

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

AGENDA ITEM 12: Consider Commission position on SB 1065 (authorizing commercial abandoned and derelict vessel removal and forming a statewide Coordinating Council)

Prepared by: Kirsten Pringle

Presented by: Erik Vink

Requested Action: **Approve support letter for SB 1065**

Type of Action: Action

Background: Senate Bill 1065 (SB 1065), introduced by Senator Talamantes Eggman, would establish a statewide program within the Natural Resource Agency to bring federal, state, and local agencies together to identify, prioritize, and fund removal of commercial abandoned and derelict vessels (CADVs).

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. The issue of abandoned and derelict vessels in Delta waterways has long been of concern to the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), and a presentation on the State Lands Commission efforts to remove CADVs utilizing FY 21-22 state funding was featured at the January 20, 2022 Commission meeting. CADVs create navigation, contamination, and public health and safety problems. Unlike recreational vessels, such as ski, fishing, and houseboats, a statewide program currently does not exist to fund removal and destruction of CADVs. State and local agencies must rely on cooperation by vessel owners, extensive legal efforts, and limited federal actions.

SB 1065 would create the Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessel Program (Program), Program Coordinating Council, and Program Fund. The Program would be established within the Natural Resources Agency and administered by the State Lands Commission. The Program Coordinating Council would oversee and provide policy direction for the Program, as well as strategy to remove and destruct CADVs. The Program Coordinating Council would consist of seven voting members and up to four non-voting members. One of the seven voting members would be a local member appointed by the Commission from a county that encompasses a portion of the Delta.

As part of the Program, the State Lands Commission, in coordination with the Program Coordinating Council, would be required to create an inventory of CADVs in waters of the state, including the Delta, and develop a plan to prevent or reduce these CADVs. The Program Fund

DPC March 17, 2022 meeting – Agenda Item 12 (SB 1065 – Commercial Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program)

would be funded by legislative appropriations and fines collected on CADVs occupying waters of the state.

SB 1065 is supported by Sacramento County and the Delta Counties Coalition. The bill is set for a March 22 hearing before the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water.

Requested Action: Support SB 1065 and direct proposed support letter to Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan):

Recreation and Tourism (Strategic Theme)

R.3 Promote and encourage Delta-wide coordination and collaboration on boating, boating safety, and related programs.

3.1 Coordinate partnerships that reduce abandoned vessels in Delta waterways by improving title transfer procedures, implementing incentives and penalties to prevent abandonment, and developing abatement funding sources.