

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
November 17, 2022**

AGENDA ITEM 10: Receive Executive Director report

Prepared by: Bruce Blodgett

Presented by: Bruce Blodgett

Requested Action: **Receive Executive Director Report**

Type of Action: Information only

Commission Update

Delta Conveyance Project: The Draft EIR for the project was released on July 27, 2022, for a 90-day comment period closing October 27, 2022. The Delta Conveyance Authority then extended the comment period to December 17, 2022. We along with members of the California legislature have requested in-person hearings and a further extension of the comment period. To date, those requests have been denied. Commission comments on the project were in Item 9 of the agenda.

Delta Levee Investment Strategy (DLIS) Rulemaking Process: The Commission has been involved in the DLIS and subsequent rulemaking process since 2014. The final DLIS was adopted in 2018. In August 2022, the Delta Stewardship Council reinitiated the process to update the regulations, including Delta Plan Policy RRP1, in accordance with the DLIS. Commission staff have coordinated with local agencies regarding comments on the rulemaking process. Please refer to your packet under Item 12 of the agenda for more information.

Delta Stewardship Council appeals process: In spite of the recommendation to NOT limit the role of the Commission (both staff and the Chair) when it comes to the appeal process, the Council voted to move forward.

Commission Staffing: The Executive Director has made a conditional offer and will soon on-board a highly skilled Financial Officer. The position directly reports to and advises the Executive Director. Commission staff completed interviews in October for the vacant (May 2022) Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) position and we were unable to make a job offer. The vacancy is advertised through November 15 for applications. The AGPA will report directly to the new Financial Officer.

National Heritage Area Management Plan: A request for proposals is currently circulating for a contractor to finish the National Heritage Area Management Plan.

Delta Heritage Forum: The Commission held the fifth annual Delta Heritage Forum on Thursday, November 3. The event was attended by 50 individuals representing Delta communities and historic and cultural organizations. The Forum included discussions on using the National Historic Preservation Act to protect the Delta’s cultural resources, events for the 250-year anniversary of America’s independence, writing on the Delta, and an evening workshop on the National Heritage Area Management Plan. The Forum materials will be made available on the Commission’s website.

National Heritage Area Management Plan Advisory Committee: The next NHA Advisory Committee will be meeting on Thursday, December 1 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM.

Office Move: The Commission will be moving to a smaller suite in the same building in West Sacramento, scheduled for November 15. There may be brief interruption of network service but it is unlikely. The new address will be 2101 Stone Blvd, Suite 200, West Sacramento, CA 95691. The telephone numbers will not change.

Commission Land Use Comments: The chart below lists the land use comment letters prepared by Commission staff from September 9, 2022 through November 8, 2022.

Land Use Projects – Comment Letters

September 9, 2022 through November 8, 2022

County	Project Description	Authority	Primary (P) or Secondary (S) Zone or D (Delta-wide)	Comments
Multiple	Negative Declaration for preservation actions of the Old River Bridge on State Route 4 at the San Joaquin and Contra Costa County line	Non-jurisdictional project that may affect Delta resources	P	Commission supports the California Department of Transportation’s efforts to preserve historic bridges in the Delta.
Sacramento	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Permit for the proposed Zacharias Mitigation Bank	Non-jurisdictional project that may affect Delta resources	P	Review project for compliance with the Land Use and Resources Management Plan (LURMP). Any farmland converted to non-agricultural uses or taken out of production should be mitigated. Consider potential impacts to surrounding properties, including impacts to agricultural operations and seepage, and water quality impacts on nearby irrigated farmland.
Sacramento	Hood Septic to Sewer Conversion Project Draft Environmental Report	Jurisdictional	P	Project is consistent with the LURMP and the Hood Community Action Plan. Consider how traffic impacts may affect agricultural operations during the harvest season.
Yolo	Notice of Preparation for the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership - Master Plan Environmental Impact Report	Jurisdictional	P, S	Review any proposed projects and mitigation measure for compliance with the LURMP. Take advantage of the Yolo Bypass for recreational activities. Involve Delta people in the planning process. Utilize “good neighbor” practices when implementing habitat or species mitigation measures. Prioritize use of existing public lands for habitat. Identify if any projects or mitigation measures will lie within the primary zone.

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Upcoming Events:

NOVEMBER 2022

November 17 and 18 – Delta Stewardship Council Meeting

deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings

DECEMBER 2022

December 1 – Delta National Heritage Area Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

delta.ca.gov/NHA

December 2 to 4 – San Joaquin County Historical Museum Festival of Trees

sanjoaquinhistory.org

December 4 – Christmas on the Farm with the East Contra Costa Historical Society

eastcontracostahistory.org

December 8 – Delta Independent Science Board Meeting

deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-isb/meetings

December 15 and 16 – Delta Stewardship Council Meeting

deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings

JANUARY 2023

January 25 – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board Meeting

deltaconservancy.ca.gov/updates-events/

Budget and Spending for Delta Protection Commission - FY 22/23

Category of Spending / Reimbursement

FY 22-23 Categories	Budget Amount	Spending and Reimbursements to Oct. 31, 2022
Salaries and Wages (Estimated)	\$ 1,205,000	\$ 433,945
Encumbered Contracts (Carry Over from Prior FYs)	\$ 185,176	\$ 59,528
General Expenses (Estimated; Adjusted to include 2 new contracts for Admin. Services on Consent)	\$ 400,000	\$ 76,383
Total=	\$ 1,790,176	

Source of Funds

FY 22-23 Subtotals	Budget Amount	
SubTotal (ELPF)	\$ 1,420,000	
SubTotal (HWC)	\$ 276,000	
Subtotal State Reimbursements	\$ 215,000	
Subtotal (FTF for Federal FY 20 - two contracts carry over)	\$ 19,705	\$ -
Subtotal (FTF for Federal FY 22)	\$ 157,500	\$ (12,625.27)
Total=	\$ 2,088,205	

See: \\cnrstore-clnt\DPC\Data\Admin\BUDGETING\2223 ED Reports

Delta Protection Commission Projects Update – November 2022

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Commission Staff Lead</i>	<i>Project Description</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
Delta Conveyance Project (Delta tunnel)	Virginia Gardiner	Tracking DWR environmental review process through meetings with DWR; tracking Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) meetings.	See Staff Report, Agenda Item 12.
Great California Delta Trail Master Plan (GCDTMP)	Virginia Gardiner	GCDTMP provides a framework for local and state agency trail development decisions.	Beginning in first quarter of 2023 staff will convene a committee of partners around the Delta who will help prioritize Plan recommendations, including identifying trail segments that may be eligible for designation as part of the Great Delta Trail system.
National Heritage Area Management Plan	Blake Roberts	Long-term plan for Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area initiated in 2020	The NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee met on September 1 to discuss the management plan resource inventory and interpretive goals and objectives. The next NHA Advisory Committee meetings are planned for October 6 and November 8, 2022. The Delta Heritage Forum, scheduled for November 3 in Walnut Grove, will feature an update on the management plan.
Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future	Virginia Gardiner, Natasha Nelson	Technical Advisory Committee - Review of Technical Memos	Development of an Adaptation Strategy and building a climate change resilience “toolkit,” efforts initiated in late 2021 and are continuing. Commission Staff will meet with Council staff in late November to review possible scenarios for consideration in the Adaptation Strategy.

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“Welcome to the Delta National Heritage Area” Signs	Virginia Gardiner	Delta Five-Year Marketing Plan (joint effort of Commission and Delta Conservancy)	“Welcome to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area” signs will be installed by the CA Conservation Corps at 11 locations around the Delta selected by the Delta Marketing Task Force. Signs are slated for installation in Sacramento and Yolo counties between December 2022 and March 2023. Encroachment permits from Districts 4 and 10 are in process; prior to installation Maintenance Agreements must be concluded.
Clean California Wayfinding and Interpretive Signs	Kirsten Pringle	Using Clean CA Grant to install signs along Caltrans right-of-way	Staff are in the process of executing an Interagency Agreement with Caltrans for the project. The draft Interagency Agreement is currently under review by Caltrans staff.
Delta Community Action Plan Implementation	Kirsten Pringle	Implementation of plans created by Delta legacy communities	The Commission final report on potential physical improvements for Delta legacy communities along the Sacramento River, including Isleton, Walnut Grove, Locke, Courtland, and Freeport, is now available on the Commission website.
North Delta Oral Histories	Blake Roberts	Interpretive planning for 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse & environs	Commission staff are working with the Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse to complete oral histories in the North Delta.
Delta Marketing Campaign	TBD		Staff have limited capacity until vacancies are filled. Only critical updates to the VisitCADelta website are being undertaken in the interim.
Workgroups and Forums	Commission Staff		Ongoing work groups include Delta as Place Interagency Work Group and Delta Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Advisory Committee.