

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
July 20, 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 Statement (EIS) for the Delta Conveyance Project (Delta Tunnel) were submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on March 15, 2023. DWR staff report that a Final Environmental Impact Report is expected to be released at the end of 2023 and a Final EIS may be released in early 2024.

Commission staff will continue to participate in the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation on historic and cultural resources. This consultation will result in a Programmatic Agreement (PA) amongst signatory parties including the Corps, the Department of Water Resources, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and participating tribes that would be implemented if a Delta Tunnel is approved. The Commission is an additional consulting party along with affected counties and as such, Commission staff and the Delta Counties Coalition submitted comments on the revised draft PA to the Corps in April. To date no responses have been received but a further revised draft may be circulated in the next quarter.

Commission Staffing Update: Holly Heyser, the new Information Officer I (Specialist) joined the staff in May. Kirsten Pringle, the Senior Environmental Planner, resigned. Her last day was June 23, 2023. We are in the process of recruiting to fill the position as soon as possible.

Commission Budget Update:

Budget to Actuals including reimbursements – FY 23/24

| FY 23-24 Categories | Budget Amount | Total Expenses and Projections | Difference |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| Salaries and Wages | \$ 1,505,000 | \$ 1,146,631 | \$ 358,369 |
| Operating Expenses | \$ 436,000 | \$ 880,892 | \$ (444,892) |
| Reimbursements | \$ 395,000 | \$ 492,000 | |
| Total | \$ 2,336,000 | \$ 1,535,522.75 | \$ 800,477.25 |

Delta Leadership Program: The CEO of the California State Association of Counties extended congratulations to the Commission’s Delta Leadership Program for receiving the 2023 Government Innovation Award from the American Society of Public Administration’s Sacramento Chapter.

National Heritage Area (NHA):

The NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee has been meeting to consider and approve draft sections of the Management Plan, in anticipation of having a public review draft Management Plan available for the Commission in late fall. At the June 1 meeting, the committee approved the following plan goals:

Goal 1: Guided by interpretation, and through institutional leadership and community projects, promote and instill an evolving understanding and appreciation of the historical and ongoing changes in the Delta’s land, water, wildlife, and communities.

Goal 2: Steward the heritage and culture of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, by identifying, preserving, conserving, and enhancing the unique identity, resources, and living traditions of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Goal 3: Support sustainable tourism and economic development by encouraging responsible use of, and visitation to, the Delta’s unique resources and communities.

Goal 4: Connect and support collaboration among governmental and non-governmental partners, businesses, and residents to establish a brand that readily identifies the Delta NHA and increases public awareness.

Goal 5: Seek, establish, and maintain collaborative partnerships, effective governance principles, and sustainable business practices to manage the coordinating entity and the NHA.

At the July 13 meeting, the Committee will consider approval of resource stewardship objectives and strategies. The committee is expected to meet on Thursday, August 3 and Thursday, September 7 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM to review the draft sections, including the introductory chapter, interpretation chapter, resource inventory, and heritage development and tourism objectives and strategies.

“Welcome to the Delta National Heritage Area” Signs: The first phase of “Welcome to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area” signs were installed recently. The locations are: Jefferson Blvd/State Route 84 as it enters the Delta, northbound Interstate 80 at the Yolo Causeway/Vic Fazio Wildlife Area, and on the Hood-Franklin Road southbound Interstate 5 (I-5) offramp. Two more signs will be installed, on Twin Cities Road off southbound I-5, and at the intersection of State Route 160 and State Route 12 near the Discover the Delta farmer’s market. The signs are the first of eleven to be placed at gateways into the Delta as part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy’s adopted Delta Sign Plan. The remaining six signs will be located in San Joaquin and Contra Costa counties.

Clean California Grant Signs: Commission staff continue to conduct public outreach for the project. Staff presented to the Hood Community Council on June 15, held meetings with community representatives, and developed a draft survey and project FAQs. Staff are refining the potential locations for the wayfinding and interpretive signs based on public input. 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 comment letters prepared by Commission staff from May 10, 2023, to July 13, 2023. Commission staff land use activities included project reviews, as well as meetings with Sacramento County planning staff and representatives of a project on Holland Tract. The Executive Director and Commission staff also received an update from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation staff on the Delta Cross Channel gates upgrade project previously presented to the Delta Protection Advisory Committee for input.

**Land Use Projects – Comment Letters
May 10, 2023 through July 13, 2023**

| County | Project Description | Authority | Primary zone (P), Secondary zone (S), or | Comments |
|--------|---------------------|-----------|--|----------|
| | | | | |

| | | | Delta-wide (D) | |
|------|---|----------------|----------------|--|
| Yolo | Green Wave, Inc. & Green Wave Farms Cannabis Use Permit | Jurisdictional | P | Commission seeks to promote and facilitate agriculture and agriculturally-supporting commercial and industrial uses within the Delta. Community concerns should be addressed along with overall compliance with Cannabis Land Use Ordinance. |

Upcoming Events:

July 2023

July 20 – Delta Protection Commission Meeting

delta.ca.gov/commission-meetings

July 22 – Sidewalk Saturday in Rio Vista on North 2nd Street

July 26 – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Meeting

deltaconservancy.ca.gov/updates-events

July 27-28 – Delta Stewardship Council

deltacouncil.ca.gov/events

July 30 – Courtland Pear Fair

pearfair.com

August 2023

Aug. 3 – Delta National Heritage Area Management Plan Advisory Committee

delta.ca.gov/nha/nha-management-plan-advisory-committee/

Aug. 5 – 20th Annual Taste of the Delta

www.tasteofthedelta.com/

Aug. 5 – Buddhist Church of Stockton Annual Festival and Bon Odori

buddhistchurchofstockton.org/

DPC July 20, 2023 meeting – Agenda Item 9 (Executive Director Report)

Aug. 21 – Dutra Museum Foundation Golf Tournament
dutrasmuseum.org/Annual-Golf-Tournament.php

September 2023

Sept. 9 – Rivertown Peddler’s Faire
celebrateantioch.org/event/rivertown-peddlers-faire/

Sept. 17 – Wines of Clarksburg
www.clarksburglibraryfriends.org/wines-of-clarksburg-2023.html

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

ED and Chair met with Congressman Josh Harder in Tracy

ED met with Water agencies of the Delta

ED met with Chair of Delta Leadership Foundation about their upcoming Delta Champions awards dinner in September