

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
November 19, 2020**

AGENDA ITEM 8: 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: Commission staff met with Department of Water Resources (DWR) Delta Conveyance Office staff and consultants in September and October for updates on the status of their Environmental Impact Report (EIR) studies. Commission staff are interested in the potential for additional recreation surveys (such as counts to determine current usage), as well as the status of DWR discussions with local recreation and parks agencies, California State Parks, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife on Davis-Dolwig Act recreation planning associated with tunnel design. Potential State Water Project (SWP) recreation projects pursuant to the Davis-Dolwig Act would be separate from any California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) mitigations, or recreation-related benefits from a Community Benefit Fund.

Staff also continues to attend the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board and Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) meetings. The November 5, 2020 SEC meeting included DCA’s responses to deferred additional information requests that SEC members have made over the past year. Topics addressed included estimates of truck traffic generated by annual maintenance removal of sediment from the intakes during project operations, construction site water management, emergency response plans for construction, tunnel muck management, and use of a potential Twin Cities Road tunnel muck stockpile for upland foraging habitat. DCA intends to continue convening the SEC periodically through the end of 2021 and will conclude the Committee’s work upon release of their draft EIR. DWR plans to lead discussion of a Community Benefits Program Framework concept at the December SEC meeting.

DWR’s outreach to agencies is underway and the Environmental Justice “Your Delta Your Voice” survey continues through the end of November. Fieldwork for the soil investigations has begun. The EIR is in the “Project Definition” phase, and a draft EIR is currently projected for mid-2022.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is the federal agency lead for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of the project and is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS public comment scoping period closed on October 20, 2020 and Commission staff submitted a comment letter. The draft EIS is expected to be completed in mid-2022.

Related to the Corps NEPA process, the Commission requested Cooperating Agency status and the request was formally denied. The Corps has invited the Commission to participate in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation on historic and cultural resources, and we have accepted the invitation.

Vision 2030 (Commission Strategic Plan) Review: Commission staff worked with strategic plan consultant Lisa Beutler (Stantec) to review Vision 2030 (the Commission’s strategic plan) at a November 4 staff workshop, with a second session planned for November 13. DPAC also reviewed Vision 2030 at its November 4 meeting; in a workshop format, DPAC discussed significant changes that have occurred since the 2015 adoption of Vision 2030 as well as any future trends that may inform potential updates to the strategic plan. Commission staff will provide additional outreach opportunities for interested Delta stakeholders prior to a review of potential updates at a Commission meeting in early 2021.

Delta Heritage Forum: The 2020 Forum was held on November 6 as a full-day virtual event focused on efforts to preserve and tell Delta stories, opportunities for partnerships and collaboration, and networking (videos of the Forum sessions and lightning talks will be available at <http://delta.ca.gov/heritage-forum/>). Over one hundred people, including the executive directors of the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area (CO) and Niagara Falls National Heritage Area (NY), participated in the event.

Delta Transportation Challenges: Commission staff have been working with Caltrans district leadership on mechanisms to improve communication between Caltrans districts and Delta transportation stakeholders, and continue to develop plans for convening a Delta transportation summit via Zoom. 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.

Delta Waterway Cleanup: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there were no officially organized cleanup events this year. Commission staff utilized social media and direct outreach to encourage Delta residents to clean up near their homes and a step-by-step plan was posted on the Commission website to help community members clean up safely and report their data in the CleanSwell phone application. We especially want to call out Sara Davis as a Delta

Waterway Cleanup champion this year. She organized a group of volunteers to clean up an area near the Highway 12/160 intersection; among multiple bags of garbage, the group removed a boat, a jetski, 2 refrigerators, and a television.

Delta Flood Preparedness: The Commission partnered again with DWR to produce a 2021 Delta Flood Preparedness calendar, which will be mailed out in late November or early December to 5,234 residential addresses in Courtland, Clarksburg, Isleton, Walnut Grove, Thornton, Holt, and Bethel Island. There will be several hundred additional copies for distribution as well. Delta Flood Preparedness Week was October 17 to 24, in coordination with overall state efforts. Commission staff developed and shared an extensive social media campaign, including the Commission’s first-ever video production. Staff are continuing to develop materials for River Delta Unified School District to share flood preparedness information in both English and Spanish to Delta families, as well as offer available online resources teachers can introduce through their on-line learning platforms. Staff is also working with Stockton-based Latino Times to share more information in both English and Spanish through their print and online platforms.

Commission FY 2021-22 Budget: The Commission (along with other state agencies) is being directed to reduce future spending by 5% to support a balanced budget in the upcoming fiscal year. The Commission is prepared to absorb this cut through reductions in operating expenses. A snapshot of this year’s Commission’s budget and spending to date is included at the conclusion of this report.

Commission Staff: Commission staff continue to work from home with occasional visits to the West Sacramento office. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Blake Roberts has accepted a promotion as a Program Manager, where he will continue to be the Commission’s lead on Delta NHA.

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 September 11, 2020 through November 12, 2020.

Land Use Projects – Comment Letters
September 11, 2020 through November 12, 2020

County	Project Description	Authority	Primary (P) or Secondary (S) Zone or D (Delta-wide)	Comments
Multi-County	Delta Conveyance: Notice of Intent for Environmental Impact Study	Non-jurisdictional project that may affect Delta resources	P/S	EIS should explicitly identify how impacts to entire project area and project operation would be assessed, by what agency, and when. Tunnel will irreversibly damage Delta agriculture, recreation, cultural, and natural resources. Letter presents assessment of potential impacts, offers alternatives and effective and feasible mitigation measures for consideration, and reaffirms position that previously ill-defined impacts must now receive attention they require.
Multi-County	Plan Bay Area 2050: <i>Long-range regional plan for transportation, housing, economy, and environment for Bay Area.</i>	Jurisdictional project; Delta Trail	P/S	Encourage EIR to consider LURMP when assessing Project’s consistency with applicable land use plans, policies, and regulations and to discuss Delta Trail in recreation and transportation section.

Commission Website and Social Media: The Commission’s website (www.delta.ca.gov), affiliated Delta marketing website (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 July through September, 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.

November

November – Native American Heritage Month

<https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov>

November 26 – Unofficial Turkey Trot, Rio Vista

<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/RioVista/RioVistaTurkeyTrot?fbclid=IwAR3eXeFXoN1RAOy9-mAqV9m6LK41MA-daG3lnKKQOkbTkVJJBwuYsvxOxrg>

December

December 4 – Lighted Boat Show, Village West Marina

<https://villagewestmarina.com/vwm-events>

December 12 – Lighted Boat Parade, Discovery Bay Yacht Club

<https://dbyc.com>

Delta Protection Commission Projects Update – November 19, 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	Commission staff initiated outreach meetings to the Delta as Place Interagency Working Group and the Delta Protection Advisory Committee in October and November and will present to the Commission at this meeting. Staff and the consultant will be conducting outreach into January 2021.
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 meetings with DWR, Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA), and Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC)	Commission staff continues to meet with DWR staff bimonthly to learn more about current efforts on the project and to monitor DCA and SEC meetings. Staff submitted comments on the Corps of Engineers Notice of Intent for the NEPA process. The Commission is also participating as a consulting party in the Section 106 cultural resources review process.

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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 early 2021.
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 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 conducted Delta Flood Preparedness Week activities and plan ongoing activities throughout 2021. The Commission partnered again with DWR to produce a 2021 Delta Flood Preparedness calendar, which will be mailed out in late November or early December to 5,234 residential addresses in Courtland, Clarksburg, Isleton, Walnut Grove, Thornton, Holt, and Bethel Island. There will be several hundred additional copies for distribution as well.
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 (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 developed “Welcome to the Delta” sign designs highlighting the Delta NHA, and the designs have been approved by Caltrans. 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 conference focused on heritage	2020 Delta Heritage Forum was 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	\$ 43,423	\$ 216,374	—	—
Economic Sustainability	\$ 39,446	\$ 117,590	—	—
Levees/Emergency Response	\$ 27,000	\$ 124,900	—	—
Recreation	\$ 48,313	\$ 187,538	—	—
Delta Heritage (General)	\$ 37,736	\$ 69,520	—	—
Delta Heritage (NHA)	\$ 35,611	\$ 155,899	—	—
Outreach & Education	\$ 46,108	\$ 140,262	—	—
Administration & Capacity Building	\$ 28,867	\$ 110,318	—	—
SUBTOTALS; SALARIES AND WAGES	\$ 306,504	\$ 1,122,402	\$ 815,898	73%
CONTRACTS AND INTERAGENCY				
AGREEMENTS * **	\$ 79,151	\$ 668,895	\$ 589,743	88%
GENERAL EXPENSE	\$ 34,232	\$ 171,380	\$ 137,148	80%
SUBTOTALS; OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 113,383	\$ 840,275	\$ 726,891	87%
SubTotal (ELPF)	\$ 385,862	\$ 1,814,676	\$ 1,428,815	79%
SubTotal (HWC)	\$ 34,025	\$ 148,000	\$ 113,975	77%
Grand Totals	\$ 419,887	\$ 1,962,676	\$ 1,542,789	79%

Figures reflect regular budget expenditures, estimated staffing charges, and contract spending through October 30, 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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