

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting**

**July 16, 2020**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Executive Director report**

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Erik Vink

Requested Action: **Receive report**

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**Commission Update**

**Delta Conveyance Project:** Commission staff met with DWR Delta Conveyance Office (DCO) staff on June 16; DWR reported that some 850 scoping comment letters were received with approximately 3,500 separate comments. A scoping document should be published in August that will likely include summaries of major comment areas and individual unique comments; a draft environmental impact report for the single-tunnel project is not anticipated until early 2021. The Design and Construction Authority Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) is meeting monthly (via web-based and telephone connection) and will meet again (via web-based and telephone connection) on July 22.

**Delta National Heritage Area:** The Commission-National Park Service Cooperative Agreement was executed in June. This will provide the Commission with approximately \$154,000 in federal funding for federal fiscal years beginning in October 2019, to be matched by at least an equivalent amount of spending or in-kind assistance.

**Commission FY 2020-21 Budget:** Details on the Commission’s approved budget for FY 2020-21 were not available at the time of this report, but we anticipate a baseline reduction equivalent to 10% of personnel costs and 5% of operating expenses. The Commission’s primary administrative contracts (California State Lands Commission for administrative support and California Natural Resources Agency for information technology support) were boosted with available FY 2019-20 funds in order to carry us through the leaner years ahead.

**Commission Staff:** Commission staff continue to work from home with occasional visits to the West Sacramento office. Following an unsuccessful Commission Clerk recruitment effort (several promising candidates were identified but we were unable to extend an employment offer to them), we are once again advertising for a Commission Clerk and hope to conduct interviews in early August. Commission Planner Jeremy Terhune has been assigned as a Covid-19 Contact Tracer and we expect that he will be deployed to assist county-level contact tracing efforts for the next six months.

**Commission Website and Social Media:** The Commission’s website ([www.delta.ca.gov](http://www.delta.ca.gov)), affiliated Delta marketing website ([www.visitcadelta.com](http://www.visitcadelta.com)), and the related social media presence on Facebook (@DeltaProtectionCommission and @VisitCADelta) and Twitter (@CA\_DPC and @VisitCADelta) are coordinated by Commission Communication Specialist Stacy

Hayden. The attachment to this report highlights usage in the period from April through June, 2020.

**Commission Land Use Comments:** As part of the Commission’s responsibility to ensure that local land use decisions in the Delta are consistent with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP), staff prepare comment letters to advise local agencies on their projects’ consistency with the LURMP; the Commission also frequently comments on State and federal projects that would impact Delta resources. The chart below lists the comment letters prepared by Commission staff from May 15, 2020 through July 9, 2020.

**Land Use Projects – Comment Letters  
May 15, 2020 through July 9, 2020**

County	Project Description	Authority	Primary (P) or Secondary (S) Zone or D (Delta-wide)	Comments
<b>San Joaquin County</b>	Development Title Text Amendment: <i>Revisions include updated language for agricultural mitigation.</i>	Jurisdictional project	P/S	Generally support revisions clarifying mitigation ratio and conservation easement process. Concerned about removal of term “in perpetuity” regarding conservation easements.
<b>San Joaquin County</b>	Potato Slough Bridge Bearing Pads Replacement: <i>Replacement of failed bearings on State Highway 12 bridge.</i>	Non-jurisdictional project that may affect Delta resources	P	Support needed bridge and roadway maintenance. Encourage maximum coordination between districts regarding maintenance work delays.
<b>Solano County</b>	Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project: <i>Restoration of approximately 3,000 acres of tidal wetland.</i>	Non-jurisdictional project that may affect Delta resources	P	Analysis should address permanent loss of flood storage capacity. Concern that changes to flood flow and conveyance could potentially increase flood risk.

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**Upcoming Events:** Many upcoming Delta public events have been cancelled or postponed. The following public meetings are still anticipated to be held, though likely via teleconferencing only.

July 22 - Delta Conservancy Board meeting

[www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov/board-meeting-materials](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov/board-meeting-materials)

July 23 - Delta Stewardship Council meeting

[www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings](http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings)

August 27 - Delta Stewardship Council meeting

[www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings](http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings)

September 5 - California Free Fishing Day

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/fishing/free-fishing-days](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/fishing/free-fishing-days)

**DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION BUDGET (FY 2019-20)**

<b>Fund Source Title</b>	<b>FY 2019-20 Budget (Past Year)</b>	<b>Roll-over from Previous FYs (Contracts from 18-19)</b>	<b>FY 2019-20 Total Amount Available</b>
Environmental License Plate Fund**	1,522,000	524,000	2,046,000
Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund	259,000	-	259,000
Federal Trust Fund	-	-	-
Reimbursements to ELPF	71,249	-	71,249
<b>Total State Operations Budget</b>	<b>1,852,249</b>	<b>524,000</b>	<b>2,376,249</b>

**Tables of Expenditures and Reimbursements – FY 2019-20**

Projected and Actual Expenditures

<b>Strategic Theme Area</b>	<b>Projected Budget for Salary, Benefits, and Office Expense ELPF (0140)</b>	<b>Projected Budget for Salary, Benefits, and Office Expense H&amp;WC (0516)</b>	<b>Interagency Agreements</b>	<b>Multi-Year Contracts to Non-DPC Entities</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Contract Balance Carry-Over to FY 2020-21</b>
<b>Land (Ag, LURMP) &amp; Water</b>	281,526	-	-	-	<b>281,526</b>	-
<b>Economic Sustainability*</b>	119,151	-	25,000	252,928	<b>397,079</b>	<b>85,753</b>
<b>Levees/Emergency Response</b>	128,770	-	-	-	<b>128,770</b>	-
<b>Recreation *</b>	49,228	224,629	7,750	170,670	<b>452,027</b>	<b>89,020</b>
<b>Delta Heritage</b>	170,174	-	26,251	-	<b>196,425</b>	-
<b>Delta Heritage (NHA)**</b>	62,948	-	71,000	149,400	<b>283,348</b>	<b>200,900</b>
<b>Outreach &amp; Education</b>	173,034	-	63,829	-	<b>236,863</b>	<b>35,334</b>
<b>Administration &amp; Capacity Building</b>	113,015	-	326,876	-	<b>439,891</b>	<b>197,217</b>
<b>Total Projected Spending</b>	<b>1,097,846</b>	<b>224,629</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Obligations and Expenditures</b>	-	-	<b>520,456</b>	<b>576,999</b>	<b>2,415,930</b>	<b>608,254</b>

Incoming Reimbursements (multi-year)

Reimbursement Source	Amount in Interagency Agreement	Year-to-Date - Sent for Payment	Year-to-Date Balance Carry-Over to FY 2020-21
Delta Signs and Maps – Delta Conservancy	(82,914)	(49,499)	(33,415)
North Delta Interpretive Plan - DSC	(22,250)	(21,750)	(0) Contract ended
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(105,164)</b>	<b>(71,249)</b>	<b>(33,415)</b>

Figures reflect regular budget expenditures, staffing charges, and contract spending through June 30, 2020

\* Budget Change Proposals for \$200,000 each were approved in FY 2018-19 budget (<https://esd.dof.ca.gov/dofpublic/viewBcp.html>)

\*\* Budget Change Proposal for \$200,000 was approved in FY 2019-20 budget (<https://esd.dof.ca.gov/dofpublic/viewBcp.html>)

## Delta Protection Commission Projects Update – July 16, 2020

<b><i>Project Name</i></b>	<b><i>Commission Staff Lead</i></b>	<b><i>Project Description</i></b>	<b><i>Current Status</i></b>
ESP Update – Ag Chapter	Erik Vink (from Melinda Dorin)	Partial update of Commission’s Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) initiated in 2017	Consultant reports were finalized and the Commission will soon post full reports or summaries on the Commission website and transmit to the Delta Stewardship Council. Commission staff are reviewing the consultant reports for recommendations Commissioners can review prior to transmittal to Delta Stewardship Council.
ESP Update – Recreation and Tourism Chapter	Virginia Gardiner	Partial update of Commission’s Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) initiated in 2019	The Commission’s consultant reviewed recreation-related studies completed since 2012 and identified gaps in data needed to update the ESP. Five focus groups were conducted to help refine visitation and spending information. The consultant and Commission staff are drafting recreation and tourism chapter updates, holding outreach meetings, and presenting at Commission meetings.
Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP) Update	Erik Vink (from Melinda Dorin)	Update of LURMP adopted by the Commission in 2010	Commission staff are producing a new iteration of the draft update that reflects comments received from Delta stakeholders.

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Delta Conveyance Project (Delta tunnel)	Virginia Gardiner	Tracking DWR environmental review process and tunnel design and engineering work through Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) and Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC)	Commission staff met with DWR staff in June to learn more about current efforts on the project. Commission staff continue to monitor DCA and SEC meetings.
Great Delta Trail Master Plan	Jeremy Terhune	Developing Delta trail plan to provide a framework for local and state agency trail development decisions	TrailPeople (master plan consultant) has completed preliminary drafts of sections of the Master Plan; focus groups and community outreach has been postponed during the Covid-19 pandemic and will be picked up again late in 2020.
National Heritage Area Management Plan	Blake Roberts	Long-term plan for Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area initiated in 2020	Point Heritage Development Consulting continues to develop project deliverables and anticipates holding a meeting with stakeholders in late summer. Preparation of best management practices, project charters, vision statement, workload analysis, and project plans should be completed by Fall 2020.
Delta Flood Preparedness Week (and Calendar)	Stacy Hayden	Delta Flood Preparedness Week in October 2020	Commission staff are reevaluating activities for Delta Flood Preparedness Week given the COVID-19 emergency and its lingering effects; possible activities include community emergency response training and working with River Delta Unified School District on disseminating information to primary zone households.



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“Welcome to the Delta” Signs; Delta Recreation Maps; Best of the Delta	Stacy Hayden  Jeremy Terhune	Delta Five-Year Marketing Plan (joint effort of Commission and Delta Conservancy)	Commission staff are working with Delta Conservancy and Delta-area legislative staff on obtaining encroachment permits from Caltrans for “Welcome to the Delta” signs to be placed in Caltrans right-of-way. Best of the Delta contest is underway with voting concluding on July 31.
Delta Community Action Plan Implementation	Blake Roberts	Implementation of plans created by Delta legacy communities	Commission consultants produced a new website ( <a href="http://deltacommunitydesign.org">http://deltacommunitydesign.org</a> ) on potential physical improvements for Delta legacy communities along the Sacramento River, including Isleton, Walnut Grove, Locke, Courtland, and Freeport, summarizing recommended actions from the Commission’s full-day workshop held in January 2020.
North Delta Interpretation	Blake Roberts	Interpretive planning for 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse and surrounding community	Commission staff are working with a CSU Sacramento graduate student to complete oral histories in the North Delta, as part of the 1883 Clarksburg Historic Schoolhouse project.
Delta Heritage Forum	Blake Roberts	3rd annual day-long conference focused on heritage	2020 Delta Heritage Forum is scheduled for November 6, 2020 at Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove.
Workgroups and Forums	Commission Staff		Ongoing work groups include Delta as Place Interagency Work Group, Delta Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Advisory Committee, and Delta Marketing Task Force. Commission staff have initiated planning for a Marketing Workshop and Transportation Summit.