to accept federal funding for the effort.

Commissioner Kott asked about the timing of the management plan, and Executive Director Vink explained that the goal is to complete it by the end of 2021.

Vice-Chair Nottoli asked for public comment; DPAC Chair Mark Pruner suggested that the Commission consider adding Delta community members to the NHA subcommittee, and Commission members discussed the best way to accommodate public involvement in the subcommittee's work.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Nakanishi and seconded by Commissioner Thomson to delegate authority to Executive Director Vink to sign a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service for work in federal FY 2020 for an amount up to \$300,000, and further to appoint a Commission NHA Subcommittee consisting of Vice-Chair Nottoli and Commissioners Burgis, Sandeen and Secretary Crowfoot's Commission designee, as well as Delta community members.

In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously with all 9 Commissioners present (including Commissioner Bugsch) voting aye.

10. Receive Report on DWR fiscal year 2018-19 funding for Delta levee projects

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) attorney Laura Hollender and engineer Christopher Williams presented a report on DWR's fiscal year 2018-19 funding for Delta levee improvement and rehabilitation projects.

Commissioner Nakanishi asked about DWR's levee responsibilities outside the Delta region, including funding. Commissioner Thomson commented about concerns regarding the Lookout Slough habitat restoration project in Solano County, including hydrologic impacts on adjacent levees, and asked about a training levee; Mr. Williams promised to follow up. Commissioner McElhinney asked about overall funding for Delta levee projects; Mr. Williams replied with recent funding levels for the Delta levees subventions program and special project program. Commissioner Kott expressed concerns about Lower Cache Slough projects and a proposed flood wall on Egbert Tract. Ex-officio member Galgiani expressed concern about homeless encampment impacts on levees. Commissioner Burgis asked about which levee projects were not funded, and Ms. Hollender responded that this information would be included in the future. Vice-Chair Nottoli noted the large amount of funding that was devoted to the Lookout Slough project.

Vice-Chair Nottoli asked for public comment; Erin Mullin from the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) extended her gratitude to DWR for preparing the report and for their collaboration with the Council on levee prioritization.

11. Consider Commission recommendation on proposed modifications to California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) striped bass policy

Executive Director Vink presented background information on the State's striped bass policy, including recent efforts before the California Fish and Game Commission to amend the policy. He then requested the Commission send a letter to the California Fish and Game Commission supporting Delta recreational fishing interests in their recommendations on amending the striped bass policy.

Vice-Chair Nottoli asked for public comment; James Cox of the California Striped Bass Association offered his support for the Commission's letter, and especially for retaining a numeric target in the striped bass policy. Mayor Romick also expressed his support for the Commission's letter.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Burgis and seconded by Commissioner Kott to approve the Commission letter to the California Fish and Game Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously with all 9 Commissioners voting aye.

12. Receive update on Delta Conveyance project

Executive Director Vink presented an update on recent efforts related to the Delta Conveyance project, including DWR's January 15 release of a Notice of Preparation for a single Delta tunnel with comments due March 20; the Commission comment letter on the DWR soil investigations

environmental document; activities of the Design and Construction Authority Stakeholder Engagement Committee; and the Delta-relevant provisions of the Governor's draft Water Resilience Portfolio, including the Delta tunnel project but also including projects the Commission has worked on including measurement of crop evapotranspiration, broadband in underserved areas, and alternatives to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Mr. Vink indicated that Commission staff would be preparing a comments letter on the Governor's draft Water Resilience Portfolio.

Commissioner Thomson expressed his dismay that the Delta conveyance project is largely unchanged from CA WaterFix, with tunnel intakes proposed in the same locations and with the same likely negative impacts.

Vice-Chair Nottoli asked for public comment; DPAC Chair Mark Pruner encouraged attendance at the DWR public scoping meetings.

13. Adjourn

Vice-Chair Nottoli adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.