

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
May 18, 2023**

AGENDA ITEM 9: 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) were submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on March 15, 2023.

Commission staff continue to participate in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation on historic and cultural resources. 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. Commission staff submitted comments on the revised draft to the Corps on April 12, 2023.

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):

The NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee met on April 6 and May 4 to receive training on the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and discuss draft components of the Management Plan, including goals, interpretive plan, and resource inventory. The next committee meetings are expected to be held on Thursday, June 1 and Thursday, July 13 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Great Delta Trail Master Plan Implementation: Commission staff is moving forward with steps to implement the adopted master plan, beginning with developing an implementation committee to encourage submittal of trail segments for Great California Delta Trail designation. Staff will be convening a meeting of the Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Committees (SAC-TAC) this summer to report on the proposed committee and solicit SAC-TAC input and participation. With representatives of Yolo County, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, and others, staff conducted a site visit in April, hosted by the City of West

Sacramento, to potential trail segments that may be brought before the Commission for designation by the city later this year. Meetings of the Great California Delta Trail SAC-TAC are open to the public and noticed a minimum of ten days in advance.

“Welcome to the Delta National Heritage Area” Signs: The first of the “Welcome to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area” signs was installed on Hood-Franklin Road on April 27. The sign is the first of eleven signs to be placed around gateways into the Delta as part of the Delta Conservancy’s adopted Delta Sign Plan. The first set of five signs will be placed in CalTrans District 3, which generally includes Sacramento and Yolo counties. The remaining signs will be installed on northbound Interstate 80 near the Vic Fazio Wildlife Area, on Jefferson Blvd/State Route 84 as it enters the Delta, on Twin Cities Road off Interstate 5, and at the intersection of State Route 160 and State Route 12 near the Delta farmer’s market.

Clean California Grant Signs: Commission staff held a project kick-off meeting with California Department of Transportation staff on March 30. Following the meeting, Commission staff began the public outreach phase for the project. Staff presented to the Delta Protection Advisory Committee and NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee on April 4 and April 6, respectively, and plan on presenting to additional groups over the next month. The Commission is in the process of executing an interagency agreement with the California Department of Parks and Recreation to design the interpretive signs.

Commission Land Use Comments: The table below lists the land use comment letters prepared by Commission staff from February 25 to May 9, 2023. During the same period, Commission staff held check in meetings with planning staff from Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo Counties. Staff also met with representatives from the City of Rio Vista to discuss the city’s General Plan Update.

**Land Use Projects – Comment Letters
February 25, 2023 through May 9, 2023**

County	Project Description	Authority	Primary zone (P), Secondary zone (S), or Delta-wide (D)	Comments
Contra Costa	Wildhorse Road Two Parcel Minor Subdivision	Jurisdictional	P	Minimum parcel size of five acres for the General Agricultural Zoning

	Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)			District is not sufficient to support agricultural land use. The Commission encourages County staff to review and increase the minimum parcel sizes for agricultural zoning districts as part of the General Plan update.
Sacramento	Isleton Wastewater Treatment System Improvement Project MND	Jurisdictional	P	Project will not have an impact on primary zone resources and is consistent with the Land Use and Resources Management Plan. The Commission supports the project.
San Joaquin	Delta Smelt Preservation Project	Jurisdictional	P	Commissions staff believe that the Project will have a Potentially Significant impact on agricultural resources by converting Prime Farmland on Bouldin Island to other uses. Commission staff encourage the project proponent to analyze cumulative impacts of restoration projects in the primary zone. A Draft Environmental Impact Report should be developed for the project.

Upcoming Events:

May 2023

May 20 – Asian American & Pacific Islander Historical Symposium

www.antiochhistoricalmuseum.org

DPC May 18, 2023 meeting – Agenda Item 9 (Executive Director Report)

May 21 – Oakley Water Safety Day

revivecali.com/safetyday

May 24 – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Meeting

deltaconservancy.ca.gov/updates-events

May 25 – Delta Stewardship Council Meeting

deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings

June 2023

June 1 – NHA Advisory Committee Meeting

delta.ca.gov/NHA

June 3 – 11 – California Invasive Species Action Week

wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Action-Week

June 3 – Stockton Catfish Derby

www.visitstockton.org/events/annual-catfish-derby

June 6 – Delta Protection Advisory Committee Meeting

delta.ca.gov/delta-protection-advisory-committee

June 14 – 16 – Delta Independent Science Board Meeting

deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-isb/meetings

June 17 – 18 – Isleton Crawdad Festival

www.thecrawdadjournal.com

June 22 - 23 – Delta Stewardship Council meeting

deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings

July 2023

July 1 – Oakley Summerfest

oakley-summer-fest-2022.yolasite.com

July 20 – Delta Protection Commission Meeting

delta.ca.gov/commission-meetings

July 26 – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Meeting

deltaconservancy.ca.gov/updates-events

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July 30 – Courtland Pear Fair

pearfair.com

Outreach opportunities

Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director attended CNRA Leaders conference in Los Angeles in March.

ED also attended Ag Day at the Capitol

ED toured Delta levee improvements on Staten Island being constructed by Dutra Dredging

ED provided overview of the Commission to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

ED and Program Manager attended Delta Stewardship Council meeting and Tribal Listening Session

Chair Burgis accepted an award on behalf of the Commission from the Sacramento Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration for Government Innovation. This was for the creation of the Delta Leadership Program with our partner, the Delta Regional Foundation.

ED provided opening remarks for the Locke Asian Spring Festival event

ED provided overview of the Commission to the annual Delta tour organized by the Water Education Foundation