



PUBLIC NOTICE AND MEETING AGENDA **Delta Protection Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Stockton Sailing Club, 4980 Buckley Cove Way, Stockton, CA 95219

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Flag Salute – Anna Swenson, DPAC Chair
2. Welcome and Roll Call
3. Welcome Gerry Goodie – Anna Swenson
4. Public Comment – An opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee regarding items not on the agenda
5. Approval of December 19, 2023, Meeting Minutes – The Committee
6. Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Calendar – The Committee
7. Update on Delta Protection Commission activities – Bruce Blodgett
8. Presentation on Delta Cross Channel – Mario Manzo
9. Update on Delta Conveyance Project – Dante Nomellini, Jr.
10. Discussion of Broadband in the Delta – Bryan Hughes and Justin McCourt from Equitable Access California
11. Member Announcements and Next Meeting
12. Adjourn

The agenda items listed above may be considered in a different order at the Committee meeting, subject to the discretion of the Chair. At the discretion of the Committee, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action. The Committee welcomes and encourages participation in its meetings. The Committee limits testimony to not more than three minutes per person, or more time at the discretion of the Chair.

Questions, Comments, and Requests

If you have any questions or have a request for reasonable modification or accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Delta Protection Commission at dpc@delta.ca.gov or (916) 375-4800.

Comments submitted to submit@delta.ca.gov by noon on February 5, 2024, will be shared with Commissioners prior to the meeting to the extent possible. Public comments on each agenda item will follow the order of: 1) emailed comments, 2) those verbally requesting to make comments after notice offered by Chair during meeting.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee Members

Chair Anna Swenson and **Gerry Goodie** (Delta general public) | **Vice-Chair Russ Ryan** (Delta water exporter) | **Robyn Brown** and **Arron Pellarin** (Delta business) | **Craig Watanabe** and **Gary Mello** (Delta agriculture) | **Todd Bruce** and **Morris Lum** (Delta recreation) | **Edward Hard** and **Erin Chappell** (State agency) | **Chris Elias** (Delta flood entity) | **Mariah Looney** (Delta organization) | **Jim Cox** (Delta habitat/conservation non-governmental entity) | **Sam Garcia** (Delta utility/related infrastructure) | **Douglas Hsia** (Delta Cultural Preservation).

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Representatives of the California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Delta Stewardship Council, and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy.

Meeting Minutes (Draft)
Delta Protection Advisory Committee

Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
Steamboat Landing Bar and Grill, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

1. Call to Order/Flag Salute – Anna Swenson, DPAC Chair

Chair Anna Swenson called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Welcome and Roll Call

A quorum was present with members Swenson, Ryan, Hard, Hsia, Looney, Lum, Mello, Pellerin and Watanabe in attendance.

3. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

4. Approval of October 10, 2023, meeting minutes.

Member Pellerin moved, and Member Looney seconded a motion to approve the October 10, 2023, minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Update on Delta Protection Commission activities – Bruce Blodgett

For DPAC, the nominations are closed for the public position. We are keeping the tribal position open and request advisory committee members to seek out a possible tribal member for the group.

On staffing – a new clerk is scheduled to begin next Tuesday at the DPC office, and a new Senior Environmental Planner should begin work in mid-January.

The NHA will be covered later in the agenda, but we are keeping things on pace to present to the National Park Service by the March 12, 2024, deadline.

We have 15 new participants in the Delta Leadership Program, which will begin seminars on January 12. Erik Vink has come back as a retired annuitant to carry out this program.

6. Update on the status of the Delta Conveyance EIR – Osha Meserve

Meserve noted the final EIR is released to the public. We expect the Department of Water Resources to certify the EIR and give notice of their final determination by the end of the month. As expected, the project looks to move forward with their preferred

alternative for the tunnel. Most concerns have been dismissed or discounted and their operation plan for the tunnel is highly suspect. This operations plan was not evaluated in the Federal (EIS) process. At the end of the Water Fix proposal, there were 21 lawsuits filed to overturn that tunnel project. You can expect something similar for this project. There is also the hurdle that it must be deemed consistent with the Delta Plan by the Delta Stewardship Council.

7. Update on levee subvention funding – Emily Papalardo

Papalardo noted that the subventions program has a long history of improving the levees of the Delta. While there were several bills in the last session of the Legislature, none made it through the process. There is some discussion to include Delta levee funding in a bond for the 2024 elections. So far, nothing has been completed as this remains a political football with funding set to dry up in June 2024.

8. Presentation on Broadband in the Delta – Russ Ryan

A short discussion on this item as the company who is working on this proposal - Equitable Access California - was not available. They are expected to attend the January meeting.

9. Update on the status of the NHA management update – Blake Roberts

An administrative draft of the full management plan is now available on the website for anyone to review. We are trying to finish edits in early January in order to release the document for public comment. Mr. Roberts covered the seven chapters that make up the management plan and encouraged the committee members to provide feedback with the idea of finishing up with the plan in time to meet the March 12 deadline. The National Park Service has been engaged since the beginning of the process to draft the management plan and has been reviewing each draft chapter.

6. Member Announcements and Next Meeting

Members announced upcoming events. Chair Swenson asked for possible meeting locations and topics for future meetings. The next meeting will take place on February 6, 2024, at a location to be determined.

7. Adjourn

Chair Swenson adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee Meeting

February 6, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 06: 2024 DPAC Meeting Dates

Prepared by: Heather McClure

Presented by: Bruce Blodgett

Recommended Action: Approve DPAC's 2024 meeting calendar

Type of Action: Vote

Based on the 2023 Delta Protection Advisory Committee meeting calendar (meetings on the first Tuesday of even-numbered months), the 2024 meeting schedule is proposed as follows:

- April 2, 2024
- June 4, 2024
- August 6, 2024
- October 1, 2024
- December 3, 2024

Recommended Action

Commission staff recommends the Committee approve the 2024 annual meeting calendar.