

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
January 20, 2022**

AGENDA ITEM 9: State Lands Commission Abandoned Commercial Vessel Removal

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Vicki Caldwell, State Lands
Commission

Requested Action: **Receive report on State Lands Commission Abandoned Commercial Vessel Removal Plan efforts**

Type of Action: Information

Background: The issue of abandoned and derelict vessels (ADV) in Delta waterways has long been of concern to the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), as they create navigation, contamination, and public health and safety problems.

The state has long had a recreational vessel removal program, funded by boat registration fees and administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Division of Boating and Waterways).

Commercial vessels are non-recreational boats of at least 30 feet in length that were manufactured for commercial or military purposes or used for other than recreational purposes during some part of their functional life. Examples of commercial vessels are retired tugboats and barges. A 2017 aerial survey of commercial ADV, conducted by California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Office of Spill Prevention and Response (and supported by the Commission), found 55 commercial ADV in the Delta region, and estimated a cost of more than \$30 million to remove these hazards.

Former Assemblyman Jim Frazier championed the issue and secured \$12 million in funding in the FY 2021-22 state budget to address the problem of commercial ADV. Earlier, he authored statute that directed the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) to develop a commercial ADV removal program and implement it upon funding. The \$12 million budget augmentation will kick off the effort.

Vicki Caldwell will present to the Delta Protection Commission on behalf of CSLC, where she has worked for more than twenty years and is currently the compliance and enforcement manager, ensuring that waterways remain safe and hazard free.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan):

Education and Outreach (Strategic Theme)

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

1.3 Foster two-way communication throughout the Delta.

1.3.3 Foster communication between Delta interests for improved, coordinated action.