



PUBLIC NOTICE AND MEETING AGENDA **Delta Protection Commission**

Amended March 18, 2026

Thursday, March 19, 5-7 p.m. (end time is approximate)
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Conference Room
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento, CA 95691
(Main Meeting location)

Teleconference locations

Teleconference Location #1: 3361 Walnut Boulevard, Suite 140, Brentwood, CA 94513

Teleconference Location #2: 44 N San Joaquin St, Floor 6, Stockton, CA 95202

Teleconference Location #3: 5555 Zuckerman Road, Stockton, CA 95206

Teleconference Location #4: 3491 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, CA 94549

Teleconference Location #5: 675 Texas Street, Suite 6002, Fairfield, CA 94533

Teleconference Location #6: 48 Main Street, Isleton, CA 95641

Members of the public are invited to participate at the main meeting location, at any teleconference location, or remotely via the meeting link.

To join the online Microsoft Teams meeting:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 220 654 883 014 36

Passcode: WL7ZP3BG

Phone number: [+1 916-573-2034](tel:+19165732034), [749083085#](tel:+1916749083085) United States, Sacramento

Access code: 749 083 085#

Agenda

1. Call to order and Flag Salute
2. Welcome & Roll Call
3. Public Comment – an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission regarding items not on the agenda

Consent Agenda

4. Consider Approval of Draft January 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes ([p. 4](#))

Regular Agenda

5. Report on Delta Stewardship Council Activities – Chair Diane Burgis and Legislative and Policy Advisor Audrey Cho
6. Delta Conservancy Update – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Executive Officer Campbell Ingram
7. Report on Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) Activities – DPAC Chair Anna Swenson
8. Executive Director’s Report – Executive Director Amanda Bohl ([p. 10](#))
9. Golden Mussels Update – California Department of Fish and Wildlife Environmental Program Manager Martha Volkoff and the Office of Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom
10. Report on National Heritage Area Progress and Recent Activities – Program Manager Blake Roberts
11. Consider Approval of the 2025 Annual Report – Information Officer Holly Heyser ([p. 14](#))
12. Presentation and Discussion on 2026 Workplan – Executive Director Amanda Bohl ([p. 55](#))

Closed Session Agenda

13. The Commission may meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code section 11126, subdivision (e)(2)(A).

Return to Regular Agenda

14. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

15. Adjourn in Honor of Bob Benedetti

The agenda items listed above may be considered in a different order at the Commission meeting, subject to the discretion of the Chair. At the discretion of the Commission, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action. The Commission welcomes and encourages participation in its meetings. For each agenda item, the Commission will invite public comment; comments will be limited to not more than three minutes per person, or

more time at the discretion of the Chair. Meeting materials will be made available on the Commission's website prior to the meeting. Hard copies will also be available at the in-person meeting location.

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. Attachments and additional information can be found on the Delta Protection Commission website: delta.ca.gov.

Comments submitted to submit@delta.ca.gov by noon on March 18, 2026, 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 Commission Members

Diane Burgis, Chair, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors | **John Vasquez, Vice Chair**, Solano County Board of Supervisors | **Oscar Villegas**, Yolo County Board of Supervisors | **Patrick Hume**, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors | **Steven Ding**, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors | **Anissa Williams**, Cities of Contra Costa and Solano counties | **TBD**, Cities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties | **Cameron Bregman**, Cities of San Joaquin County | **Jim Paroli**, Central Delta Reclamation Districts | **Tom Slater**, North Delta Reclamation Districts | **TBD**, South Delta Reclamation Districts | **Toks Omishakin**, CA State Transportation Agency | **Karen Ross**, CA Department of Food and Agriculture | **Wade Crowfoot**, CA Natural Resources Agency | **Matthew Dumlao**, CA State Lands Commission

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: **Rhodesia Ransom**, California State Assembly | **Jerry McNerney**, California State Senate

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Delta Protection Commission

Thursday, January 8, 2026, 5 p.m.
The Delta King, 1000 Front Street, Old Sacramento, CA 95814

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Flag Salute

Chair Diane Burgis called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Welcome and Roll Call

Commission Clerk Heather McClure called the roll. Present at roll call: Chair Diane Burgis; Commissioners Oscar Villegas, Pat Hume, Steven Ding (for Sonny Dhaliwal), David Kent, Cameron Bregman, Tom Slater, Gloria Sandoval (for Karen Ross), and Brian Bugsch (for Matthew Dumlao); and Ex Officio Member Designee Gary Prost for Senator Jerry McNerney. At this time, a quorum was present.

It was noted that Ex Officio Member Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m. during Item 9.

Not present were Vice Chair John Vasquez; Commissioners Anissa Williams, Jim Paroli, and Toks Omishakin; and Alternate Dean Ruiz.

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

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

Consent Agenda

4. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2025; November 13, 2025; and November 17, 2025.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Villegas and seconded by Commissioner Ding to approve the meeting minutes for November 3, 13, and 17, 2025; in a voice vote, the motion passed 9-0-0, all Commissioners present voting aye.

Regular Agenda

5. Report on Delta Stewardship Council (Council) Activities – Chair Diane Burgis

Chair Burgis reported that the December Council meeting included preparation for the upcoming year and a substantial presentation on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Association of Bay Area Governments' Plan Bay Area 2050+. She further reported that a Council meeting will be held later in January and that certification of consistency hearings for the Delta Conveyance Project are scheduled for February.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

6. Report on Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) Activities – Anna Swenson (DPAC Chair)

DPAC Vice Chair Russ Ryan highlighted several reports from the December meeting, including a presentation by the Angels Recovery Dive Team, during which Commissioner Hume presented the team with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their volunteer service in dangerous conditions. He also noted that a Clarksburg Trail update was presented and will be continued to the next DPAC meeting to allow for further discussion and additional public comment. In addition, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife provided a report on the golden mussel, which he stated has become a pervasive issue in the Delta.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

7. Executive Director's Report – Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Executive Director Bohl reported that Congress is moving forward with an increase to \$500,000 per year for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA). The legislation must pass before the increase can be implemented for the current federal fiscal year. She also reported that she and Program Manager Blake Roberts will be traveling to Washington D.C. next month to attend the annual Association of National Heritage Areas gathering.

Commissioner Sandoval commented that the California Natural Resources Agency will host its first *Outdoors for All* Convening on February 3 and noted that information on the NHA Area will be shared at the event to highlight how it supports the state's *Outdoors for All* efforts. She also reported that Commissioner Villegas has agreed to participate on a panel with the California State Parks Director and other agency leaders.

Executive Director Bohl announced that Program Manager Virginia Gardiner retired from the Commission at the end of December and thanked her for her nearly ten years of service. She expressed appreciation for Gardiner's willingness to remain longer to

guide the DPC through the Delta Conveyance Project appeal as well as her many contributions to the Commission’s work.

Gardiner thanked the Commission for the opportunity, describing her time with the Commission as an “amazing ride.” She reflected on several projects completed during her tenure, including the Economic Sustainability Plan and the Great Delta Trail Master Plan. Gardiner also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to “go out with a bang” by working on the Delta Conveyance Project appeal and concluded by commending the Commission’s “outstanding staff.”

The Commission presented Gardiner with a framed print depicting a Delta landscape by local artist Merle Axelrad in recognition of her service.

Chair Burgis expressed appreciation for Gardiner’s service, noting the special expertise and skills she brought to the Commission and commenting that the impact of her work will continue to be felt for years to come.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

8. Potential Approval of Proposed Rio Vista General Plan, Based on Review of the Land Use Resource Management Plan Policies – Blake Roberts, DPC Program Manager

Roberts presented an overview of the City of Rio Vista’s proposed General Plan and explained the Commission’s role under the Delta Protection Act to determine whether local general plans are consistent with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP). He described the required findings related to wetlands, water quality, flood risk, agriculture, public access, and other resource protections, and noted that the City submitted documentation demonstrating consistency with these requirements. Changes in the updated Rio Vista General Plan land use diagram were reviewed, including clarification of existing land uses and a reduction in land designated for industrial use in favor of open space and natural resources. Roberts recommended that the Commission approve the Rio Vista General Plan. A representative from the City of Rio Vista, Paul Junker, provided additional background on the comprehensive update process and noted that the Plan reflects changes to bring it up to current state requirements.

Commissioner Villegas asked whether the review applies to areas in the secondary zone as well, and Roberts replied that the code only requires review for consistency with the LURMP for areas in the Primary Zone.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Hume and seconded by Commissioner Kent to approve the proposed Rio Vista General Plan; in a voice vote, the motion passed 9-0-0, all Commissioners present voting aye.

Chair Burgis recused herself and left the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Vice Chair Vasquez was unable to attend, so Commissioner Oscar Villegas led the remainder of the meeting.

Commissioner Sandoval explained that she needed to share an announcement at that time because she would not be present later in the meeting during Commissioner comments. She announced that the California Natural Resources Agency, in partnership with California State Parks, is leading the California Trails Survey to gather input from outdoor users, agencies, and community leaders on statewide trail needs and priorities. She encouraged Commissioners to participate and noted that feedback will help inform future trail investments, including potential funding from the climate bond. Sandoval also noted that the survey (californiatrailssurvey.com) will close in February and offered to share the information with staff for distribution.

Commissioner Villegas commented on the importance of including the Great Delta Trail in these trail planning efforts.

9. Update on Delta Conveyance Project Appeals and Potential Approval of Additional Comment Letter pursuant to PRC 29773 – Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Executive Director Bohl provided an update on the Commission's appeal of the Delta Conveyance Project certification of consistency with the Delta Plan. She reported that staff filed an appeal and submitted comments pursuant to Public Resources Code section 29773 on November 17. Following the submission, staff requested two extensions. The first request, submitted in coordination with other appellants, sought to delay the hearing date and was granted. The second request sought additional time for the Commission to submit comments under Section 5028 of the Council's appeals procedures; this request was denied. Bohl reported that staff submitted an additional written filing on January 2 expanding on the Commission's appeal and addressing issues raised by other appellants, and also submitted eight maps for inclusion in the record. She noted that the appeals hearing is scheduled for February 26–27 and that staff is preparing for the hearing. Bohl recommended that the Commission present its arguments using a panel format and invited Commissioners to provide input on potential panel participants.

Commissioner Sandoval requested a brief pause. She stated for the record that she was recusing herself from the agenda item because her agency, the California Natural Resources Agency, has publicly supported the Delta Conveyance Project due to its

importance in ensuring a stable water supply and responding to the effects of climate change. She noted that the conveyance project is intended to advance the state's coequal goals for the Delta by providing a more reliable water supply for California while protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. She then left the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Following Commissioner Sandoval's recusal, Executive Director Bohl informed the Commission that staff is considering submitting an additional letter pursuant to Public Resources Code section 29773 expanding on the recommendations previously submitted with the Commission's appeal. She noted that the draft letter in the meeting packet proposes both procedural and substantive recommendations, including consideration of a collaborative process led by the Council and greater involvement of Delta community representatives in future discussions related to conveyance. Bohl indicated that staff initially believed Commission approval would be required to submit the additional letter but later determined that it falls within the authority already granted by the Commission. She invited Commissioners to provide feedback on the draft.

Commissioner Hume asked for clarification regarding language describing a "standing amicus curiae" role under Section 5028 and whether that role carried greater weight than participating as an appellant. Counsel Nicole Rinke responded that it does not. She explained that "amicus curiae" is a concept from judicial proceedings in which a party provides perspective on issues raised by others. Rinke stated that staff disagrees with the Council's interpretation that the Commission must choose between participating as an appellant and providing comments under Section 5028, and noted that staff intends to reflect that position in its response to the Council. Rinke also noted that staff honored the Council's request to consolidate submissions within the 20-page limit.

Commissioner Slater asked how much time appellants would have to present at the appeals hearing. Executive Director Bohl responded that the Council will determine the time allotted for each appellant once the hearing schedule is released. She noted that, based on past proceedings, presentations may be limited to approximately 15–20 minutes and would therefore focus on highlighting the most important points from the written submissions rather than presenting them in full, as the Council will already have the written materials as part of the record.

The Commission discussed the potential use of a panel to present the Commission's arguments at the hearing. Commissioner Villegas described the panel approach used during the 2018 WaterFix appeals proceedings, explaining that panel members were identified in advance and later coordinated their testimony after reviewing the

Council's draft determination to ensure presentations addressed key issues without duplicating one another. He suggested a similar approach for the upcoming hearing.

Commissioners Hume and Slater volunteered to serve on the panel.

Commissioner Bregman asked that information regarding panel participation and developments in the appeals process be shared with the full Commission.

Executive Director Bohl noted that staff may also reach out to additional representatives, including Don Nottoli, former Sacramento County Supervisor and Delta Protection Commission Chair, to help ensure the panel reflects the range of interests represented by the Commission. She also noted that staff may call a meeting on February 19 to obtain Commission input prior to the February 26–27 appeals hearing.

Commissioner Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

Closed Session

10. The Commission may meet in closed session to discuss the appeals pending before the Delta Stewardship Council (C20257-A01 – A10) regarding DWR's Certification of Consistency for the Delta Conveyance Project pursuant to Government Code, Section 11126(e)(2)(A)

Counsel Nicole Rinke announced there was no need for a closed session.

Return to Regular Agenda

11. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Villegas asked for Commissioner comments and announcements, and there were none.

12. Adjourn

Commissioner Villegas adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

March 19, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 08: Executive Director’s Report

Prepared by: Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Presented by: Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Recommended Action: Receive the Executive Director’s Report

Type of Action: Receive

ADMINISTRATION

Commission Budget Update

Budget and Spending for Delta Protection Commission - FY 25/26 Projected Budget

FY 25/26 Categories	Budget Amount	Total Expenses and Projections	Difference
Salaries/Wages and Benefits	\$1,640,000	\$1,191,000	\$449,000
Operating Expenses	\$442,800	\$824,000	(\$381,200)
Reimbursements	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
Total	\$2,142,800	\$2,015,000	\$127,800

Commission Members

David Kent, representing the cities of Sacramento and Yolo counties, is no longer serving as an Isleton City Councilmember or a member of the Commission. Staff is in communication with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments—SACOG—regarding the appointment of a new representative and alternate.

Staffing

The Commission is currently recruiting a Senior Environmental Planner. The application deadline was extended to March 20. The Administrative Analyst II recruitment is in the interview phase, with the position anticipated to be filled by April.

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Passport Program

Congressman John Garamendi participated in a launch event for the NHA Passport Program on February 28 at the RioVision Gallery in Rio Vista. Congressman Garamendi, Commission Chair Diane Burgis, and NHA Advisory Committee Vice Chair Elizabeth Patterson spoke at the event, which was attended by federal and state officials and NHA partners. Together, Garamendi, Burgis, and Patterson applied the ceremonial first stamp. The event and program launch received press coverage in the Dixon Independent Voice, Fairfield Daily Republic, SF Gate, and Travel and Tour World – articles can be accessed from the [VisitCADelta Media Room](#).

The NHA Passport Program currently has 27 sites, which include libraries, museums, and federal, state, and regional parks, in Contra Costa, Sacramento, Solano, and Yolo counties. The Commission’s Passport webpage provides a map showing the locations of the passport stamping stations along with nearby local attractions for visitors.

Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan

Honey, the Commission’s branding and marketing contractor, is completing its market research and brand analysis phases and will be preparing the draft brand toolkit, which includes a revised logo, colors, tagline, typography, and branding and marketing materials. Commission staff are working with the NHA Advisory Committee and task groups to provide feedback.

NHA Advisory Committee

The next NHA Advisory Committee meeting is 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, in Crockett.

NHA Funding

The recently signed Department of the Interior appropriation bill for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026) specifies that the NHA will receive \$500,000, an increase from the FFY 2025 funding of \$157,500. The NHA received an increase in funding because the management plan was approved in January 2025. The Notice of Award, which will allow the Commission to access these funds, is forthcoming.

RECREATION

Great California Delta Trail – Clarksburg Branch Line Trail Extension (CBLT)

An update on the CBLT was agendaized on the February 10, 2026 Delta Protection Advisory Committee meeting. A general summary of the project was given which included the Commission's role, current status of the project, and next steps. Project proponents are working on studies and surveys, environmental clearance documents, alternative analyses (based on community input), building education partnerships, and seeking trail sponsors. Next steps include finalizing the scope and project description, and presenting findings to communities for comment through a community workshop estimated to happen this spring.

Dianne Moore with Moore Biological Consultants and Corrine Dwyer (a farmer impacted by this project) spoke to the Committee in opposition to the project citing a variety of issues.

LAND USE

Delta Conveyance Project

Executive Director Amanda Bohl and Commissioners Patrick Hume and Tom Slater participated in Delta Stewardship Council hearings Feb. 26-27 on appeals of the Delta Conveyance Project Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan. Bohl, Hume, and Slater presented highlights of the Commission's appeal on the first day of hearings, and Bohl fielded questions from the Council on the second day. A [Courthouse News Service article on the first day of hearings](#) quoted Commissioner Hume.

The Council must decide on the appeals within 60 days of the hearings, issuing a decision by late April.

The Commission's appeal documents can be found [on the DPC website](#).

Commission Land Use Comments

Commission staff conduct weekly reviews of agendas and updates from 65 agency and local government departments to ensure land use proposals comply with the DPC's Land Use and Resource Management Plan. As needed, staff send comment letters regarding projects under the authority delegated to the Executive Director in 2016.

LEADERSHIP

Delta Leadership Program

The 2026 Delta Leadership Program is underway, having completed three of five planned seminars in Sacramento, Stockton, and Rio Vista. Participants will present group projects at the May 21 Commission meeting.

The program is a joint effort of the Delta Protection Commission and the [Delta Leadership Foundation](#) to support sustained leadership development in the region.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletters

As of February 27, the Commission had published six newsletters since the last Executive Director's Report (* denotes one of three most-clicked items in the issue):

[December 30 Delta Happenings](#): *Twitchell Levee Project, Stockton Viaduct Design, *The Point, and *Delta Events

[January 8 Delta Heritage Courier](#): Chinese New Year, *A Riverboat Fire, Learn to Fish (Not in newsletter subject line: *Anza Expedition Anniversary Event)

[January 16 Delta Happenings](#): *Tunnel Bonds, Delta Agency Jobs, Bridge Work, DPC Retirement (Not in newsletter subject line: *Events Calendar, *Trails Survey)

[January 28 Delta Happenings](#): *Miner Slough Bridge, Ag Leaders, Healthy Soils, *Delta Events

[February 10 Delta Happenings](#): Delta Jobs, Bridge Work, W. Sac Tourism, DPAC openings, *DLP Alum to Head CDFW (Not in newsletter subject line: *Events Calendar, *DLP Alumni Gathering)

[February 24 Delta Happenings](#): *Conveyance Hearing, Eggman Appointed to Council, Route 4 Work, Antioch Library (Not in newsletter subject line: *Events Calendar, *[DLP in Rio Vista](#))

Upcoming Delta Events

Our Delta event listing has moved to VisitCADelta.com/events. It is very popular, as evidenced by its repeated ranking in three most-clicked links in every issue of *Delta Happenings*).

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

March 19, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 11: Approve 2025 Annual Report

Prepared by: Commission Staff

Presented by: Amanda Bohl and Holly Heyser

Recommended Action: Approve the 2025 Annual Report

Type of Action: Vote

Background

Public Resources Code section 29780 requires the Commission to report to the Governor and Legislature annually on the progress made in achieving the statutory objectives of the Delta Protection Commission. Once the content is approved, the report will be published and forwarded to the Governor and Legislature.

Recommended Action

Approve the 2025 Annual Report.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan)

Education and Outreach (Strategic Theme)

O.1 Ensure consistent, proactive communication between and among Delta interests and decision makers.

1.3 Foster two-way communication throughout the Delta.

1.3.3 Foster communication between Delta interests for improved, coordinated action.



A freshly planted rice field on Staten Island

ACTION 2025

Delta Protection Commission

Annual Report



Letter from the Chair



March 19, 2026

Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
Honorable Members, California State Legislature
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 2025 Delta Protection Commission Annual Report

Dear Governor Newsom,

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Resources Code Section 29780, I am proud to submit the 2025 Delta Protection Commission Annual Report for your review.

It is our mission to support agriculture, recreation, cultural heritage, and natural resources in the Delta. We advance that mission by implementing our Strategic Plan (Vision 2030) while adapting to challenges and opportunities.

Among our 2025 accomplishments: Our Management Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area – emphasizing protection and promotion of the Delta’s vibrant culture and history – was approved by the U.S. Department of Interior; we released the first quinquennial update of our Socioeconomic Indicators Report; our staff initiated a critically important study of the impacts of converting farmland for habitat restoration and flood control projects; we published a report on the value of rice as a Delta crop that sustains agriculture while stopping subsidence and reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and we continued to meet our core statutory mission of monitoring land use proposals to ensure they are consistent with our land use plan for the Delta.

With the support of all the Commission members, it is an honor to offer you the Delta Protection Commission 2025 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Diane Burgis
Chair

Background

The [Delta Protection Act](#) was adopted by the Legislature in 1992 and last amended in 2009. The Delta Protection Act declares that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is “a natural resource of statewide, national, and international significance, containing irreplaceable resources, and that it is the policy of the State to recognize, preserve, and protect those resources of the Delta for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.”

The Delta Protection Commission was created under the 1992 Act to recognize and protect the unique cultural, recreational, natural, and agricultural resources of the Delta, and the 2009 amendments to the Act further defined it as “the appropriate agency to identify and provide recommendations to the Delta Stewardship Council on methods of preserving the Delta as an evolving place.” With this mandate, the Commission focuses on the oversight of Delta land use and resource management; levees and emergency response; the support of Delta agriculture, recreation, tourism, and local economic development; and the protection of Delta historic, cultural, and natural resources.

The 15 members of the Commission include a member of the County Board of Supervisors from each of the five primary Delta counties (Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo); three elected city council members representing cities throughout the Delta; representatives from North, Central, and South Delta reclamation districts; and representatives from the California State Transportation Agency, California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and California State Lands Commission. Two ex officio members represent the California State Senate and the California State Assembly.

As required by Public Resources Code Section 29780, each year the Commission submits to the Governor and the state Legislature this Annual Report, describing the progress Commission actions have made toward fulfilling the requirements of the Delta Protection Act.

2025 Actions

Agriculture

Rice Report

Commission staff produced [a report on the role rice farming can play](#) in reducing subsidence and carbon emissions in the Delta, providing nutrients for endangered salmon in Delta rivers, and supporting the Delta's critically important agricultural economy.

Farmland Conversion Study

Commission staff launched a study examining the impacts of Delta farmland conversions associated with water supply, flood control, and habitat projects. Preliminary research indicates that, in recent years, more Delta farmland has been converted for such projects than for urban development, and that additional conversions are planned to meet state ecosystem, climate, and water management goals. Changes to farmland use can create challenges for farmers, reclamation districts, local governmental entities, and Delta communities that rely on agricultural operations.

[Preliminary results of the study \(PDF\)](#) were presented at [public workshops](#) held July 15 and 17, and to the Delta Protection Commission at its [regular meeting on July 17](#). Several speakers highlighted their concern about the impact of the aggregate loss of farmland in the Delta. Commission staff also invited written public feedback, and a formal public comment period was held from July 18 through September 8. Staff received numerous written comments from farmers, reclamation districts, partner agencies, local governments, and other stakeholders.

Staff anticipate finalizing the study in 2026. In the meantime, conversations are already underway with other state agencies about ways to protect productive farmland while also meeting important state and regional environmental, climate, flood management, and water supply objectives.

Land & Water

Commission staff reviewed local government and other agency agendas and public notices to identify projects that fall under the Commission's purview, then reviewed those projects for consistency with the [Land Use and Resource Management Plan \(LURMP\)](#) and the Delta Protection Act. As needed, Commission staff submitted comment letters to various entities on land use projects, detailed later in this report in the [Land Use Project Comment Letters section](#).

Delta Conveyance Project

The Delta Conveyance Project (DCP), proposed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), would create a 45-mile tunnel starting on the Sacramento River at the town of Hood and ending at the Bethany Reservoir west of Tracy, near the community of Mountain House in the South Delta. It would deliver water to the State Water Project.

In 2025, the Commission continued its [yearslong involvement](#) in commenting on the DCP at various junctures at which public comment was invited: Notice of Preparation (2020), draft EIR (2022), draft EIS (2023), Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan for proposed geotechnical activities (2024), National Historic Preservation Act process with Army Corps of Engineers (2023-25), and Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan (October 2025). It culminated in November with the Commission's appeal of the project's Certification of Consistency.

National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires a federal agency funding or permitting a project to consider the project's effects on properties that are included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. For the Delta Conveyance Project, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is responsible for carrying out Section 106, and the Programmatic Agreement outlines how it intends to comply.

Staff provided [comments \(PDF\)](#) to the Corps regarding its draft Programmatic Agreement as presented to the consulting parties in a meeting on July 10. [The final Programmatic Agreement \(PDF\) is here](#). Staff expressed serious concerns in four areas: (1) The phased development of Areas of Potential Effects (APEs) and potential resulting cumulative impacts of the project; (2) lack of acknowledgement of the National Heritage Area in the recitals; (3) late notification of and inadequate time for all consulting parties to provide feedback and comment at each stage; and (4) the need to include local history and culture experts including tribal experts in each phase.

Certification of Consistency

Following DWR's certification of consistency filing with the Delta Stewardship Council, the Delta Protection Commission joined 10 other entities in appealing certification.

The Commission's appeal focused in particular on inconsistency with Delta Plan policies and recommendations regarding "Delta as Place." [The Commission's appeal \(PDF\)](#) stated, "If carried out as proposed, the DCP will irrevocably alter the rural character of the Delta, its economic pillars (agriculture and recreation), and its cultural heritage.

"This represents a significant adverse impact on the achievement of one or both of the coequal goals (*of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem*), since the coequal goals must be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place. The DCP purports to achieve water supply reliability, but at the expense of the Delta" (parenthetical section added).

The Delta Stewardship Council held hearings on the appeals in late February 2026 and was expected to issue a decision within 60 days.

Regional Economy

Socioeconomic Indicators Report

The Commission released its [2025 Socioeconomic Indicators Update \(PDF\)](#) on March 21. The report – the second in an ongoing series providing a scorecard of key measures of wellbeing in the Delta – highlighted a variety of changes from 2017 to 2022:

- The unemployment rate dropped by 5.4 percentage points in the Secondary Zone, from 12.4% to 7%.
- The 7% unemployment rate in the Delta was slightly higher than the statewide rate of 6.5%, but substantially lower than the San Joaquin Valley rate of 9.3%.
- Both median household and median individual incomes for the Delta increased over the previous period and were higher than the state's as a whole.
- Land in agricultural production from 2017 to 2022 increased by over 10% over the 2011-2016 study period.
- Continuing trends from the previous period, higher value crops were being planted, with corn coverage dropping and almonds increasing.

- In 2022, 350,000 acres of land in the Primary Zone were in active agriculture: Top crops by total land cover were alfalfa, corn, grapes, clover/wildflowers, and winter wheat.

The update serves as a scorecard for the region’s economy and quality of life, and can be used by residents, elected officials and others to identify priorities or needs for additional information.

Recreation & Tourism

Great California Delta Trail System

The Great California Delta Trail is envisioned as a continuous regional recreation corridor extending around the Delta, including the shorelines of five Delta counties, and linking trail systems from Sacramento to the San Francisco Bay.

The Delta Protection Commission was designated by the Legislature as the party responsible for developing a master plan for the Delta Trail, and acts as a coordinator working in partnership with local parks, recreation, and trails organizations to coordinate planning and implementation. Trail segments are conceived, developed, built, and managed locally.

Website

In 2025, Commission staff created a new [Great Delta Trail webpage](#) that provides key details about designated segments, links to information about annual trail events, information about designating trails as part of the system, and links to the Trail Master Plan.

Clarksburg Branch Line Trail Extension

The Commission continued to participate in outreach efforts for the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail Extension, a proposed 6.4-mile addition to the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail that would extend the trail from West Sacramento to the town of Clarksburg. The extension would be a Class I paved multi-use (bicycling, walking, and horseback-riding) trail within a rail corridor purchased by the City of West Sacramento in 2005.

The Commission has a memorandum of understanding with West Sacramento, Yolo County, and the Yolo Transportation District to assist with outreach and engagement, provide guidance on the Delta Trail Master plan criteria for designation, and contribute to project implementation, reviews, design, and discussion.

Public comments and feedback relating to desired features have included rest areas, strong safety design measures, and providing for adequate consideration of equestrian needs. Concerns expressed related to design and management issues have included avoiding interference with agricultural operations, the potential for homeless population encroachment, and litter.

Project proponents have been engaged on surveys and studies, environmental clearance, and alternative analyses based on community input.

Striped Bass Regulations

At the urging of the Delta Protection Advisory Committee and the California Striped Bass Association, the Commission sent a letter in July urging the California Fish and Game Commission to approve a slot limit for striped bass in an effort to maintain a robust recreational fishery.

Existing regulations allowed take of striped bass 18 inches or larger. Following several years of analysis and discussions with stakeholders, the Department of Fish and Wildlife proposed allowing legal take of striped bass from 18 inches minimum to 30 inches maximum, with the goal of protecting larger, mature fish.

The Fish and Game Commission rejected the proposed slot limit in October.

Heritage

The Commission is the local coordinating entity for the [Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area \(NHA\)](#), which was established by Congress in 2019.

National Heritage Area Management Plan

The U.S. Department of Interior approved the NHA Management Plan on January 16, 2025, kicking off implementation of NHA programs described in the plan. The Management Plan outlines [themes and storylines](#), which are central to the NHA's role in telling the region's story to Delta communities, adjacent regions and visitors from afar. It also [sets goals and delineates strategies](#) for achieving them.

Following approval, the Management Plan was [honored with a Planning Excellence Award](#) from the Sacramento Valley Section of the American Planning Association.

Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan

In August, Commission staff [launched the development of a Tourism Brand and Marketing Plan](#) for the National Heritage Area that will help promote sustainable tourism and

economic development in the region. The rollout of the plan will include public outreach, market research, and the creation of a brand toolkit. The project is expected to be completed by late June 2026.

Partnership Program

Commission staff enlisted and signed memoranda of agreement with [15 community partners](#) for the National Heritage Area:

- California Delta Chambers & Visitors Bureau
- California State Parks
- Clarksburg Schoolhouse
- Contra Costa County Historical Society
- Contra Costa County Library
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- Dutra Museum Foundation
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Locke Foundation
- RioVision
- Sacramento Public Library
- Solano County Library
- West Sacramento
- Yolo County Library

The Commission also entered into a new cooperative agreement with the National Park Service.

The partnership program is critical to achieving the goals of the National Heritage Area. The Commission coordinates the NHA, but partners, such as museums, parks, cultural attractions, agritourism destinations, landmark businesses and more, promote economic development and quality of life for residents and provide authentic experiences for visitors.

Partners help the NHA by agreeing to help with pertinent NHA strategies. The NHA helps partners by promoting partnerships, sharing branding materials, supporting partner projects, and providing visitor-attracting passport stamping stations.

Passport Program

The Delta National Heritage Area has joined more than 40 other NHAs, in addition to nearly all parks in the National Park System, in the [Passport to Your National Parks Program](#).

The program is simple: Travelers can purchase a passport book that they get stamped whenever they visit a participating NHA or park in the National Park System. The stamp records the name of the NHA, the city or town where the stamping station is located, and date of the visit. It's just like getting an official passport stamped when entering another country.

Commission staff developed the program in 2025, securing stamping station sites, creating [associated web pages](#), and designing and producing displays for stamping stations. A delay in receipt of stamps ordered from the non-profit education partner of the National Park Service pushed the launch to February 2026.

Communications

The Commission's communications team maintains three websites, sends two regular newsletters, produces original website content, distributes occasional press releases, and maintains five social media accounts. Social media is used primarily to expand the reach of DPC newsletters and website contents, and to share posts about issues of importance of Delta residents.

Websites

Two key 2025 website initiatives are covered under the [Recreation and Tourism](#) and [Heritage \(Passport Program\)](#) sections. Two more are covered here:

VisitCADelta Website

Staff undertook a major update of the Commission's VisitCADelta.com website, which aims to help visitors explore the Delta's cultural, historic, and recreational riches.

The site had fallen out of date due to insufficient staffing. Nearly 600 recreational venues and resources had to be reviewed, their website and contact information updated, and expired resources deleted. A plan for continued maintenance is in place.

Delta Event Promotion

The Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan aims, among other things, to boost the identity and visibility of the Delta as a destination. The plan identifies Delta event promotion as one way to help achieve that goal.

The Commission has promoted events through its biweekly *Delta Happenings* and bimonthly *Delta Heritage Courier* newsletters. In 2025, however, staff created a [website-based calendar on the VisitCADelta website](#), which now hosts information about community events throughout the legal Delta and the Delta National Heritage Area. This calendar can be updated at any time because it is not bound by the same deadlines as the newsletters, so it never goes out of date, and it's almost never too late to add an upcoming event. In addition, viewers can click on maps that make it easy to get directions.

Staff plans to increase promotion and visibility of the calendar in 2026.

Newsletters

Staff sent 30 [newsletters](#) in 2025: six editions of the bimonthly *Delta Heritage Courier*, a heritage- and culture-oriented newsletter with 625 subscribers; and 24 editions of the biweekly *Delta Happenings*, a general-interest newsletter with 1,525 subscribers.

Despite differing audiences and content, both newsletters aim to deepen people's connection to the Delta. They enjoy unusually high open rates of 40% and click rates (percentage of readers clicking on links) of 13.5%.

Original Website Content

Original website content serves multiple purposes: raising awareness about important Delta issues, deepening readers' connection to the Delta, and promoting the Commission's good work. Some articles are picked up by local media, expanding their reach.

In 2025, in addition to the report about the value of farming rice in the Delta mentioned in the [Agriculture section](#), staff published photo galleries from the Commission's Delta Leadership Program (covered in the [next section](#)) and [Chinese New Year in Locke](#), and an [article explaining a series of weekend long bridge closures](#) on one of the Delta's two east-west highways.

Press Releases

Commission staff issued 10 press releases in 2025:

- Three related to the search for (and appointment of) an executive director. News of the appointment was picked up by the Contra Costa News, Capitol Morning Report, and two news aggregators.
- Three about National Heritage Area news (approval of the NHA Management Plan, launch of brand and marketing planning, and an award for the management plan). The management plan approval release was picked up by a news aggregator, the brand and marketing plan release was picked up by the Fairfield Daily Republic and one news aggregator, and the award release was picked up by the Brentwood Press.
- One concerning the release of the Commission's Socioeconomic Indicators Update, which was picked up by a news aggregator.
- Two concerning openings on the Delta Protection Advisory Committee (one about an extended application deadline, the other about appointments).

- One concerning the Commission’s appeal of the Delta Conveyance Project certification of consistency with the Delta Plan, which was picked up by the Fairfield Daily Republic, the Contra Costa News, the Daily Kos, and two news aggregators.

Leadership & Development

Executive Director

The Commission sought a change in leadership in early 2025, launching a major search for a new Executive Director. An Interim Executive Director, Daniel K. Ray, served from February through September, and led the staff in several major initiatives promoting agriculture and implementing National Heritage Area programs. In October, a second Interim Executive Director, Holly Heyser, finished the transition to permanent Executive Director Amanda Bohl, who began on October 20.

Finance and Administration Manager

Commission Clerk Heather McClure was promoted to Finance and Administration Manager in September, ending an eight-month vacancy.

A Departure

Eight-year DPC veteran Virginia Gardiner retired at the end of December. Her accomplishments at the Commission include the Visitor Preference Survey, Economic Sustainability Plan Recreation and Tourism Chapter update, Great California Delta Trail Master Plan, and the Socioeconomic Indicators update.

With her departure, 3 of the Commission’s budgeted 8.5 staff positions were vacant at the end of 2025. But with a new Executive Director on board, staff is moving quickly to fill them.

Public Bodies

Commission staff are directed and advised by a 15-member [Commission](#) and two committees: The [Delta Protection Advisory Committee](#) and the [Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Advisory Committee](#).

[Agendas, meeting materials and approved minutes are available here.](#)

Commission

The Commission was created by the 1992 Delta Protection Act, with 11 members representing Delta counties, cities, and reclamation districts; and 4 representing state

agencies. It includes two Ex Officio members, one each from the state Senate and Assembly.

The Commission normally meets every other month, but it held many additional meetings in 2025, related to the change in leadership as well as the Delta Conveyance Project certification of consistency. Meeting dates in 2025 were (links go to agendas and materials):

- [January 16](#)
- [February 25](#)
- [March 20](#)
- [May 15](#)
- [July 17](#)
- [July 23 \(Executive Director Selection Ad Hoc Committee\)](#)
- [September 4](#)
- [September 18](#)
- [November 3](#)
- [November 13 \(continued to November 17\)](#)

Delta Protection Advisory Committee

The Delta Protection Advisory Committee was created in compliance with the [Delta Reform Act of 2009](#) to provide recommendations on diverse issues: the Delta's ecosystem, water supply, socioeconomic sustainability, recreation, agriculture, flood control, environment, water resources, utility infrastructure, and other Delta issues. It meets every other month. Meeting dates in 2025 were (links go to agendas and materials):

- [February 11](#)
- [April 1](#)
- [June 3](#)
- [Aug. 5](#)
- [December 2](#)

NHA Advisory Committee

The 15-member Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Advisory Committee was created by the Commission in 2024 to guide implementation of the NHA Management Plan. The Committee met every other month in 2025, but is switching to quarterly meetings in 2026. Meeting dates in 2025 were (links go to agendas and materials):

- [February 26](#)
- [April 23](#)
- [June 25](#)
- [Aug. 20](#)
- [October 29](#)
- [December 17](#)

Delta Leadership Program

In cooperation with the Delta Leadership Foundation, Commission staff operated the [Delta Leadership Program](#) for the ninth year. Nineteen people completed the program, which is designed to identify and cultivate regional leaders. One 2025 participant – LeighAnn Davis – was subsequently appointed by the Commission as an alternate on the [Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Advisory Committee](#), on which two other program alumni also serve. Seven alumni serve on the Commission’s [Delta Protection Advisory Committee](#).

The 2026 class of 15 participants was selected in December, and the program began January 9. The 2026 class includes a DPC staff member: Senior Environmental Planner Rachel Vanderwerff.

Land Use Project Comment Letters

Multiple Counties

Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Master Plan

The Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Master Plan was issued by the California Department of Water Resources and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, both members of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership. The purpose of the plan is to guide continued project planning and implementation consistent with the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and its Conservation Strategy, inform the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Yolo Bypass System Comprehensive Study, and support continued efforts to advance the goals of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership.

Zone(s): Primary Zone and Secondary Zone

Project Size: Approximately 53,000 acres

Farmland Conversion: Indeterminate – proposed policies may convert farmland, but the total quantities are unknown at this time.

Comments: Staff recommended that the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership review the plan for compliance with Land Use and Resource Management Plan policies, particularly when applied to proposed local government projects. Reductions in agricultural productivity and land conversion need to be addressed through mitigation, including replacing converted farmland at a minimum target 1:1 ratio, as specified in Delta Plan Appendix O.

Sacramento County

Delta Cross Channel Gate Improvement Project

Staff provided comments to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on its Environmental Assessment for the Delta Cross Channel Improvement Project. Located on the Sacramento River between Locke and Walnut Grove, the gate was originally constructed in 1951 as a controlled diversion channel to manage water quality and flows in the central and southern Delta, and to help reduce salinity intrusion rates in the western Delta. It has also become an important management tool to prevent listed salmonids and other fish from being diverted toward and entrained in the massive pumps of the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) in the south Delta. When open, Sacramento River flows are partially diverted into Snodgrass Slough and the Lower Mokelumne River, to the CVP and SWP. The open gate also offers a shortcut for recreational boaters to access parts of the eastern and south Delta. The aging structure needs updating. Improvements will include automating the gate for full remote operation and reliability, and to improve safety, and will formalize existing bank fishing and non-motorized watercraft launch with a new public access ramp.

Zone(s): Primary Zone

Project Size: 21 acres

Farmland Conversion: None

Comments: Comments offered general support for the project, especially for the proposed public access ramp for non-motorized watercraft launch and fishing, which would enhance recreational opportunities for Locke, Walnut Grove, and beyond. Staff also recommended including reference to the Great California Delta Trail, and

adherence to the “Good Neighbor” practices included in the Delta Plan’s Appendix Q2 for the adjacent agricultural operation. Finally, staff encouraged continued coordination with California State Parks as they move forward with the General Plan process for the adjacent Delta Meadows Park Property.

Delta Meadows Park Classification and General Plan

Staff provided comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) issued by the California Department of Parks and Recreation for this important and long-awaited project. The Delta Meadows Park Property is located within the Primary Zone about 20 miles south of Sacramento, nestled between the communities of Walnut Grove and Locke. Part of State Parks’ Diablo Range District, the property covers approximately 519 acres including portions of Snodgrass Slough and the historic Locke Boarding House.

Zone(s): Primary Zone

Project Size: 519 acres

Farmland Conversion: None

Comments: Staff recommended the EIR discuss reference documents prepared by the Commission, highlighting the Economic Sustainability Plan’s recommendations for economic development in the Locke-Walnut Grove area and the National Heritage Area Management Plan objectives and strategies for built and natural resources. These are important resources on “Delta as Place” values that should be considered in the classification of the property and development of its General Plan, and provide guidance on avoiding, minimizing or mitigating possible impacts on the resources of the Primary Zone.

Solano County

Cache Slough Mitigation Bank

Solano County is lead agency for an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the private commercial Cache Slough Mitigation Bank located within the Primary Zone on approximately 330 acres at the southern reach of the Yolo Bypass at the confluence of Cache Slough, Sacramento River, and Steamboat Slough, northeast of Rio Vista.

Zone(s): Primary Zone and Secondary Zone

Project Size: Approximately 330 acres

Farmland Conversion: None

Comments: Staff encouraged the County to review the Project for compliance with Land Use and Resource Management Plan policies, and consider potential project impacts to levees and surrounding properties, including nearby agriculture operations. Recommended mitigations or project modifications included appropriate buffers and setbacks to adjacent agriculture parcels, avoidance of seepage onto adjacent parcels from creation of new riparian habitat, implementation of “good neighbor” policies and practices, and robust community outreach during construction regarding traffic and other impacts.

Rio Vista 2045 General Plan Update

The Rio Vista 2045 General Plan Update and Draft Environmental Impact Report comprises comprehensive updates to the required elements under the State Planning and Zoning Law, as well as other optional elements that the City has elected to include. The updated plan consolidates goals and policies to guide development and conservation in Rio Vista through 2045. The city includes a portion of the Primary Zone.

Zone(s): Primary Zone

Project Size: Citywide

Farmland Conversion: Indeterminate – proposed land use designations may convert farmland, but the total quantities are unknown at this time.

Comments: Staff noted that the plan appears to be consistent with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan, particularly since it allows continued grazing in Open Space/Natural Resources sections of the City’s Primary Zone lands. Staff also appreciated the plan’s support for biological diversity, cultural heritage, energy and water conservation, flood protection, open space, recreation, and water quality.

Suisun City Expansion Project

The City of Suisun City issued a Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Suisun Expansion Project. The Project would expand the boundaries of Suisun City through annexation of 22,873 acres of unincorporated Solano County land. Within the annexation area, the project would establish the Suisun Expansion Area Plan and the Suisun Expansion Specific Plan. The proposed Specific Plan would establish the General Plan designation and zoning to guide development of a new 15,737-acre community in Suisun City.

Zone(s): Primary Zone and Secondary Zone

Project Size: 22,873 acres (675 acres in the Primary Zone)

Farmland Conversion: Indeterminate – proposed land use designations within the Primary Zone would be open space/agriculture.

Comments: Staff are concerned about potential project impacts on the Primary Zone, particularly agriculture, cultural resources, land use, natural resources, public services, recreation, transportation, and water quality. Development on such a large scale near the Primary Zone can have lasting and potentially destructive effects on the rural and agricultural character of the region. The Commission urges the project proponent to review the project for compliance with Land Use and Resource Management Plan policies. We also recommend that the EIR discuss how the project's integration into the Great California Delta Trail could potentially have environmental impacts.

2025 Membership

Commissioners

Diane Burgis, Chair

Supervisor, Contra Costa County

John Vasquez, Vice Chair

Supervisor, Solano County

Oscar Villegas

Supervisor, Yolo County

Patrick Hume

Supervisor, Sacramento County

Steven Ding

Supervisor, San Joaquin County

Anissa Williams

Mayor, City of Oakley

David Kent (departed February 2026,
replacement to be determined)

Vice-Mayor, City of Isleton

Cameron Bregman

Mayor, City of Lodi

James Paroli

Representative, Central Delta Reclamation
Districts

Tom Slater

Representative, North Delta Reclamation
Districts

Vacant

Representative, South Delta Reclamation
Districts

Toks Omishakin

Secretary, California State Transportation
Agency

Karen Ross

Secretary, California Department of Food
and Agriculture

Wade Crowfoot

Secretary, California Natural Resources
Agency

Matthew Dumlao

Executive Officer, California State Lands
Commission

Ex Officio Members

Honorable Jerry McNerney

California State Senate

Honorable Rhodesia Ransom

California State Assembly

Commission Staff

Amanda Bohl

Executive Director

Virginia Gardiner (retired December 2025)

Program Manager

Blake Roberts

Program Manager

Rachel Vanderwerff

Senior Environmental Planner

Heather McClure

Finance and Administration Manager

Holly Heyser

Information Officer (DPC)

Kira O'Donnell

Information Officer (NHA)



Delta Protection Commission

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West Sacramento, CA 95691

www.delta.ca.gov



A freshly planted rice field on Staten Island

ACTION 2025

Delta Protection Commission

Annual Report



Letter from the Chair



March 19, 2026

Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
Honorable Members, California State Legislature
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 2025 Delta Protection Commission Annual Report

Dear Governor Newsom,

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Resources Code Section 29780, I am proud to submit the 2025 Delta Protection Commission Annual Report for your review.

It is our mission to support agriculture, recreation, cultural heritage, and natural resources in the Delta. We advance that mission by implementing our Strategic Plan (Vision 2030) while adapting to challenges and opportunities.

Among our 2025 accomplishments: Our Management Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area – emphasizing protection and promotion of the Delta’s vibrant culture and history – was approved by the U.S. Department of Interior; we released the first quinquennial update of our Socioeconomic Indicators Report; our staff initiated a critically important study of the impacts of converting farmland for habitat restoration and flood control projects; we published a report on the value of rice as a Delta crop that sustains agriculture while stopping subsidence and reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and we continued to meet our core statutory mission of monitoring land use proposals to ensure they are consistent with our land use plan for the Delta.

With the support of all the Commission members, it is an honor to offer you the Delta Protection Commission 2025 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Diane Burgis
Chair

Background

The [Delta Protection Act](#) was adopted by the Legislature in 1992 and last amended in 2009. The Delta Protection Act declares that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is “a natural resource of statewide, national, and international significance, containing irreplaceable resources, and that it is the policy of the State to recognize, preserve, and protect those resources of the Delta for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.”

The Delta Protection Commission was created under the 1992 Act to recognize and protect the unique cultural, recreational, natural, and agricultural resources of the Delta, and the 2009 amendments to the Act further defined it as “the appropriate agency to identify and provide recommendations to the Delta Stewardship Council on methods of preserving the Delta as an evolving place.” With this mandate, the Commission focuses on the oversight of Delta land use and resource management; levees and emergency response; the support of Delta agriculture, recreation, tourism, and local economic development; and the protection of Delta historic, cultural, and natural resources.

The 15 members of the Commission include a member of the County Board of Supervisors from each of the five primary Delta counties (Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo); three elected city council members representing cities throughout the Delta; representatives from North, Central, and South Delta reclamation districts; and representatives from the California State Transportation Agency, California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and California State Lands Commission. Two ex officio members represent the California State Senate and the California State Assembly.

As required by Public Resources Code Section 29780, each year the Commission submits to the Governor and the state Legislature this Annual Report, describing the progress Commission actions have made toward fulfilling the requirements of the Delta Protection Act.

2025 Actions

Agriculture

Rice Report

Commission staff produced [a report on the role rice farming can play](#) in reducing subsidence and carbon emissions in the Delta, providing nutrients for endangered salmon in Delta rivers, and supporting the Delta's critically important agricultural economy.

Farmland Conversion Study

Commission staff launched a study examining the impacts of Delta farmland conversions associated with water supply, flood control, and habitat projects. Preliminary research indicates that, in recent years, more Delta farmland has been converted for such projects than for urban development, and that additional conversions are planned to meet state ecosystem, climate, and water management goals. Changes to farmland use can create challenges for farmers, reclamation districts, local governmental entities, and Delta communities that rely on agricultural operations.

[Preliminary results of the study \(PDF\)](#) were presented at [public workshops](#) held July 15 and 17, and to the Delta Protection Commission at its [regular meeting on July 17](#). Several speakers highlighted their concern about the impact of the aggregate loss of farmland in the Delta. Commission staff also invited written public feedback, and a formal public comment period was held from July 18 through September 8. Staff received numerous written comments from farmers, reclamation districts, partner agencies, local governments, and other stakeholders.

Staff anticipate finalizing the study in 2026. In the meantime, conversations are already underway with other state agencies about ways to protect productive farmland while also meeting important state and regional environmental, climate, flood management, and water supply objectives.

Land & Water

Commission staff reviewed local government and other agency agendas and public notices to identify projects that fall under the Commission’s purview, then reviewed those projects for consistency with the [Land Use and Resource Management Plan \(LURMP\)](#) and the Delta Protection Act. As needed, Commission staff submitted comment letters to various entities on land use projects, detailed later in this report in the [Land Use Project Comment Letters section](#).

Delta Conveyance Project

The Delta Conveyance Project (DCP), proposed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), would create a 45-mile tunnel starting on the Sacramento River at the town of Hood and ending at the Bethany Reservoir west of Tracy, near the community of Mountain House in the South Delta. It would deliver water to the State Water Project.

In 2025, the Commission continued its [yearslong involvement](#) in commenting on the DCP at various junctures at which public comment was invited: Notice of Preparation (2020), draft EIR (2022), draft EIS (2023), Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan for proposed geotechnical activities (2024), National Historic Preservation Act process with Army Corps of Engineers (2023-25), and Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan (October 2025). It culminated in November with the Commission’s appeal of the project’s Certification of Consistency.

National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires a federal agency funding or permitting a project to consider the project’s effects on properties that are included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. For the Delta Conveyance Project, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is responsible for carrying out Section 106, and the Programmatic Agreement outlines how it intends to comply.

Staff provided [comments \(PDF\)](#) to the Corps regarding its draft Programmatic Agreement as presented to the consulting parties in a meeting on July 10. [The final Programmatic Agreement \(PDF\) is here](#). Staff expressed serious concerns in four areas: (1) The phased development of Areas of Potential Effects (APEs) and potential resulting cumulative impacts of the project; (2) lack of acknowledgement of the National Heritage Area in the recitals; (3) late notification of and inadequate time for all consulting parties to provide feedback and comment at each stage; and (4) the need to include local history and culture experts including tribal experts in each phase.

Certification of Consistency

Following DWR's certification of consistency filing with the Delta Stewardship Council, the Delta Protection Commission joined 10 other entities in appealing certification.

The Commission's appeal focused in particular on inconsistency with Delta Plan policies and recommendations regarding "Delta as Place." [The Commission's appeal \(PDF\)](#) stated, "If carried out as proposed, the DCP will irrevocably alter the rural character of the Delta, its economic pillars (agriculture and recreation), and its cultural heritage.

"This represents a significant adverse impact on the achievement of one or both of the coequal goals (*of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem*), since the coequal goals must be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place. The DCP purports to achieve water supply reliability, but at the expense of the Delta" (parenthetical section added).

The Delta Stewardship Council held hearings on the appeals in late February 2026 and was expected to issue a decision within 60 days.

Regional Economy

Socioeconomic Indicators Report

The Commission released its [2025 Socioeconomic Indicators Update \(PDF\)](#) on March 21. The report – the second in an ongoing series providing a scorecard of key measures of wellbeing in the Delta – highlighted a variety of changes from 2017 to 2022:

- The unemployment rate dropped by 5.4 percentage points in the Secondary Zone, from 12.4% to 7%.
- The 7% unemployment rate in the Delta was slightly higher than the statewide rate of 6.5%, but substantially lower than the San Joaquin Valley rate of 9.3%.
- Both median household and median individual incomes for the Delta increased over the previous period and were higher than the state's as a whole.
- Land in agricultural production from 2017 to 2022 increased by over 10% over the 2011-2016 study period.
- Continuing trends from the previous period, higher value crops were being planted, with corn coverage dropping and almonds increasing.

- In 2022, 350,000 acres of land in the Primary Zone were in active agriculture: Top crops by total land cover were alfalfa, corn, grapes, clover/wildflowers, and winter wheat.

The update serves as a scorecard for the region’s economy and quality of life, and can be used by residents, elected officials and others to identify priorities or needs for additional information.

Recreation & Tourism

Great California Delta Trail System

The Great California Delta Trail is envisioned as a continuous regional recreation corridor extending around the Delta, including the shorelines of five Delta counties, and linking trail systems from Sacramento to the San Francisco Bay.

The Delta Protection Commission was designated by the Legislature as the party responsible for developing a master plan for the Delta Trail, and acts as a coordinator working in partnership with local parks, recreation, and trails organizations to coordinate planning and implementation. Trail segments are conceived, developed, built, and managed locally.

Website

In 2025, Commission staff created a new [Great Delta Trail webpage](#) that provides key details about designated segments, links to information about annual trail events, information about designating trails as part of the system, and links to the Trail Master Plan.

Clarksburg Branch Line Trail Extension

The Commission continued to participate in outreach efforts for the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail Extension, a proposed 6.4-mile addition to the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail that would extend the trail from West Sacramento to the town of Clarksburg. The extension would be a Class I paved multi-use (bicycling, walking, and horseback-riding) trail within a rail corridor purchased by the City of West Sacramento in 2005.

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Passport Program

The Delta National Heritage Area has joined more than 40 other NHAs, in addition to nearly all parks in the National Park System, in the [Passport to Your National Parks Program](#).

The program is simple: Travelers can purchase a passport book that they get stamped whenever they visit a participating NHA or park in the National Park System. The stamp records the name of the NHA, the city or town where the stamping station is located, and date of the visit. It's just like getting an official passport stamped when entering another country.

Commission staff developed the program in 2025, securing stamping station sites, creating [associated web pages](#), and designing and producing displays for stamping stations. A delay in receipt of stamps ordered from the non-profit education partner of the National Park Service pushed the launch to February 2026.

Communications

The Commission's communications team maintains three websites, sends two regular newsletters, produces original website content, distributes occasional press releases, and maintains five social media accounts. Social media is used primarily to expand the reach of DPC newsletters and website contents, and to share posts about issues of importance of Delta residents.

Websites

Two key 2025 website initiatives are covered under the [Recreation and Tourism](#) and [Heritage \(Passport Program\)](#) sections. Two more are covered here:

VisitCADelta Website

Staff undertook a major update of the Commission's VisitCADelta.com website, which aims to help visitors explore the Delta's cultural, historic, and recreational riches.

The site had fallen out of date due to insufficient staffing. Nearly 600 recreational venues and resources had to be reviewed, their website and contact information updated, and expired resources deleted. A plan for continued maintenance is in place.

Delta Event Promotion

The Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan aims, among other things, to boost the identity and visibility of the Delta as a destination. The plan identifies Delta event promotion as one way to help achieve that goal.

The Commission has promoted events through its biweekly *Delta Happenings* and bimonthly *Delta Heritage Courier* newsletters. In 2025, however, staff created a [website-based calendar on the VisitCADelta website](#), which now hosts information about community events throughout the legal Delta and the Delta National Heritage Area. This calendar can be updated at any time because it is not bound by the same deadlines as the newsletters, so it never goes out of date, and it's almost never too late to add an upcoming event. In addition, viewers can click on maps that make it easy to get directions.

Staff plans to increase promotion and visibility of the calendar in 2026.

Newsletters

Staff sent 30 [newsletters](#) in 2025: six editions of the bimonthly *Delta Heritage Courier*, a heritage- and culture-oriented newsletter with 625 subscribers; and 24 editions of the biweekly *Delta Happenings*, a general-interest newsletter with 1,525 subscribers.

Despite differing audiences and content, both newsletters aim to deepen people's connection to the Delta. They enjoy unusually high open rates of 40% and click rates (percentage of readers clicking on links) of 13.5%.

Original Website Content

Original website content serves multiple purposes: raising awareness about important Delta issues, deepening readers' connection to the Delta, and promoting the Commission's good work. Some articles are picked up by local media, expanding their reach.

In 2025, in addition to the report about the value of farming rice in the Delta mentioned in the [Agriculture section](#), staff published photo galleries from the Commission's Delta Leadership Program (covered in the [next section](#)) and [Chinese New Year in Locke](#), and an [article explaining a series of weekend long bridge closures](#) on one of the Delta's two east-west highways.

Press Releases

Commission staff issued 10 press releases in 2025:

- Three related to the search for (and appointment of) an executive director. News of the appointment was picked up by the Contra Costa News, Capitol Morning Report, and two news aggregators.
- Three about National Heritage Area news (approval of the NHA Management Plan, launch of brand and marketing planning, and an award for the management plan). The management plan approval release was picked up by a news aggregator, the brand and marketing plan release was picked up by the Fairfield Daily Republic and one news aggregator, and the award release was picked up by the Brentwood Press.
- One concerning the release of the Commission's Socioeconomic Indicators Update, which was picked up by a news aggregator.
- Two concerning openings on the Delta Protection Advisory Committee (one about an extended application deadline, the other about appointments).

- One concerning the Commission’s appeal of the Delta Conveyance Project certification of consistency with the Delta Plan, which was picked up by the Fairfield Daily Republic, the Contra Costa News, the Daily Kos, and two news aggregators.

Leadership & Development

Executive Director

The Commission sought a change in leadership in early 2025, launching a major search for a new Executive Director. An Interim Executive Director, Daniel K. Ray, served from February through September, and led the staff in several major initiatives promoting agriculture and implementing National Heritage Area programs. In October, a second Interim Executive Director, Holly Heyser, finished the transition to permanent Executive Director Amanda Bohl, who began on October 20.

Finance and Administration Manager

Commission Clerk Heather McClure was promoted to Finance and Administration Manager in September, ending an eight-month vacancy.

A Departure

Eight-year DPC veteran Virginia Gardiner retired at the end of December. Her accomplishments at the Commission include the Visitor Preference Survey, Economic Sustainability Plan Recreation and Tourism Chapter update, Great California Delta Trail Master Plan, and the Socioeconomic Indicators update.

With her departure, 3 of the Commission’s budgeted 8.5 staff positions were vacant at the end of 2025. But with a new Executive Director on board, staff is moving quickly to fill them.

Public Bodies

Commission staff are directed and advised by a 15-member [Commission](#) and two committees: The [Delta Protection Advisory Committee](#) and the [Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Advisory Committee](#).

[Agendas, meeting materials and approved minutes are available here.](#)

Commission

The Commission was created by the 1992 Delta Protection Act, with 11 members representing Delta counties, cities, and reclamation districts; and 4 representing state

agencies. It includes two Ex Officio members, one each from the state Senate and Assembly.

The Commission normally meets every other month, but it held many additional meetings in 2025, related to the change in leadership as well as the Delta Conveyance Project certification of consistency. Meeting dates in 2025 were (links go to agendas and materials):

- [January 16](#)
- [February 25](#)
- [March 20](#)
- [May 15](#)
- [July 17](#)
- [July 23 \(Executive Director Selection Ad Hoc Committee\)](#)
- [September 4](#)
- [September 18](#)
- [November 3](#)
- [November 13 \(continued to November 17\)](#)

Delta Protection Advisory Committee

The Delta Protection Advisory Committee was created in compliance with the [Delta Reform Act of 2009](#) to provide recommendations on diverse issues: the Delta's ecosystem, water supply, socioeconomic sustainability, recreation, agriculture, flood control, environment, water resources, utility infrastructure, and other Delta issues. It meets every other month. Meeting dates in 2025 were (links go to agendas and materials):

- [February 11](#)
- [April 1](#)
- [June 3](#)
- [Aug. 5](#)
- [December 2](#)

NHA Advisory Committee

The 15-member Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Advisory Committee was created by the Commission in 2024 to guide implementation of the NHA Management Plan. The Committee met every other month in 2025, but is switching to quarterly meetings in 2026. Meeting dates in 2025 were (links go to agendas and materials):

- [February 26](#)
- [April 23](#)
- [June 25](#)
- [Aug. 20](#)
- [October 29](#)
- [December 17](#)

Delta Leadership Program

In cooperation with the Delta Leadership Foundation, Commission staff operated the [Delta Leadership Program](#) for the ninth year. Nineteen people completed the program, which is designed to identify and cultivate regional leaders. One 2025 participant – LeighAnn Davis – was subsequently appointed by the Commission as an alternate on the [Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Advisory Committee](#), on which two other program alumni also serve. Seven alumni serve on the Commission’s [Delta Protection Advisory Committee](#).

The 2026 class of 15 participants was selected in December, and the program began January 9. The 2026 class includes a DPC staff member: Senior Environmental Planner Rachel Vanderwerff.

Land Use Project Comment Letters

Multiple Counties

Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Master Plan

The Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Master Plan was issued by the California Department of Water Resources and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, both members of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership. The purpose of the plan is to guide continued project planning and implementation consistent with the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and its Conservation Strategy, inform the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Yolo Bypass System Comprehensive Study, and support continued efforts to advance the goals of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership.

Zone(s): Primary Zone and Secondary Zone

Project Size: Approximately 53,000 acres

Farmland Conversion: Indeterminate – proposed policies may convert farmland, but the total quantities are unknown at this time.

Comments: Staff recommended that the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership review the plan for compliance with Land Use and Resource Management Plan policies, particularly when applied to proposed local government projects. Reductions in agricultural productivity and land conversion need to be addressed through mitigation, including replacing converted farmland at a minimum target 1:1 ratio, as specified in Delta Plan Appendix O.

Sacramento County

Delta Cross Channel Gate Improvement Project

Staff provided comments to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on its Environmental Assessment for the Delta Cross Channel Improvement Project. Located on the Sacramento River between Locke and Walnut Grove, the gate was originally constructed in 1951 as a controlled diversion channel to manage water quality and flows in the central and southern Delta, and to help reduce salinity intrusion rates in the western Delta. It has also become an important management tool to prevent listed salmonids and other fish from being diverted toward and entrained in the massive pumps of the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) in the south Delta. When open, Sacramento River flows are partially diverted into Snodgrass Slough and the Lower Mokelumne River, to the CVP and SWP. The open gate also offers a shortcut for recreational boaters to access parts of the eastern and south Delta. The aging structure needs updating. Improvements will include automating the gate for full remote operation and reliability, and to improve safety, and will formalize existing bank fishing and non-motorized watercraft launch with a new public access ramp.

Zone(s): Primary Zone

Project Size: 21 acres

Farmland Conversion: None

Comments: Comments offered general support for the project, especially for the proposed public access ramp for non-motorized watercraft launch and fishing, which would enhance recreational opportunities for Locke, Walnut Grove, and beyond. Staff also recommended including reference to the Great California Delta Trail, and

adherence to the “Good Neighbor” practices included in the Delta Plan’s Appendix Q2 for the adjacent agricultural operation. Finally, staff encouraged continued coordination with California State Parks as they move forward with the General Plan process for the adjacent Delta Meadows Park Property.

Delta Meadows Park Classification and General Plan

Staff provided comments on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) issued by the California Department of Parks and Recreation for this important and long-awaited project. The Delta Meadows Park Property is located within the Primary Zone about 20 miles south of Sacramento, nestled between the communities of Walnut Grove and Locke. Part of State Parks’ Diablo Range District, the property covers approximately 519 acres including portions of Snodgrass Slough and the historic Locke Boarding House.

Zone(s): Primary Zone

Project Size: 519 acres

Farmland Conversion: None

Comments: Staff recommended the EIR discuss reference documents prepared by the Commission, highlighting the Economic Sustainability Plan’s recommendations for economic development in the Locke-Walnut Grove area and the National Heritage Area Management Plan objectives and strategies for built and natural resources. These are important resources on “Delta as Place” values that should be considered in the classification of the property and development of its General Plan, and provide guidance on avoiding, minimizing or mitigating possible impacts on the resources of the Primary Zone.

Solano County

Cache Slough Mitigation Bank

Solano County is lead agency for an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the private commercial Cache Slough Mitigation Bank located within the Primary Zone on approximately 330 acres at the southern reach of the Yolo Bypass at the confluence of Cache Slough, Sacramento River, and Steamboat Slough, northeast of Rio Vista.

Zone(s): Primary Zone and Secondary Zone

Project Size: Approximately 330 acres

Farmland Conversion: None

Comments: Staff encouraged the County to review the Project for compliance with Land Use and Resource Management Plan policies, and consider potential project impacts to levees and surrounding properties, including nearby agriculture operations. Recommended mitigations or project modifications included appropriate buffers and setbacks to adjacent agriculture parcels, avoidance of seepage onto adjacent parcels from creation of new riparian habitat, implementation of “good neighbor” policies and practices, and robust community outreach during construction regarding traffic and other impacts.

Rio Vista 2045 General Plan Update

The Rio Vista 2045 General Plan Update and Draft Environmental Impact Report comprises comprehensive updates to the required elements under the State Planning and Zoning Law, as well as other optional elements that the City has elected to include. The updated plan consolidates goals and policies to guide development and conservation in Rio Vista through 2045. The city includes a portion of the Primary Zone.

Zone(s): Primary Zone

Project Size: Citywide

Farmland Conversion: Indeterminate – proposed land use designations may convert farmland, but the total quantities are unknown at this time.

Comments: Staff noted that the plan appears to be consistent with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan, particularly since it allows continued grazing in Open Space/Natural Resources sections of the City’s Primary Zone lands. Staff also appreciated the plan’s support for biological diversity, cultural heritage, energy and water conservation, flood protection, open space, recreation, and water quality.

Suisun City Expansion Project

The City of Suisun City issued a Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Suisun Expansion Project. The Project would expand the boundaries of Suisun City through annexation of 22,873 acres of unincorporated Solano County land. Within the annexation area, the project would establish the Suisun Expansion Area Plan and the Suisun Expansion Specific Plan. The proposed Specific Plan would establish the General Plan designation and zoning to guide development of a new 15,737-acre community in Suisun City.

Zone(s): Primary Zone and Secondary Zone

Project Size: 22,873 acres (675 acres in the Primary Zone)

Farmland Conversion: Indeterminate – proposed land use designations within the Primary Zone would be open space/agriculture.

Comments: Staff are concerned about potential project impacts on the Primary Zone, particularly agriculture, cultural resources, land use, natural resources, public services, recreation, transportation, and water quality. Development on such a large scale near the Primary Zone can have lasting and potentially destructive effects on the rural and agricultural character of the region. The Commission urges the project proponent to review the project for compliance with Land Use and Resource Management Plan policies. We also recommend that the EIR discuss how the project's integration into the Great California Delta Trail could potentially have environmental impacts.

2025 Membership

Commissioners

Diane Burgis, Chair

Supervisor, Contra Costa County

John Vasquez, Vice Chair

Supervisor, Solano County

Oscar Villegas

Supervisor, Yolo County

Patrick Hume

Supervisor, Sacramento County

Steven Ding

Supervisor, San Joaquin County

Anissa Williams

Mayor, City of Oakley

David Kent (departed February 2026,
replacement to be determined)

Vice-Mayor, City of Isleton

Cameron Bregman

Mayor, City of Lodi

James Paroli

Representative, Central Delta Reclamation
Districts

Tom Slater

Representative, North Delta Reclamation
Districts

Vacant

Representative, South Delta Reclamation
Districts

Toks Omishakin

Secretary, California State Transportation
Agency

Karen Ross

Secretary, California Department of Food
and Agriculture

Wade Crowfoot

Secretary, California Natural Resources
Agency

Matthew Dumlao

Executive Officer, California State Lands
Commission

Ex Officio Members

Honorable Jerry McNerney

California State Senate

Honorable Rhodesia Ransom

California State Assembly

Commission Staff

Amanda Bohl

Executive Director

Virginia Gardiner (retired December 2025)

Program Manager

Blake Roberts

Program Manager

Rachel Vanderwerff

Senior Environmental Planner

Heather McClure

Finance and Administration Manager

Holly Heyser

Information Officer (DPC)

Kira O'Donnell

Information Officer (NHA)



Delta Protection Commission

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West Sacramento, CA 95691

www.delta.ca.gov

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

March 19, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 12: Delta Protection Commission 2026 Workplan

Prepared by: Amanda Bohl

Presented by: Amanda Bohl

Recommended Action: Receive and discuss

Type of Action: Discussion

Background

The Commission's 2030 Strategic Plan—also known as *Vision 2030*—was adopted on May 21, 2015. An update was adopted on July 15, 2021, and is available on the Commission's website: <https://delta.ca.gov/vision-2030/>. The strategic plan focuses on nine strategic themes with related objectives and actions:

- **Water** - Water is the lifeblood of the Delta. The Delta Protection Commission seeks a reliable fresh water supply for the Delta while remaining mindful of California's need for water. The Commission insists that a viable California water solution must respect and protect the Delta's unique values.
- **Agriculture** - The Delta Protection Commission works to conserve agricultural land and economically sustainable agricultural operations in the Delta.
- **Levees and emergency response** - The Delta Protection Commission promotes the protection of life and property through the maintenance and improvement of Delta levees, and emergency preparedness and response. This includes long-term planning for ongoing, cumulative levee improvements to address new issues as they arise.
- **Regional economy** - The Delta Protection Commission promotes a robust regional economy that protects agriculture, natural resources and the cultural values of the Delta. The Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) is the fundamental document for planning such an economy in the Delta, and is of co-equal significance with this Strategic Plan and should be considered a part thereof.
- **Delta heritage** - The Delta Protection Commission promotes and enhances the Delta's unique cultural and natural heritage.

- Recreation and tourism - The Delta Protection Commission is committed to national recognition of the Delta as a diverse, accessible, modern recreation and tourism destination.
- Education and outreach - The Delta Protection Commission is the voice of those who live, work and play in the Delta. In this role, the Commission is committed to actively supporting communication between stakeholders and policymakers, creating a forum through which Delta residents and businesses can make their interests heard.
- Commission leadership and development - The Delta Protection Commission demonstrates effective and efficient leadership by developing and supporting Commission members and providing expert Commission staff.
- Funding - To accomplish its initiatives to the fullest degree, the Delta Protection Commission seeks to maximize available funding sources to protect and enhance the unique community and cultural values, recreation and tourism, natural resources, and agriculture of the Delta.

At the May 2025 Commission meeting, Interim Executive Director Dan Ray presented a six-month workplan to guide the agency through the Executive Director transition. These actions included:

Action	Status
Report on impacts of water supply, flood control, and habitat projects on Delta farmlands.	In process. Staff is currently incorporating additional data and anticipates releasing a second draft fall 2026.
Delta Conveyance: Review and comment on Delta Conveyance Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).	Completed, expanded, and ongoing. Commission staff reviewed and commented on the FEIS. At the November 17, 2025 Commission meeting, staff was directed to appeal the Delta Conveyance Project certification of consistency with the Delta Plan. The appeals hearing was held February 26-27, 2026. Currently awaiting the Council's determination.
Advocate for funds for Delta levee improvements by preparing a fact sheet on benefits and costs of funding improvement of Delta Plan's very high priority levees.	No progress.
National Heritage Area (NHA) Partnership Program	The Commission has signed 15 partnership agreements with organizations within the

Action	Status
	NHA and entered into a cooperative agreement with National Park Service.
NHA Passport Program	27 locations currently host passport stamping stations. On February 28, the Commission hosted a passport program kick-off with Congressman Garamendi in Rio Vista.
NHA Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan	In process. The consultant recently completed the discovery phase of this process and will now begin drafting the plan.

In addition to the above priorities, staff has also been working on the following projects:

Action	Status
Clarksburg Branch Line Trail Extension	Commission staff continue to engage with project proponents and meet with concerned Clarksburg residents. The Commission’s primary role is outreach and to advocate for transparency in the planning process.
Visit CA Delta website update/repair	The Visit CA Delta website has been updated and its calendar now hosts Delta events previously listed only in DPC newsletters, but we’re still working on a long-term maintenance plan.
Land Use Agenda Reviews	On-going but somewhat limited due to multiple staff vacancies.
Socioeconomic Indicators Outreach/Coordination w/Delta Resident Survey	Began conversations with the Delta Stewardship Council in February.
Original in-depth feature content for website and newsletters	On-going.
Hire new Executive Director	Accomplished – Amanda Bohl started on October 20, 2025.
Hire new Staff Services Manager	Accomplished – Heather McClure started on September 9, 2025.
Hire new Senior Environmental Planner	In process. The executive director is currently reviewing resumes and scheduling interviews.

Current Status

On January 28, 2026, Commission staff gathered at the Clarksburg Schoolhouse for a day-long work planning session. Using the strategic plan as a framework, staff identified priorities within each of the strategic themes that also take into account a few organizational realities still present at the Commission: the multiple transitions that occurred in 2025, new staff, and vacancies.

2026 Workplan Priorities

Strategic Theme	Priority
Water	Complete participation in the Delta Plan certification of consistency appeal process for the Delta Conveyance Project.
Agriculture	<p>Complete agricultural conversion report.</p> <p>Scope update to the Land Use Resource Management Plan (LURMP).</p> <p>Create a concept proposal for Conservancy funds with the Delta Carbon Research Team to research the possibilities of Walking Wetlands/Wet Fallow Rotation in the Delta to potentially aid in subsidence issues while continuing agriculture.</p> <p>In conjunction with the NHA Advisory Committee and the Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) scope formation of an agritourism component to promote as part of the NHA.</p>
Levees & Emergency Response	<p>Work with DPAC members to develop a white paper outlining most pressing levee issues and a strategy for addressing them.</p> <p>Re-engage in DLHAC meetings.</p> <p>Increase coordination with Delta Stewardship Council, Central Valley Flood Protection Board, U.S. Army Corps, and others.</p>
Regional Economy	<p>Review status of Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) and identify areas where updates are needed; scope out what an update would be.</p> <p>Support new Delta Residents Survey and discuss and possibly scope new socio-economic indicators report.</p> <p>Participate in Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team and Abandoned and Derelict Vehicle Work Group.</p>

Strategic Theme	Priority
Delta Heritage	<p>Continue implementing National Heritage Area Management Plan priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Passport Program - Partnership Program - Delta Heritage Forum - NHA Advisory Committee Meetings - NHA Ambassadors Program - Junior Ranger Program
Recreation and Tourism	<p>Encourage and support outreach related to the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail.</p> <p>Complete and begin to implement the Tourism, Branding, and Marketing Plan (in support of the NHA).</p>
Education and Outreach	<p>Support an active and engaged NHAAC and DPAC.</p> <p>Continue to write and distribute Delta Happenings and the Delta Heritage Courier.</p> <p>Publish periodic website reports on issues of importance to the Commission.</p>
Commission Leadership & Development	<p>Delta Leadership Program: Complete 2026 program and identify path forward for 2027 and beyond.</p> <p>Fill vacancies and on-Commission staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission Clerk - Senior Environmental Planner (land use) - Program Manager/Senior Environmental Planner (ESP/social science) - State Parks Interpreter II (pending approval) <p>Scope update to agency policies and procedures.</p> <p>Re-instate annual review of staff and Executive Director, including a 6-month review of the executive director to be held May 2026, during year one of the current executive director’s tenure.</p>
Funding	<p>Continue to partner with the Delta Leadership Foundation in support of the Delta Leadership Program.</p> <p>Identify other potential funding sources for NHA priorities.</p> <p>Scope an NHA small grants program.</p>

Recommended Action

Discussion; no action requested.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan)

This agenda item is related to all aspects of Vision 2030 and establishes key priorities for calendar year 2026 to implement the strategies identified in the strategic plan.