



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

Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
Clarksburg Schoolhouse
36397 North Center Street (parking on River Road side)
Clarksburg, CA 95612

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 December 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes
5. Update on Delta Protection Commission activities – Bruce Blodgett
6. Striped Bass Slot Limit Proposal Update – Jim Cox
7. National Heritage Area Update – Blake Roberts, Program Manager
8. Clarksburg Branch Line Extension Update – Virginia Gardiner, Program Manager
9. Clarksburg Schoolhouse Update – Mike Campbell, Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse Board Director
10. Freeport Memorial and Park Update – Janet Lake, Board Member of Freeport Citizens Community Association
11. Levee Issues Update – Lisa Kirk, Bethel Island Reclamation District Board Member
12. Delta Waterways Cleanup – The Committee
13. Member Announcements and Next Meeting
14. 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 10, 2025, 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 Gerry Goodie Memorial Seat) | **Vice Chair Russ Ryan** (Delta Water Exporter) | **Arron Pellarin** and **Emily Pappalardo** (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 Conservation/Habitat Non-governmental Organization) | **Sam Garcia** (Delta Utility/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, December 3, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Al's Place 13943 Main Street
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

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

Chair Swenson called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Welcome and Roll Call

A quorum was present with members Anna Swenson, Katherine Wiley, Jim Cox, Arron Pellarin, Steven Hutchason, Mariah Looney, Emily Pappalardo, Douglas Hsia, Craig Watanabe, Gary Mello, Morris Lum, Edward Hard, and Ex Officio Heather Swinney (USFWS).

Guests present were Todd Plain and Stuart Walthall.

DPC staff present were Executive Director Bruce Blodgett, Blake Roberts, Holly Heyser, Mike Aviña, and Heather McClure.

Member Erin Chappell arrived at 5:36 p.m. just before the vote on Item 5. Member Chris Elias arrived at 5:40 p.m. and Vice Chair Russ Ryan arrived at 6:01 p.m., both during Item 6.

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

Chair Swenson asked for comments from members of the public and there were none.

4. Approval of October 1, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Member Looney moved, and Member Pellarin seconded, a motion to approve the October 1, 2024, minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of 2025 Meeting Schedule

Executive Director Blodgett noted that the schedule can be adjusted accordingly if any conflicts arise.

Member Pappalardo moved, and Member Mello seconded a motion to approve the 2025 meeting schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Presentation on Striped Bass Slot Limit Proposal – Dr. David Ostrach

Dr. David Ostrach introduced himself as founder and former director of the UC Davis Pathobiology, Conservation, and Population Biology. He also serves as the science advisor for Allied Fishing Groups, California Striped Bass Association, NorCal Guides and Sportsman's Association, and California Sport Protection and Fishing Alliance, representing collectively over a quarter million fishers, stakeholders and recreational fishing-related businesses. He presented on behalf of the California Striped Bass Coalition, whose aim is ultimately to influence the California Fish and Game Commission to adopt slot limits of 20 inches to 30 inches to improve the survival rate of producing females. Currently only the upper limit is supported by the CDFW.

Dr. Ostrach's slideshow covered the history of striped bass in California, beginning with their introduction in 1874, the rationale behind the proposed slot limits, and the factors contributing to their population decline. In his conclusion, he asked for the Delta Protection Commission's support on this initial step toward restoring the striped bass fishery.

Member Cox moved to bring this to the Commission. Member Lum seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously with the exception of Member Chappell, who abstained from the vote.

Chair Swenson asked for any additional public comments and there were none.

7. Review of DPIIC Meeting Levee Discussions – Emily Pappalardo

Member Pappalardo provided a recap of the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Autumn Gathering meeting. She explained that DPIIC consists of about 17 state and federal agencies that meet twice a year. Erin Mullin from the Delta Stewardship Council organized this meeting, which focused on levees. The discussion began with a "Levees 101" panel and the history of Delta levees, followed by topics such as levee maintenance, seismic issues, and urban levees.

She highlighted the Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement Project, sponsored by Reclamation District 999 and the Delta Conservancy, which aims to reintroduce Sacramento River water into Elk Slough to improve fish passage.

Pappalardo also discussed two key aspects of Delta levee funding: Subventions, which support annual maintenance and minor improvements, and Special Projects, which fund larger initiatives that can make a significant impact. She provided examples of such projects, including riparian and wetland benches, erosion control measures, and seismic resilience efforts.

Chair Swenson asked for public comments and there were none.

8. Quiet Waters – The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta – Rich Turner

Photographer and publisher Rich Turner shared a slideshow of his current work in progress, *Quiet Waters*, which includes a 240-page book and an exhibit planned to tour California museums and libraries for at least three years. This project chronicles the Delta region not only as a place of beauty, a haven for wildlife, a vital food source, but also as a vibrant community seen through the perspectives of its residents. The book will also feature essays from experts on Delta issues and heritage. Turner stated that to protect the Delta, he would first show people what it is. He estimates it will take a year to complete the book and is seeking input on what to include.

Chair Swenson asked for public comments and there were none.

9. Update on Delta Protection Commission activities – Bruce Blodgett

Executive Director Blodgett provided updates on several Commission activities, beginning with two positions – the Senior Environmental Planner and the NHA Information Officer – which are expected to be filled by the end of January.

He reported that the Delta Leadership Program received 23 quality applicants, with selections to be decided in a meeting the following day with DPC Chair Diane Burgis, Delta Leadership Foundation (DLF) President Mike Campbell, DLF Secretary Erik Vink, and himself.

Blodgett announced the very first event to be held at the newly renovated Clarksburg Schoolhouse will be the NHA Advisory Committee meeting on December 6 at 10 a.m.

Chair Swenson asked for public comments and there were none.

10. Delta Waterways Cleanup – The Committee

Chair Swenson announced that plans for this year's cleanup in September should commence at the February meeting and encouraged everyone to start thinking of ideas.

11. Member Announcements and Next Meeting

Member Pappalardo announced a Metropolitan Water District One Water (and Stewardship) Committee meeting on December 9, which would allow opportunity for public comments regarding the Delta Conveyance Project.

Member Wiley emphasized the need to support all Delta businesses throughout the winter months, because business is extremely slow this time of year.

Member Chappell announced that CDFW's website now has a centralized reporting function for submitting any detection of the Golden Mussel. This will help to document its spread, and this data will be shared with state and federal partners, including CDFA and State Parks. She stressed the need to be mindful particularly when moving boats to other bodies of water.

Chair Swenson shared that the next DPAC meeting will be held on February 4 with the location to be determined.

12. Adjourn

Chair Swenson adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee Meeting

February 11, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 7: Update on National Heritage Area (NHA) Activities

Prepared by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Presented by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Recommended Action: Receive Update on NHA Activities

Type of Action: Receive

NHA Management Plan

National Park Service Director Charles F. Sams III approved the Management Plan on January 16. As a result of the approval, funding for the NHA is expected to increase pending Congressional appropriation for the Heritage Partnership Program, the funding source for National Heritage Areas. The Commission will consider final approval of the Management Plan at its March 20 meeting.

Branding and Tourism Marketing Plan

The Commission selected Honey Agency, Inc. to lead development of the Branding and Tourism Marketing Plan, which focuses on the NHA.

Partnership Program

Commission staff are creating a formal NHA partnership program to help develop a strong partnership network. The partnership program will provide a general framework for the Commission to join with governments, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties on mutually beneficial projects. Staff are working with potential partners to adopt a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to implement partnership agreements. This document will define guidelines and benefits that generally apply to partnerships and can be customized to the specific circumstances of each partnership.

The NHA partnership program is currently focused on setting up Passport to Your National Park cancellation stations, which involves multiple partners at multiple sites across the NHA. At its March 20 meeting, the Commission will be considering approval of draft MOUs with selected partners and delegating approval of future MOUs to the Executive Director.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee Meeting

February 11, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 8: Clarksburg Branch Line Extension Update

Prepared by: Virginia Gardiner, Program Manager

Presented by: Virginia Gardiner, Program Manager

Recommended Action: Informational Only

Type of Action: Receive

Background

Commission staff in partnership with the City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, and Yolo Transportation District applied as the Yolo-Delta Trail Coalition for a competitive transportation grant from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to extend the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail, part of a trail corridor identified in the Commission's Great California Delta Trail Master Plan (GDTMP). Staff and the Coalition lead, City of West Sacramento, last presented to the Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) on this grant at the June 4, 2024, meeting. The grant was awarded by SACOG later that month. The grant funds an alternatives analysis, preliminary engineering and design, and right-of-way evaluation for 6.4 miles of Class I separated trail and fiber optic connectivity along the former Short Line Rail corridor. The goal is to reduce transportation-related carbon emissions through implementation of a multi-use trail that would link residents of the Clarksburg community to West Sacramento and beyond.

The GDTMP was approved by the Commission in 2022. The plan, born from 2006 legislation by Senator Tom Torlakson, encompasses the Delta region, with the goal of linking the San Francisco Bay Trail System and planned Sacramento River Trails, including but not limited to the Delta's shoreline in Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Solano, Sacramento and Yolo counties.

Current Status

Outreach has kicked off for the proposed project with opportunities for the community to provide input toward designing this new 6.4-mile trail extension at two public open houses in January. As envisioned the trail extension would consist of a separated, paved bicycling, walking, and horseback-riding trail within the former Yolo Short Line Railroad corridor purchased by the City of West Sacramento in 2005.

The first open house was held at the Clarksburg Library on January 21, 2025. A second, following the same format, was held at the West Sacramento Recreation Center on January 23, 2025. Participants were introduced to the general alignment and concept presented on a series of posters showing different elements or potential elements of the proposed trail, and invited to provide input. City of West Sacramento, consultant and Commission staff were available for discussion, questions and to encourage suggested prioritization of specific issues areas and design elements.

This rail-to-trail project is part of the larger Yolo Active Transportation Corridors Plan developed by Yolo Transportation District to connect the entire county with safe routes for walking, bicycling, using mobility devices, and to connect smaller communities and neighborhoods in Yolo County to Yolobus transit routes.

Additional opportunities for public input and comment will continue during 2025, with the Coalition seeking to engage with key project partners, including agricultural and adjacent property owners, tribal representatives, local businesses, community organizations, and residents through one-on-one interviews, workshops and other outreach. As the project description takes shape, environmental review will be completed and provide additional opportunities for public comment. Staff will continue to update DPAC and the Commission as new information becomes available.

Recommended Action

No action is necessary.