

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

AGENDA ITEM 9: Receive report on Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Delta islands (Bacon Island, Webb Tract, Bouldin Island, and part of Holland Tract)

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Stephen Arakawa, MWD

Requested Action: **Receive report on MWD Delta islands**

Type of Action: Information

Background: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) completed its \$175 million purchase of five Delta islands totaling more than 20,000 acres in San Joaquin County (Bouldin Island and Bacon Island), Contra Costa County (Webb Tract and part of Holland Tract), and Solano County (a portion of Chipps Island) on July 18, 2016. In 2019, MWD sold its 243-acre portion of Chipps Island to DWR.

In September 2016, then-MWD Chairman Randy Record and MWD Manager of Bay-Delta Initiatives Stephen Arakawa presented to the Commission at its Stockton meeting. Only months into its ownership of the islands, MWD pledged to work with Delta interests as it initiated its planning for any land use changes on the islands. Since its 2016 acquisition, MWD has continued with historic farming activities on the largely agricultural islands, continued to pay its property taxes and reclamation district assessments, and has been an active participant in the Delta levee community. MWD representative Russ Ryan also sits as a member of the Delta Protection Advisory Committee, representing water exporters.

In March 2020, California Department of Fish and Wildlife announced a \$1.13 million Prop. 1 grant to MWD for “analysis of opportunities for island-wide improvements that includes a mosaic of multiple land uses for subsidence reversal, sustainable agricultural practices, carbon sequestration, water quality and habitat restoration” on the MWD Delta islands.

Stephen Arakawa, Manager of Bay-Delta Initiatives for MWD, will present to the Commission on current activities and future plans for the MWD Delta islands. Mr. Arakawa is a civil engineer who has worked for MWD for more than 30 years and was previously a DWR staff engineer.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan):

Education and Outreach (Strategic Theme)

O.1 Ensure consistent, proactive communications between and among Delta interests and decision makers.

1.3 Foster two-way communication throughout the Delta.