

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting**  
**May 21, 2020**

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Franks Tract Futures update**

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Carl Wilcox (CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife) and Dr. Brett Milligan (UC Davis Dept. of Human Ecology)

Requested Action: **Receive report on Franks Tract Futures project**

Type of Action: Information

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**Background:** Franks Tract is a former Delta island located in Contra Costa County that has been flooded for more than 80 years. California State Parks operates the area as a State Recreation Area (SRA); it receives heavy boating and fishing use from nearby residents (especially the communities of Bethel Island and Discovery Bay), in addition to being a premier Delta recreation location.

The Franks Tract Futures project began with a feasibility study prepared by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in 2017-18. Since June 2019, CDFW and its consultant team have been conducting a collaborative planning process with involvement from local residents, local agencies, and interested stakeholders to develop a restoration/enhancement plan for Franks Tract that will accomplish recreation, ecosystem restoration, water quality, and other benefits. CDFW intends the plan coming out of this work to address recreation and boating navigation concerns, and expects that it will inform the update of the Franks Tract State Recreation Area (SRA) Management Plan.

Some of the plan benefits are expected to include:

- Creation of new recreation features within the Franks Tract SRA (beaches, mooring areas, sheltered coves, docks, day use areas with restrooms, and enhanced conditions for kayaking and wildlife viewing)
- Provide wave sheltering adjacent to Bethel Island and Little Franks Tract
- Maintenance of open water views from Bethel Island and continued access to its marinas
- Improved navigation and a reduction in aquatic weeds through deepening of channels and open-water areas

- Creation of a diversity of habitats for a variety of species, including species of concern, sport fish and waterfowl

CDFW and its consultant team have been seeking extensive public comment through well-attended public meetings and online surveys. These efforts have been challenged over the past two months by the COVID-19 emergency, but the project team intends to reach out to the interested parties through web-based meetings and other means to solicit input on the final concepts prior to an anticipated July 2020 final report. The selected concept will require significant additional planning, design, environmental review, and public input prior to implementation.

**Requested Action:** Receive report

***Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan):***

*Education and Outreach (Strategic Theme)*

*0.1 Ensure consistent, proactive communications between and among Delta interests and decision makers.*

*1.3 Foster two-way communication throughout the Delta*

*1.3.1 Actively seek input and opinions from the Delta to inform decisions impacting the region.*