

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

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) report**

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Mariah Looney (DPAC Chair)  
and Erik Vink

**Requested Action: Receive DPAC report; Consider DPAC Charter revision; Consider DPAC appointment**

Type of Action: Information and Action

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**DPAC background:** Public Resources Code section 29753(a) requires the Commission to appoint at least one advisory committee to provide recommendations regarding the diverse interests in the Delta. The statute further states that “the advisory committee shall include representatives of state agencies and other stakeholders with interests in the Delta’s ecosystem, water supply, and socioeconomic sustainability, including, but not limited to, its recreational, agricultural, flood control, environmental, and water resources, and state, local and utility infrastructure. The Commission shall encourage participation of various federal agencies, including the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and others as appropriate.”

**DPAC Report:** The Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) met on March 1, 2022 via Zoom. It was announced at the start of the meeting that the Committee received a resignation notice from Dawit Zeleke. The Committee received a report on the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program and received an update on Commission staff activities. The Committee asked questions, and provided input and suggestions, in response to each of the reports.

*DPAC members as of March 17, 2022 are: Chair Mariah Looney (Delta organization), Vice-Chair Russ Ryan (Delta water exporter), Mark Pruner (Delta general public); Robyn Brown and Vacant (Delta business); Craig Watanabe and Vacant (Delta agriculture); Todd Bruce and Morris Lum (Delta recreation); Chris Elias (Delta flood entity); Edward Hard and Vacant (State agency); Jim Cox and Vacant (Delta conservation/habitat entity); Sam Garcia (Delta utility/related infrastructure); and Douglas Hsia (Delta cultural preservation ex-officio member). DPAC members may designate an alternate to participate in their absence.*

**Amendments to DPAC Charter:** In reviewing the DPAC composition in preparation for the upcoming appointment of five members (and filling an additional vacancy), I am recommending amending the DPAC Charter so that one of the two seats reserved for a Delta

conservation/habitat non-governmental organization representative be changed to a representative of a Delta cultural preservation entity. Presently, there is a designated seat for a Delta cultural preservation entity ex-officio (non-voting) member that is filled by Douglas Hsia of Locke Foundation; under this proposed change, this seat would move from ex-officio to full voting member with a term running to May 2024.

This proposed change is to both recognize a wider group of interests on the DPAC voting membership and to recognize the role that cultural preservation entities play in the region and the Delta National Heritage Area. In addition to this primary change, the proposed DPAC Charter amendments would also encourage representatives of our sister Delta agencies to serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members, include a clearer description of the five DPAC seats that would be up for appointment annually, and remove the role of the Commission Chair or designee to confirm the selection of a DPAC Chair.

**Requested Action:** Approve the proposed revisions to the DPAC Charter

**Appointment to DPAC:** Among current vacancies on DPAC, one seat filled by a state agency representative has been vacant since the retirement of California Department of Fish and Wildlife Bay-Delta Region Manager Gregg Erickson in the summer of 2021. Given CDFW's involvement on so many critical issues throughout the Delta region, they are an important participant in the work of the Committee.

Erin Chappell, current CDFW Bay-Delta Region Manager, has applied for membership on DPAC and is recommended to fill the vacant state agency seat that extends to May 2024. Ms. Chappell was recently named as CDFW Regional Manager and has a long involvement with Delta water and habitat restoration efforts, including at Department of Water Resources.

In addition, the ex-officio seat represented by Douglas Hsia of Locke Foundation is proposed to become a voting member seat with a term extending to May 2024.

**Requested Action:** Appoint Erin Chappell and Douglas Hsia to DPAC for terms expiring in May 2024.

**Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan):**

**Education and Outreach (Strategic Theme)**

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

*1.4 Support an active and engaged Delta Protection Advisory Committee structure, including utilizing expert work groups, to provide recommendations to the Commission.*