

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
September 17, 2020**

AGENDA ITEM 7: Executive Director report

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Erik Vink

Requested Action: **Receive report**

Type of Action: Information Only

Commission Update

Delta Conveyance Project: Department of Water Resources (DWR) Delta Conveyance Office (DCO) released a July 10 summary report of comments submitted in response to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Preparation (NOP); the draft environmental impact report (in conjunction with a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers draft environmental impact statement, with scoping comments due October 20, 2020) is now anticipated in early 2022.

Commission staff met with DWR Delta Conveyance Office (DCO) staff on August 3; DWR reported on mitigation of agriculture impacts as well as community benefit and recreation, including DWR responsibilities under the Davis-Dolwig Act to provide recreation benefits associated with State Water Project facilities. The DCO is also preparing to conduct an environmental justice survey of the Delta.

At its July and August meetings, both the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) and Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) discussed the tunnel project preliminary cost analysis (approximately \$16 billion) and design and siting changes made by the DCA at least partly in response to input from the SEC, including elimination of two major barge locations, consolidating facilities at Twin Cities Road to minimize agricultural acreage affected, reduction of truck trips by reducing height and pad size of maintenance shafts across the project, widening State Route 12 (from Interstate 5 to Bouldin Island) from two lanes to four, reducing traffic/truck trips at Byron Highway by adding an overpass and adding rail transport for borrow material, committing to biodegradable and natural compounds for soil conditioners, and possible elimination of the new Southern Forebay through tunnel outfall directly at Bethany Reservoir.

The final version of the Governor’s Water Resilience Portfolio was released on July 28, 2020. In addition to Delta Conveyance, the portfolio included recommendations to continue to support local levee operations and maintenance in the Delta; to support implementation of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and its “state systemwide investment approach” to protect urban areas, small communities, and rural areas; improve operations and maintenance of the flood

system; better coordinate reservoir operations; improve flood emergency response system; and integrate natural systems into flood risk reduction projects.

Delta Leadership Program: Considering ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and the imperative to conduct Delta Leadership Program sessions in-person, both Commission staff and the Delta Regional Foundation have agreed to postpone the Delta Leadership Program in 2021. In its place, we will focus on developing the Delta Leadership Program alumni effort, including continuing education seminars (via Zoom) and developing cohesiveness among the nearly 85 alumni of the program in years 1-5.

Vision 2030 (Commission Strategic Plan) Review: Adopted in May 2015, Vision 2030 (the Commission’s strategic plan) is recommended for a review and possible revision. Working with strategic plan consultant Lisa Beutler (Stantec), initial steps would include an internal staff workshop leading to a check-in recommended for the Commission’s November 19 meeting. Subsequent to that check-in, additional outreach opportunities (DPAC, Delta community) would gather community input before a final review at a Commission meeting in early 2021.

Delta Heritage Forum: The 2020 Forum will be held on November 6 as a full-day Zoom event focused on efforts to preserve and tell Delta stories, opportunities for partnerships and collaboration, and networking. Participants will include cultural organizations, federal, state, and local officials, business and civic organizations, and those interested in Delta heritage.

Delta Transportation Challenges: Commission staff are finalizing a plan to convene a Delta transportation summit via Zoom later this fall. The meeting will focus on Caltrans efforts to maintain and improve Delta transportation features (highways, bridges, and ferries) and the role that local transportation agencies play in ensuring efficient circulation throughout the Delta region.

Best of the Delta: Visit CA Delta’s fourth annual *Best of the Delta* survey is complete and has continued to garner more responses each year. Winners and runners-up are being presented with their certificates by mail.

BEST SMALL TOWN

1st Place: **Locke**
Runner-up: **Walnut Grove**

BEST RESTAURANT TAKE-OUT

1st Place: **Locke Garden Restaurant**
Runner-up: **Manny's Barzzeria**

BEST BAR

1st Place: **Mei Wah Beer Room**
Runner-up: **Tony's Place**

BEST MUSIC & DANCING

1st Place: **Moore's Riverboat Restaurant**
Runner-up: **Tony's Place**

BEST WINERY

1st Place: **Bogle Vineyards**
Runner-up: **Cosumnes River Farm**

BEST INN OR B&B

1st Place: **The Bartlett**
Runner-up: **B & W Resort Marina**

BEST RV CAMPING

1st Place: **Ko-Ket Resort**
Runner-up: **Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park™**
Camp-Resort: **Tower Park**

BEST MARINA

1st Place: **Willow Berm Marina**
Runner-up: **Owl Harbor Marina**

BEST FISHING SPOT

1st Place: **Owl Harbor Marina**
Runners-up (Tied):
Rio Vista Pier / Willow Berm Marina

BEST SOUVENIR & GIFT SHOP

1st Place: **Chinese Cultural Shop**
Runner-up: **Seeker Locke**

BEST ART GALLERY

1st Place: **Moon Café Gallery**
Runner-up: **Ning Hou**

BEST NATURE AREA OR TRAIL

1st Place: **Cosumnes River Preserve**
Runner-up: **Delta Meadows State Park**

BEST WEDDING VENUE

1st Place: **Grand Island Mansion**
Runner-up: **Willow Ballroom**

BEST MUSEUM OR VISITOR CENTER

1st Place: **Locke Boarding House Museum**
Runner-up: **Rio Vista Museum**

BEST ANNUAL EVENT

1st Place: **Locke Asian Spring Festival**
Runner-up: **Courtland Pear Fair**

Delta Waterway Cleanup: The Delta Waterway Cleanup, part of California Coastal Cleanup Day, is set for September 26, 2020. For safety reasons, there are no large, centrally-organized cleanup sites this year. Instead, cleanups will be self-guided and close to home, focusing on cleaning neighborhoods, local parks, streets, and storm drains. Commission staff will share information on social media and directly to Delta groups about how to participate while

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practicing physical distancing. Additional safety tips, and general information about reducing waste will also be shared. Cleanup supplies such as trash bags and gloves can be scheduled for pick-up from the Commission office.

Commission FY 2020-21 Budget: The Commission’s approved budget for FY 2020-21 included a reduction of \$119,085, an approximately 7% reduction from our baseline state budget of \$1.69 million (Environmental License Plate Fund, Harbors and Watercraft Fund). In addition, the Commission received \$154,000 in federal fiscal year 2020 funding for the Delta National Heritage Area and expects to receive a similar amount in federal fiscal year 2021.

Commission Staff: Commission staff continue to work from home with occasional visits to the West Sacramento office. We are pleased to announce that Sis Hendrix joined us as Commission Clerk beginning September 8, and Sacramento State graduate student Kevin Murphy joined us as a student assistant in August.

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. There were no land use comment letters prepared by Commission staff from July 10 through September 10, 2020.

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

September 24-25 – Delta Stewardship Council meeting

www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings

September 26 – Delta Waterway Cleanup

www.delta.ca.gov/Cleanup

October 17-24 – Delta Flood Preparedness Week

www.delta.ca.gov/BePrepared

October 22-23 – Delta Stewardship Council meeting

www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings

October 28 – Delta Conservancy board meeting

www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov/board-meeting-materials

November 6 – Delta Heritage Forum

www.delta.ca.gov/NHA

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November 19 – Delta Protection Commission meeting

www.delta.ca.gov/commission-meetings

November 19-20 – Delta Stewardship Council meeting

www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings

Delta Protection Commission Projects Update – September 17, 2020

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Commission Staff Lead</i>	<i>Project Description</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
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 which 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 has submitted an internal draft recreation and tourism chapter update for staff review in September. The Commission staff and consultant will be holding outreach meetings and presenting to the Commission at its November 2020 meeting.
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.
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 continue to meet with DWR staff bimonthly to learn more about current efforts on the project. With the addition of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Commission comments on the Corps Notice of Intent will be prepared. Commission staff continue to monitor DCA and SEC meetings.

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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 the National Heritage Area Management Plan Advisory Committee in late fall 2020 or early winter 2021. California State Parks will begin work on the interpretive section of the Management Plan in December 2020.
Delta Flood Preparedness Week (and Calendar)	Stacy Hayden	Delta Flood Preparedness Week, October 17 to 24, 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 sending information to primary zone households.
Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future	Virginia Gardiner	Technical Advisory Committee - Review of Technical Memos	Commission staff are participating on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Delta Stewardship Council’s Delta Adapts initiative. The first phase, which is currently underway, consists of a regional vulnerability assessment of equity and Environmental Justice, water supply, flooding, and ecosystems. The second phase will seek to develop an adaptation strategy and build a climate change resilience “toolkit.”

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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 and Conservancy staff are developing “Welcome to the Delta” sign designs highlighting the Delta NHA, for approval by Caltrans at its October sign committee meeting. The proposed sign designs are designed to meet Caltrans strict design requirements and the spirit of the Delta Sign Plan. The Delta Marketing Task Force has provided feedback on and support for the new sign designs. Commission and Conservancy staff have received feedback and support from the Delta Marketing Task Force to leverage the branding and platforms of Visit CA Delta for the Delta NHA.
Delta Community Action Plan Implementation	Blake Roberts	Implementation of plans created by Delta legacy communities	Commission staff are preparing a final report on potential physical improvements for Delta legacy communities along the Sacramento River, including Isleton, Walnut Grove, Locke, Courtland, and Freeport. The Commission and consultant Urban Field Studio held a full-day workshop in January 2020 and an online meeting and community surveys in May 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 will be held via Zoom on November 6, 2020.
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 Transportation Summit.

Budget and Spending for Delta Protection Commission - FY 20/21

SALARIES & WAGES (ESTIMATED)	Year to Date Spent	Budget Amount	Remaining	% Remaining
Land (Ag, LURMP) & Water	\$ 22,532	\$ 216,374	—	—
Economic Sustainability *	\$ 17,300	\$ 117,590	—	—
Levees/Emergency Response	\$ 13,136	\$ 124,900	—	—
Recreation *	\$ 23,805	\$ 187,538	—	—
Delta Heritage (General)	\$ 17,725	\$ 69,520	—	—
Delta Heritage (NHA) **	\$ 19,323	\$ 155,899	—	—
Outreach & Education	\$ 22,189	\$ 140,262	—	—
Administration & Capacity Building	\$ 12,962	\$ 110,318	—	—
SUBTOTALS; SALARIES AND WAGES	\$ 148,971	\$ 1,122,402	\$ 973,430	87%
CONTRACTS AND INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS	\$ 56,541	\$ 629,540	\$ 572,999	91%
GENERAL EXPENSE	\$ 17,142	\$ 148,880	\$ 131,738	88%
SUBTOTALS; OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 73,683	\$ 800,920	\$ 727,237	91%
SubTotal (ELPF)	\$ 205,417	\$ 1,775,322	\$ 1,569,905	88%
SubTotal (HWC)	\$ 17,237	\$ 148,000	\$ 130,763	88%
Grand Totals	\$ 222,654	\$ 1,923,322	\$ 1,700,667	88%

Figures reflect regular budget expenditures, estimated staffing charges, and contract spending through August 31, 2020

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

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