

DRAFT

March 17, 2022

Honorable Henry Stern and members
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for SB 1065 (Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessels)

Dear Chair Stern and Senators:

The Delta Protection Commission (Commission) is a state agency working to ensure that the accomplishment of the coequal goals for the Delta are conducted in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.

We wish to express our strong support for Senate Bill (SB) 1065 (Eggman). This bill will create a statewide program to fund the inventory, removal, and destruction of commercial abandoned and derelict vessels (CADV) as well as a Coordinating Council to provide program oversight and coordination of removal efforts.

The issue of abandoned and derelict vessels in Delta waterways has long been of concern to the Commission as they create navigation, contamination, and public health and safety problems. A 2017 aerial survey of CADVs, conducted by California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (and supported by the Commission), found 55 CADVs in the Delta region, and estimated a cost of more than \$30 million to remove these hazards.

Unlike recreational vessels, such as ski, fishing, and house boats, a statewide program does not exist to fund the removal and destruction of CADVs. State and local agencies have to rely on cooperation by vessel owners, lengthy legal approaches such as trespass and nuisance abatement actions, and limited federal actions.

The limitations and disjointed federal, state, and local authorities and responsibilities, coupled with no ongoing funding, is a significant impediment to addressing this problem. SB 1065 addresses this issue by creating a statewide program and Coordinating Council of federal, state, and local agencies that will identify, prioritize, and fund the removal of CADVs from California's waterways.

Without a program and ongoing funding, CADVs will continue to cause environmental harm and damage to the Delta, California's most crucial water and ecological resource.

DPC March 17, 2022 meeting – Agenda Item 12 (SB 1065 – Commercial Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program) - Attachment 1

The Commission voted to approve this letter at its meeting on March 17, 2022 on a XX-XX vote.

Sincerely,

Don Nottoli
Chair

cc: Delta-region legislators (Senators Dodd, Eggman, Pan, and Glazer; Assemblymembers Villapudua, Aguiar-Curry, McCarty, Cooper, Flora, Grayson, and Bauer-Kahan)

Members, Delta Protection Commission