



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

Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Tony's Place Restaurant
14157 Market Street
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Flag Salute – Anna Swenson, DPAC Chair
2. Welcome and Roll Call
3. Public Comment – An opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee regarding items not on the agenda
4. Approval of June 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes – The Committee (p. 3)
5. Update on Delta Protection Commission activities – Bruce Blodgett
6. Announcement on NHA Advisory Committee application period – Blake Roberts (p. 6)
7. Discussion of McDonald Island Hydrogen Storage project – Mike Aviña (p. 8)
8. Coastal Cleanup Day – Virginia Gardiner (p. 9)
9. Possible DPAC memorial seat – Anna Swenson
10. Member Announcements and Next Meeting
11. 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 August 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 **Katherine Wiley** (Delta general public) | **Vice-Chair Russ Ryan** (Delta water exporter) | **Emily Pappalardo** 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) | **Steven Hutchason** (Delta Tribe).

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, June 4, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Big Break Visitor Center
69 Big Break Road, Oakley, CA 94561

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

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. but was postponed due to lack of quorum. Reports were given to the group until a quorum was established at 6:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Welcome and Roll Call

A quorum was present with members Russ Ryan, Morris Lum, Katie Wiley, Erin Chappell, Mariah Looney, Jim Cox, Emily Pappalardo, Gary Mello, Arron Pellarin, and ex-officio members Mario Manzo (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) and Heather Swinney (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service).

DPC staff present were Executive Director Bruce Blodgett, Virginia Gardiner, Blake Roberts, Holly Heyser, and Heather McClure. Guest Todd Plain was also present.

Member Chris Elias arrived shortly after the Committee vote on Item 5, at 6:04 p.m.

3. Welcome New Members Emily Pappalardo and Katie Wiley – Anna Swenson

The committee welcomed the newest members to DPAC: Emily Pappalardo, Delta Business seat and Katie Wiley, Delta General Public seat.

4. Public Comment – An opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee regarding items not on the agenda

There were no comments from members of the public.

5. Approval of April 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes – The Committee

Member Cox moved, and Member Looney seconded, a motion to approve the April 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Update on Delta Protection Commission activities – Bruce Blodgett

Blodgett touched on the DPC organizational assessment, which recommended hiring additional staff. In addition, a budget change proposal is currently being developed to bring additional staff to the NHA, which will be much needed for the implementation of the Management Plan. Another need indicated in the assessment is relocation to a larger office space to accommodate the Return-to-Office environment.

Vice Chair Ryan asked for public comments and there were none.

7. Presentation on America 250/other NHA activities – Blake Roberts

Roberts reminded the Committee of the National Heritage Area Management Plan submittal to the National Park Service a few months ago in March. NPS is given six months by statute to look over the plan before it may be finalized. Rather than waiting to hear back from NPS, there are plans for the first NHA event now in place: America 250. This will be a great opportunity to draw significant attention to and even create a buzz about the NHA. Roberts outlined the various ideas going into organizing the event such as potential themes for America 250 activities that will engage people, and branding to distinguish us from other NHAs. He referenced a guidebook for America 250 put together by the American Association for State and Local History that can be a source of guidance on what our goals might be. He emphasized the importance of building and strengthening partnerships, and the opportunity to build up communities as part of this process.

Vice Chair Ryan suggested that one-page brochures and pamphlets are very effective and easy to hand out. He also brought up sponsorships to help fund and promote the event.

Member Pellarin commented that the diversity and level of inclusiveness of the Delta is exceptionally unique and something we should play up.

Member Wiley envisioned a walk-through exhibit as an activity.

Roberts introduced the National Park Service Passport Program and its potential to increase tourism in the National Heritage Area. He discussed the need for mostly public, non-profit locations for stamping stations. He also spoke of the potential to combine this with a Junior Ranger Program.

Vice Chair Ryan proposed looking into grant opportunities from the Delta Conservancy and Delta Stewardship Council.

Vice Chair Ryan asked for public comments and there were none.

8. Discussion of Clarksburg Branch Line Trail – Jason McCoy, Supervising Transportation Planner, West Sacramento Community Development Department; Virginia Gardiner, DPC

Gardiner introduced the Great California Delta Trail, the vision of a continuous recreational corridor through all five Delta counties; the concept is a main corridor with multiple local access trails connecting through the city. There is intent to link the San Francisco Bay Trail to the Sacramento River Trails. In the works are water launch sites, and adventure hubs that will tie into the National Heritage Area effort.

McCoy presented the Clarksburg Branch Line Extension Project, which is an addition of 6.4 miles in the southern section of the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail.

The purpose is to provide safe trails for biking, walking, and recreation, including interpretive signs along trails, a 12-foot-wide multi-use path, utility corridors for fiber optic connectivity, and robust community engagement.

The total project cost is estimated at \$8.96 million or \$1.4 million/mi, with project development to be completed by June 2028 and construction by November 2030.

Vice Chair Ryan asked for public comments and there were none.

9. Possible DPAC memorial seat – Anna Swenson

Item deferred to next meeting.

10. Member Announcements and Next Meeting

Member Pappalardo announced the 50th Pear Fair on July 27 and 28 in Courtland.

Member Wiley announced the first annual Gerry Goodie Memorial Boat Drive July 7-9 at Wimpy's Marina.

Member Looney announced no Harmful Algal Blooms have been detected yet; hopefully it will be the same update at the next meeting.

Vice Chair Ryan announced the Metropolitan Water District is having a presentation on the Conveyance Project on June 10 at 3 p.m. It is viewable online through www.mwdh2o.com under the One Water and Stewardship Committee.

Vice Chair Ryan then shared that the next DPAC meeting will be Aug. 6, the location to be determined.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee Meeting

August 6, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 6: Announcement on NHA Advisory Committee Application Period

Prepared by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Presented by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Recommended Action: Informational Only

Type of Action: Discussion

Background

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 and Delta Plan Recommendation DP R1 called on the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) to pursue federal designation of the Delta as a National Heritage Area (Water Code Section 85301(b)(1)). Legislation establishing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) and designating the Commission as the local coordinating entity was signed into law on March 12, 2019.

The Commission's first primary task was to prepare and receive approval from the Secretary of Interior for a management plan to guide the NHA's activities for the next ten years. The Commission established the NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee in September 2020 to ensure public engagement in the management plan process. After the Commission approved the management plan on March 7, 2024, Commission staff formally submitted the plan to the Secretary of Interior on March 12.

On July 18, the Commission approved a charter for the NHA Advisory Committee, which will focus on partner and public involvement in achieving the goals set out in the management plan. The committee succeeds the NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee, whose work is complete now that the plan has been submitted. The committee is chaired by the Commission Executive Director or their designee and has two members of the Delta Protection Commission and 12 members of the public. There will also be non-voting ex officio members representing the Legislature and public agencies.

Interested members of the public may apply to serve on this committee through 5:30 p.m. on Friday, August 16. The Commission is anticipated to make the appointments at its September 19 meeting. Committee members are expected to attend six bimonthly in-person meetings per year, which are held in the NHA at rotating locations. Four seats will expire in September 2025, four in September 2026, and four in September 2027. The

expiration date for individual seats will be chosen randomly at the first NHA Advisory Committee meeting.

We encourage DPAC members to share information about the application period through their networks. Interested person can apply for the openings at:

<https://delta.ca.gov/notice-delta-national-heritage-area-advisory-committee-openings-deadline-aug-16-2024>

Recommended Action

No action is necessary currently.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan)

Delta Heritage (Strategic Theme)

H.2 Protect and promote the tribal, cultural, and historical resources of the Delta.

2.1 Implement the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee Meeting

August 6, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 7: McDonald Island Hydrogen Storage project

Prepared by: Mike Aviña, Senior Environmental Planner

Presented by: Mike Aviña, Senior Environmental Planner

Recommended Action: Informational Only

Type of Action: Discussion

Background

Eric Alvarez, a Local Government Affairs Specialist with Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), sent an e-mail to the general dpc@delta.ca.gov e-mail address requesting that the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) provide a letter of support for a “Community Underground H2 Storage Feasibility Study” (the project) on McDonald Island in the Delta Primary Zone. McDonald is a rural island in San Joaquin County where the predominant land use is agriculture. PG&E also has an existing natural gas storage field and pump station on the island.

PG&E is partnering with Stanford University and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to apply for grant funding from the California Energy Commission (CEC). The CEC is currently soliciting proposals for projects examining the technical feasibility of storing and retrieving hydrogen blends and pure hydrogen from underground storage sites.

The Executive Director and staff met with Mr. Alvarez to gather more information. The initial project, if funded, would not result in hydrogen storage at McDonald Island. The initial project would consist of geotechnical investigations and scientific analysis to analyze both the suitability of the McDonald Island site and the overall technical feasibility of storing hydrogen. The Executive Director advised Mr. Alvarez that a letter of support was premature at this time and would likely require the input of the Commissioners themselves.

Current Status

Staff will continue to track this project as it develops.

Recommended Action

No action is necessary currently.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan)

Not applicable.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee Meeting

August 6, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 8: Delta Waterways Cleanup

Prepared by: Virginia Gardiner, Program Manager

Presented by: Virginia Gardiner, Program Manager

Recommended Action: Informational Only

Type of Action: Discussion

Background

The annual Coastal Cleanup is a volunteer event that takes place on the third Saturday in September. It fosters public awareness and stewardship by removing trash from the State's shorelines and coast, highlighting the importance to water quality and recreation of keeping our waters free of pollution. Its counterpart, the Delta Waterways Cleanup, was sponsored by the Delta Protection Commission for fifteen years at locations in each of the Delta counties. Typically, sponsorship involved working with county coordinators to publicize cleanup sites and distributing trash bags and t-shirts provided by the Coastal Commission. Staff and Commissioners often volunteered at sites around the Delta. Past co-sponsors have included the Delta Regional Foundation and Sacramento Regional Sanitation District. Beginning in 2022 coordination was assumed by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy.

Current Status

This year's Delta Waterways Cleanup is Saturday, September 21, 2024. Some of the coordination infrastructure within the counties has suffered from pandemic-related effects. Delta Conservancy staff is still collecting information to post on their [website](#) regarding locations where cleanups will be taking place, which tentatively will include Sherman Island. Commission staff will promote the event as more information becomes available, and all are encouraged to participate. The Conservancy's webpage for the event can be accessed at <https://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/waterway-cleanups-0/>

Recommended Action

No action is necessary.