

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
March 9, 2023**

AGENDA ITEM 8: Receive Executive Director report

Prepared by: Bruce Blodgett

Presented by: Bruce Blodgett

Requested Action: **Receive Executive Director Report**

Type of Action: Informational only

Commission Update

Delta Conveyance Project: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact (DEIS) for the Delta Conveyance Project (Delta Tunnel) are due to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on March 16, 2023. At the January 19, 2023 meeting, the Commission appointed an ad hoc committee consisting of Commissioners Oscar Villegas and Patrick Hume to work with staff in developing the Commission’s comment letter. An in-progress draft of the letter is provided as attachment to the staff report for Agenda Item 11. The final letter will be submitted by the March 16 deadline.

The Corps held a fourth, in-person public workshop on the DEIS on Wednesday, March 1 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the University Plaza Waterfront Hotel in Stockton.

Commission staff continue to participate in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation on historic and cultural resources, a process separate from but roughly simultaneous with the DEIS process. This consultation, if a Delta Tunnel is approved, would ultimately result in a Programmatic Agreement amongst signatory parties including the Corps, the Department of Water Resources, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and participating tribes. A revised draft Programmatic Agreement was circulated by the Corps to the consulting parties on January 27, 2023. On February 15, Commission staff and the affected Delta counties met with the Corps and other consulting parties to discuss the revisions in response to our comments. Written comments on the revised draft will be due to the Corps on April 11, 2023.

Delta Levee Investment Strategy Rulemaking Process: The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) adopted the proposed regulatory amendments for implementation of the Delta Levee Investment Strategy at its regular meeting on February 23.

Commission Staffing: We are in the process to fill the position of Information Officer who will report to the Assistant Executive Director.

National Heritage Area (NHA):

- After a competitive solicitation process, the Commission awarded the contract for completion of the NHA Management Plan to Point Heritage Development Consulting (PointHDC) on February 13. PointHDC was the original contractor for preparation of the Management Plan. Their previous contract with the Commission expired in June 2022.
- The NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee met on March 2 to discuss the interpretive plan, resource inventory, and upcoming Management Plan process. The next committee meeting is expected to be held on Thursday, April 6 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM via Zoom.
- From February 6 through 9, Executive Director Bruce Blodgett and NHA Program Manager Blake Roberts attended the annual meeting of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas in Washington D.C., which included a reception featuring National Park Service Director Charles “Chuck” Sams. While in Washington, Commission staff met with four members of the U.S. House of Representatives representing the Delta and additional Congressional staff to discuss the Delta NHA.

Commission Land Use Comments: There were no land use comment letters prepared by Commission staff from January 12 to February 24, 2023. Commission staff met with City of Rio Vista staff on February 10 to discuss the City’s General Plan Update. Commission staff are planning to meet with representatives of the Little Egbert Joint Powers Authority on February 28 to discuss the project.

Upcoming Events:

March 2023

March 2 – Delta National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting
delta.ca.gov/NHA

March 4 – Sacramento County History Day
www.sachistoryday.org

March 9 – Commission Meeting
delta.ca.gov/commission-meetings

March 21 – Ag Day 2023
www.cdfa.ca.gov/agday/docs/AgDay2023Flyer.pdf (PDF)

March 22 – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Meeting
deltaconservancy.ca.gov/updates-events

DPC March 9, 2023 meeting – Agenda Item 8 (Executive Director Report)

March 23 to March 24 – Delta Stewardship Council Meeting

deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings

March 27 to March 29 – Delta Independent Science Board Meeting

deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-isb/meetings

April 2023

April 14 to April 16 – San Joaquin Asparagus Festival

www.sanjoaquinasperagusfestival.net

April 26 – Delta Independent Science Board Meeting

deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-isb/meetings

April 27 to April 28 – Delta Stewardship Council Meeting

deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings

April 29 – Yolo Bypass Foundation Duck Days

www.yolobasin.org/californiaduckdays

May 2023

May 13 – Isleton’s 100th Anniversary Celebration

cityofisleton.com/calendar/isletons-100th-anniversary-celebration

May 18 – Commission Meeting

delta.ca.gov/commission-meetings

May 24 – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Meeting

deltaconservancy.ca.gov/updates-events