



PUBLIC NOTICE AND MEETING AGENDA

Delta Protection Advisory Committee

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
The Reserve at Spanos Park
6301 West Eight Mile Rd., Stockton, CA 95219

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Flag Salute – Anna Swenson, DPAC Chair
2. Welcome and Roll Call
3. Public Comment – An opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee regarding items not on the agenda.
4. Approval of December 2, 2025 ([p. 3](#)), and February 10, 2026 ([p. 8](#)), Meeting Minutes
5. Update on Delta Protection Commission Activities – Executive Director Amanda Bohl
6. Presentation of *A.I. in the Delta: The Environmental Justice Implications of Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Presentation* – Restore the Delta ([p. 12](#))
7. Rivers and Levees Task Group: Work Session to Discuss how the Commission can Support the Maintenance and Improvement of Delta Levees – The Committee
8. Member Announcements and Next Meeting
9. Adjourn

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

Questions, Comments, and Requests

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

Comments submitted to submit@delta.ca.gov by noon on April 6, 2026, will be shared with Committee members prior to the meeting to the extent possible. Public comments on each agenda item will follow the order of: 1) emailed comments, 2) those verbally requesting to make comments after notice offered by Chair during meeting.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee Members

Chair Anna Swenson and **Katherine Wiley** (Delta General Public Gerry Goodie Memorial Seat) | **Vice Chair Russ Ryan** (Delta Water Exporter) | **Arron Pellarin** and **Emily Pappalardo** (Delta Business) | **Craig Watanabe** and **Jeff Iniguez** (Delta Agriculture) | **TBD** and **Morris Lum** (Delta Recreation) | **Edward Hard** and **Erin Chappell** (State Agency) | **Jeffrey Twitchell** (Delta Flood Entity) | **Mariah Looney** (Delta Organization) | **Jerred Dixon** (Delta Conservation/Habitat Non-governmental Organization) | **Sam Garcia** (Delta Utility/Infrastructure) | **Douglas Hsia** (Delta Cultural Preservation) | **Steven Hutchason** (Delta Tribe).

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

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Delta Protection Advisory Committee

Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
Clarksburg Schoolhouse
36397 North Center Street, Clarksburg, CA 95612

Agenda

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

Chair Swenson called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. and Member Jerred Dixon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Welcome and Roll Call – Introductions with a Special Welcome to the New Executive Director, Amanda Bohl

Clerk Heather McClure called the roll. Present were: Chair Anna Swenson; Vice Chair Russ Ryan; members Arron Pellarin, Emily Pappalardo, Jeff Iniguez, Todd Bruce, Morris Lum, Edward Hard, Erin Chappell, Jeff Twitchell, and Jerred Dixon; and Ex Officio Member Heather Swinney. Member Douglas Hsia arrived at 5:53 p.m. during Item 6.

Chair Swenson welcomed new Delta Protection Commission Executive Director Amanda Bohl, who introduced herself and described her background in the Delta.

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

Chair Swenson asked for public comment, and there was none.

4. Approval of Draft August 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes were not available in time for the meeting.

5. Approval of 2026 Meeting Schedule

The Committee reviewed proposed meeting dates and alternate dates.

Motion: Member Hard moved to approve the meeting schedule as proposed, and Vice Chair Ryan seconded. The motion passed on a unanimously.

6. Recognition of Angels Recovery Dive Team – Chair Swenson and Juan Heredia

Stockton diver Juan Heredia and his wife, Mercedes Heredia, of the Angels Recovery Dive Team addressed the committee about the 2024 founding of their nonprofit, which searches for lost loved ones to bring resolution to families of the missing. Since its founding, the team has recovered 15 bodies, typically after other searches have been called off.

Delta Protection Commission Member and Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Hume presented Heredia a certificate of recognition for the Dive Team's work.

At this time, Chair Swenson announced that she would be skipping to Agenda Item 11 because the speaker had time limitations.

11. Delta High School Parent Group Facility Update – Gia Moreno

Gia Moreno, a teacher at Hood Middle School (and an alternate on the Delta National Heritage Area Advisory Committee), addressed the Committee regarding the dilapidated condition of 50-year-old portable classrooms. To improve the buildings, building regulations require the structures to be elevated 12-15 feet to protect them from flooding, and the school does not have the funding to do so. Her goal is to get an exemption to the elevation rule.

Committee members noted that improving the levee to 200-year flood standards would eliminate the requirement. Member Emily Pappalardo noted that the levee in question had been decertified by FEMA in 2012.

7. Update on Delta Protection Commission activities – Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Executive Director Bohl told the Committee that the Delta Protection Commission had voted on November 17 to appeal the Department of Water Resources's certification that the Delta Conveyance Project is consistent with the Delta Plan. She noted that the Commission had a January 2 deadline to submit additional information, and that the Delta Stewardship Council would have 60 days after hearings scheduled for February 26-27 to decide on the appeals.

She also noted that the 2026 Delta Leadership Program had received 21 applications and 15 candidates representing a nice geographic mix of the Delta had been chosen.

8. Clarksburg Trail Update – Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Executive Director Bohl said there had not been a lot of progress on the trail in the past few months, though the project had recently been split into two segments that could be completed independently: one for the portion of the proposed trail on property owned by the City of West Sacramento, and another for the final segment to Clarksburg, for which rights have not been secured.

Many members of the audience addressed the Committee with questions and concerns about the proposed trail, among them:

- It would be a highway to Clarksburg for the homeless.
- There are no public restroom facilities in Clarksburg for trail users.
- Public trail use might interfere with normal farming practices.
- The trail would bring trespassers.

Committee members expressed interest in hearing more about the issue in the future, noting it would need to be agendaized properly for the Committee to take a position on the matter.

9. Golden Mussel Update – The Committee

Committee members discussed concerns about the spread of invasive golden mussels in the Delta and the need to move from preventing spread outside the Delta to containing the existing infestation inside the Delta.

Member Pellarin, who owns a marina, said boats hauled on trailers have been a focus, but boats that remain in the water have not been discussed. There is still a need for the state to develop best practices. He noted that the state was reviewing mussel sticker fees.

Vice Chair Ryan spoke from a Reclamation District perspective about mussels clogging pipes, decreasing water flows, and potentially affecting agriculture. Member Pappalardo said she feared it would be an economic disaster for marinas and agriculture.

Member Hard noted that much work still needs to be done on containment. He noted there are also questions about whether and how the private sector can step up to address containment. He said it is a water security issue for the state, with recreational boating as the secondary issue.

Member Chappell noted California was not as prepared, as a state, as it should have been. She noted it will take time for the state to stand up its full response.

Chair Swenson asked for public comment and there was none.

At this time, Chair Swenson announced that she would be skipping to Agenda Item 12.

12. Freeport Jurisdiction Inquiry – Janet Lake and the Freeport Community Group

Hood Community Council Chairman Mario Moreno, speaking on behalf of Janet Lake, explained that many homelessness problems are coming down the river.

He noted that Hood has a new sewer system and new roads. Many cyclists come through. The Council is looking to enhance the community with murals.

Chair Swenson noted that one of the issues with Freeport is that there is an area that has been annexed into the City of Sacramento, but that doesn't have a person in charge of that area yet. There were problems with people displaced by the Delta Shores construction, resulting in nine vehicles pulling trailers relocating near the bridge.

Swenson asked for comments from the committee and public, and there were none.

10. Task Group Report Out on Rivers and Levees – The Committee

Chair Swenson noted that the Delta Protection Commission was interested in giving more direction to DPAC. Vice Chair Ryan indicated he would like more advance notice of what issues will be coming up at future Commission meetings to help DPAC prepare more ideas.

Member Twitchell said the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan would be updated in 2027, which would require a lot of work in the coming year. He is working to draw attention to levees that protect nine of the eleven Delta Legacy Communities – Freeport to Rio Vista; he said it's their opportunity to come together and provide more of a voice to the state.

Member Pappalardo noted that she and Twitchell had worked together on the Small Communities Feasibility Study that looked at risks for small communities, but implementation funds were limited and none went to Delta communities.

Swenson asked for comments from the committee and public, and there were none.

13. Member Announcements and Next Meeting

Chair Swenson noted the next DPAC meeting would be Feb. 3.

Member Hsia reported that the Delta NHA Advisory Committee has been discussing what to do for the 250th anniversary of America's founding, and that the current plan is putting information tables at various fairs.

Rafe Goorwitch, a member of the public, announced that the Delta Queen had become available for purchase. He noted that the vessel, which is much more historically significant than the Delta King, had hosted three presidents, had been attacked, and is still water-worthy. He said the boat was the last of its kind, the last functioning example of American steam power. The vessel cost \$1 million at the time it was built, and turns 100 in 2027.

Member Chappell noted that invasive mute swans have been proliferating in the Delta, but the Legislature had passed a law allowing the take of mute swans effective Jan. 1. She also noted mute swans infected with avian influenza had been detected on Liberty Island. She encouraged people to report infected swans, which tend to swim in circles and not be aggressive; normally they are quite aggressive.

14. Adjournment

Chair Swenson adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Delta Protection Advisory Committee

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
The Ryde Hotel, 14340 Highway 160, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Flag Salute

Chair Anna Swenson called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

2. Welcome and Roll Call

Commission Clerk Heather McClure called the roll. Present at roll call: Chair Anna Swenson; members Morris Lum, Craig Watanabe, Douglas Hsia, Jeff Iniguez, Erin Chappell, Emily Pappalardo, and Edward Hard; and Ex Officio Member Heather Swinney. Vice Chair Russ Ryan arrived just after Item 4 at 5:42 p.m.

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

Chair Swenson asked if there were any comments from the public, and there were none.

4. Approval of August 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion: It was moved by Member Hard and seconded by Member Chappell to approve the August 20, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Update on Delta Protection Commission activities – Amanda Bohl

Executive Director Amanda Bohl reported that:

- Staff hoped to bring the farmland conversion study commenced in 2025 to DPAC this spring.
- Hearings on the Delta Conveyance Project would be held February 26-27 in Sacramento, and she noted that she and Commissioners Patrick Hume and Tom Slater would attend to present the Commission’s appeal of the Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan for the project.
- The Commission was currently recruiting for two staff positions: commission clerk and senior environmental planner; the latter would be the land use lead on staff.
- DPAC Member Todd Bruce had resigned, and the staff was currently soliciting applications for his seat and others whose terms expire in May.

6. Freeport Jurisdiction Inquiry – Janet Lake and the Freeport Community Group

Chair Swenson said Lake was unavailable, but that the gist of Lake's concerns are the annexation by Sacramento of a portion of Freeport and confusion over who oversees the area for the city.

She asked for committee and public comments and there were none.

7. Clarksburg Trail Update – Rachel Vanderwerff, Senior Environmental Planner and Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Executive Director Amanda Bohl said staff brought the issue back to the committee because they had not had all the information that was needed when it was discussed at the December meeting.

Bohl explained that the Commission's role in the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail Extension Project is to listen, do outreach and make sure appropriate outreach is happening.

DPC Senior Environmental Planner Rachel Vanderwerff presented details of the proposed project, which would be built on a former railroad right of way from West Sacramento to Clarksburg. The project team includes West Sacramento, Yolo County, the Yolo Transportation District and the Delta Protection Commission. The team is finalizing a preliminary environmental study and anticipates getting a categorical exclusion from the requirement to do a full environmental review. A community workshop on the project was tentatively slated for this spring.

Consultant Diane Moore with Moore Biological Consultants reported that she had walked the length of the proposed extension in March 2025 to document the habitat. It includes overgrown areas with riparian vegetation, a large wetland, elderberry shrubs, and heavily wooded areas, with intensively farmed land on both sides. She documented white-tailed kites by the wetland, Western pond turtles, and burrowing owls, among others.

She said her concern as a biologist was the large numbers of mature trees, riparian habitats, and Swainson's hawks, saying there are probably three pairs nesting along the alignment. She said she was here to raise the environmental alarm.

Clarksburg resident Corinne Dwyer said Clarksburg does not want to be connected to West Sacramento, and said the project benefits West Sacramento, not Clarksburg. She predicted there would be garbage dumping the length of the trail. She expressed concerns about farmers' ability to spray fields when needed.

Committee members had questions about whether wetlands would be filled in and whether there would be oversight by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Member

Chappell said project proponents would have to go through CDFW. She noted that doing work in wetlands would require both state and federal permits.

Abby Carlson, Assistant Director of the California Farm Bureau, noted that the bureau had sent the Committee a letter urging opposition to the project as proposed.

8. Golden Mussel Update – Martha Volkoff, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Martha Volkoff presented information to the Committee about the status of the golden mussel infestation in the Delta and the state's efforts surrounding it. To date, the mussels have been detected only in the Delta and in State Water Project waters from the Delta. The farthest north they have been detected is Rio Vista, but she anticipated that boater movements would spread the mussels farther in the Delta.

She said chemical treatment in infested areas is unrealistic at this time.

She said a bill had been introduced in the Legislature that is a placeholder for developing an approach for the state to address the problem.

Vice Chair Ryan noted that Metropolitan Water District of Southern California had put meters on syphons on its islands to establish a baseline water flow, which will help to assess the impact when syphons are infested with mussels.

Member Hard noted that there is no mechanism preventing golden mussels from invading fire hydrants in Stockton.

Volkoff encouraged people to reach out to her at invasives@wildlife.ca.gov.

9. Task Groups Report Out on Rivers and Levees – The Committee

Vice Chair Ryan reported there was a push to increase levee subventions from 75% to 95%.

Chair Swenson asked for committee and public comments and there were none.

10. Waterways Cleanup Task Group Update – The Committee

Chair Swenson reported there had been a spur-of-the-moment effort by an Elk Grove group to pick up trash south of Elk Grove. Pickers worked 6.5 miles and picked up 8.64 tons of trash. She noted the group was interested in doing a river clean-up.

She asked for comments and there was one from the public: A man noted that the Rio Vista Litter Pickers is a group that's been active in trash cleanup for two or three years and recommended adopting a place to pick up trash and publicizing it.

11. Member Announcements and Next Meeting

Member Hsia said Locke was celebrating Chinese New Year this coming Saturday and recommended that people arrive before noon.

Member of the public Rafe Goorwitch added that Isleton would hold its Asian New Year celebration March 7, and that the Bing Kong Tong Building in Isleton turns 100 this year. He also piggybacked on the litter discussion, noting that there needs to be trash cans that get emptied regularly at spots where people routinely fish.

Member Chappell reported that Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Chuck Bonham had stepped down, and he would be replaced on Feb. 17 by Meghan Hertel.

Chair Swenson announced the next meeting would be April 7, at a location to be determined – suggestions welcome.

12. Adjourn

Chair Swenson adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee Meeting

April 07, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 6: Restore the Delta White Paper: Environmental Justice Implications of AI Infrastructure in the Delta

Prepared by: Rachel Vanderwerff

Presented by: Rachel Vanderwerff and Esther Mburu (with Restore the Delta)

Recommended Action: Receive the report

Type of Action: Receive

Background

Restore the Delta will provide an overview of the concepts presented in their white paper, [The Environmental Justice Implications of Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta \(PDF\)](#). The white paper and presentation examine the potential environmental and community impacts of AI data centers in the Delta, including water and energy demands, land-use changes, ecological risks, and environmental justice concerns.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan)

This topic relates to several strategic themes in the Commission’s Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, including **Water, Agriculture, Regional Economy, and Delta Heritage**. Potential development of AI infrastructure could affect water resources, agricultural land use, and the long-term sustainability of Delta communities.