

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
July 16, 2020**

AGENDA ITEM 9: Delta Community Design Study

Prepared by: Blake Roberts

Presented by: Blake Roberts

Requested Action: **Receive report on Delta Community Design Study**

Type of Action: Information

Background: Commission staff created the Delta Community Action Planning (DCAP) project in 2014 as part of implementation of the Delta Plan, specifically Recommendation DP R3 (Plan for the Vitality and Preservation of Legacy Communities):

Local governments, in cooperation with the Delta Protection Commission and Delta Conservancy, should prepare plans for each community that emphasize its distinctive character, encourage historic preservation, identify opportunities to encourage tourism, serve surrounding lands, or develop other appropriate uses, and reduce flood risks.

The legacy communities mentioned in Recommendation DP R3 are identified in Public Resources Code Section 32301(f): Bethel Island, Clarksburg, Courtland, Freeport, Hood, Isleton, Knightsen, Locke, Rio Vista, Ryde, and Walnut Grove.

DCAP drew inspiration from the action-oriented community and neighborhood plans created by the City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento and the grassroots community revitalization efforts of the non-profit organization Rio Vision in Rio Vista. Commission staff partnered with Sacramento and Yolo counties, the City of Isleton, and Sacramento State’s Center for Collaborative Policy on the community action plans. Final action plans were completed for Clarksburg, Courtland, and Walnut Grove in November 2016 and Hood in September 2018.

One of the recurring themes during the community action planning processes has been the need for community design assistance for the legacy communities. The Commission selected Urban Field Studio, an urban design consultant, to work with diverse stakeholders in assessing potential physical improvements for Sacramento River communities with traditional main streets (i.e., Courtland, Freeport, Isleton, Locke, Walnut Grove) and prioritizing their importance for community efforts, grant writing, and funding. These planning efforts also benefit the Commission’s work on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area, which offers opportunities for community improvements and economic development while preserving their historic character.

Urban Field Studio worked with Commission staff to hold stakeholder interviews and a Community Design Workshop on January 10 and 11, 2020. A second in-person meeting to discuss recommended community and regional improvements was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so Commission staff and the Urban Field Studio engaged in other types of community outreach, including an online meeting and a website (available at www.deltacommunitydesign.org) that summarized potential improvements and featured regional and community surveys. The surveys closed on May 31, 2020.

Commission staff will present on recommended physical improvements and will be summarizing these findings in a final report.

Recommended Action: Receive report.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan):

Delta Heritage (Strategic Theme)

H.3 Support local governments in preparing and implementing plans that emphasize the vitality and preservation of Legacy Communities.