



SUMMARY MINUTES
Delta Protection Commission Meeting
Thursday, July 16, 2020

Meeting conducted via Zoom and telephone as authorized by Governor's Executive Orders [N-29-20](#) and [N-33-20 during the COVID-19 emergency](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair Villegas called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. and led the meeting participants in a flag salute.

2. Welcome and Roll Call

Acting Commission Clerk Stacy Hayden called the roll. Present at roll call: Chair Villegas, Vice-Chair Nottoli, Commissioners Winn, Burgis, Thomson, Krieg, Cabaldon, Paroli, Bugsch, Lester-Moffitt (for Ross), and McElhinney (for Kim). Commissioners Nakanishi, Crowfoot, van Loben Sels and Mussi were absent with no alternate present.

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

Charles Dulac introduced himself as representing Assemblyman Jim Frazier. There was no further comment.

4. Chair's Report on Delta Stewardship Council Activities

Chair Villegas reported on recent activities of the Delta Stewardship Council, including the June 25 meeting where six new members of the Delta Independent Science Board were appointed, Council members received presentations from Delta Watermaster Michael George and the Franks Tract Futures Project, and members adopted the Council's Public Participation Plan. In addition, the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) met on July 13 and discussed ecosystem-based management and reviewed the cross-cut budget for Delta science, which Chair Villegas recommended Commission members review. There was no Commission member nor public comment.

5. Commissioner comments/announcements

Commissioner Thomson inquired about the Delta transportation challenges report, which Executive Director Vink apologized for not providing. Mr. Vink indicated that it would be included in future Executive Director reports to the Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approval of May 21, 2020 Summary Minutes

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Thomson and seconded by Commissioner Burgis to approve the May 21, 2020 meeting minutes. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 11-0-0 with Commissioners Villegas, Nottoli, Thomson, Burgis, Winn, Krieg, Cabaldon, Paroli, Bugsch, Lester-Moffitt, and McElhinney voting aye.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Receive Executive Director Report

Executive Director Vink reported on Commissioner McElhinney's upcoming retirement from Caltrans and thus the Commission, with Commissioner McElhinney offering a farewell and Chair Villegas' thanking him for his service; recent Commission activities related to the Delta Conveyance Project, including ongoing meetings with Department of Water Resources (DWR) Delta Conveyance Office staff and DWR's release of a scoping comments summary document on July 10; recent execution of the National Park Service cooperative agreement for Delta NHA funding beginning in federal fiscal year 2020; discussed the Commission's adopted state fiscal year 2020-21 budget, which includes approximately 10% staff salary reductions as the only reduction from the Commission's baseline budget; provided an update on Commission personnel, including ongoing efforts to fill the Commission Clerk vacancy and staff planner Jeremy Terhune's assignment as a COVID-19 contact tracer for a 6-month period; summarized recent website and social media metrics, Commission land use comment letters, and Commission projects update; and concluded with a remembrance of Jay Sorensen, who died on June 22 and was a Stockton resident, a longtime Delta angler and conservationist.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment; there was none.

8. Consider appointments to Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC)

DPAC Chair Mark Pruner reported on the June 29 meeting of the newly-appointed DPAC, held on the outdoor patio of Clarksburg resident Michael Campbell. Mr. Pruner reported on the meeting, including an update from Commission staff planner Blake Roberts on the Delta National Heritage Area planning efforts, an update from DPAC member Lindsey Liebig on the Delta Conveyance Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC), and a roundtable discussion among DPAC members regarding a DPAC work plan.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment; Rio Vista resident Lynn Hansen inquired about the current status of the Delta tunnel project, and Executive Director Vink reiterated his earlier report and provide additional information to her following the meeting.

9. Receive report on Delta Community Design Study

Commission Senior Environmental Planner Blake Roberts provided a report on the design study, focusing on historic Delta communities with existing main streets (Isleton, Walnut Grove, Locke, Courtland, and Freeport) and identifying physical improvements to enhance the quality of life

and historic character of the communities. The work, conducted by Commission consultant Urban Field Studio, culminated in a full-day workshop in January 2020 and subsequent remote-based (due to COVID-19 restrictions) community outreach, including community surveys. Mr. Roberts provided examples of recommendations for individual communities studied.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment; there was none.

10. Receive report on Delta focus groups (ESP-Recreation and Tourism update)

Commission Program Manager Virginia Gardiner provided a report on the update of the Recreation and Tourism chapter of the Economic Sustainability Plan for the Delta (ESP), highlighting five focus groups (marina owners, business owners in the northeast (NE) and southwest (SW) Delta, recreation providers in the NE and SW Delta, activity participants such as kayakers and sailboarders, and underserved community groups) that were conducted both prior and subsequent to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. She highlighted some of the comments from the focus groups, both positive and negative.

Chair Villegas commented on a suggestion for a Delta Young Ambassadors program and expressed his support. He asked for public comment; there was none.

11. Adjourn

Chair Villegas adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m. in the memory of Jay Sorensen.