

# Delta Community Action Planning Workshop 2, Meeting Summary

Walnut Grove, California  
December 1, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Jean Harvie Community Center

## Contact Information

Blake Roberts, Senior Environmental Planner, Delta Protection Commission (DPC)  
Phone: 916.375.4237, email: [blake.roberts@delta.ca.gov](mailto:blake.roberts@delta.ca.gov)

## Welcome and Meeting Goals

The Delta Community Action Planning (DCAP) process seeks to identify key needs and actions to improve quality of life in Walnut Grove, and develop an action plan to address them. At Workshop 1, participants generated a list of possible actions and initiatives.

To prepare for Workshop 2, DPC generated more thinking on what it would take to accomplish these initiatives, including key tasks, necessary partners, and potential external funding sources (see spreadsheet in Appendix A). This is a work in progress and can be changed or expanded based on participant input. DPC focused on items with the most energy from Workshop 1.

The goals of this second workshop were to:

- Review proposed initiatives.
- Seek general agreement from those present on the priority and goals for each of these initiatives

The end goal of this process will be an action plan that reflects the community's vision and that lays out specific ways to move forward on these initiatives. DPC will work with the community to implement the plan. DPC's role is to work in collaboration with the community, to be a liaison to other agencies and partners, to organize discussions, to keep the ball rolling, and to assist in finding funding sources.

## Project Timeline

- **Workshop 2: tonight.** Get more specific on which pieces are highest priority, and what actions will be necessary to advance them.
- **Draft Action Plan: early 2016.** DPC develops an action plan with next steps, partners, and potential options.
- **Workshop 3: February or March, 2016.** DPC presents the draft action plan and identifies volunteers to serve on a Steering Committee.
- **Final Action Plan: June 2016.**
- **Implementation: after June 2016.** DPC will work with community to implement action plan.

## Workshop Outcomes: Community Priorities for Action Planning

### 1) Law Enforcement:

- There is a desire to increase law enforcement presence in Delta communities.
- Walnut Grove will examine options such as neighborhood watch and community based security programs.
- DPC will assist Walnut Grove in working with Law Enforcement to increase patrols, recognizing that resource constraints of Sheriff are likely beyond the scope of this planning process.

- Can work with fire department to update, improve, and educate people on the use of siren and warning systems.
- Investigate digital tools such as NextDoor for alert and notification systems.
- Examine opportunities for local funding of private security officers.
- Communication: Does the Merchant Association work with the Sheriff's Office, the Fire Department? Are they connected?
- There is a need for increased law enforcement and patrols on the waterways. It is Coast Guard jurisdiction, but they are rarely present.

## 2) Traffic and vehicles in Walnut Grove

- Improve signage related to parking – there is substantial parking but many visitors are not aware of location.
- Interactive speed/flashing signs on Highway that alert drivers of speed/intersection.
- Address traffic speed, signage and rules at Highway 160 and the bridge in West Walnut Grove.
- Other potential actions:
  - Reduce speed limit on Highway 160.
  - Propose 3-way stop sign at the Bridge and Highway 160.
  - Flashing crosswalks at the post office and Mel's.
  - Enforce speed limit.
  - Double fine zone.
  - Improve parking with lighting and signs.
- Volunteers: Stacy Benson, Liz Roman, Amelia Wareham, Karrie Wyatt

## 3) Pedestrian and Bike Improvements

- Step 1: Cohesive, consistent historical lighting on both sides of river.
- Step 2: Sidewalks through business zones on River Road and Hwy 160.
- Step 3: Boardwalk on river side of levee with observation platforms, pushouts, benches, and lighting that connects to Locke.
- Other ideas include:
  - Maintenance of existing infrastructure: repainting crosswalks and “stop” on streets.
  - Flashing signs at key pedestrian crossings.
  - Stairway from River Street to Market Street.
  - Incorporate art and sculpture into the design.
- Learn from successful communities like Napa and Yountville.
- These efforts will require plans, and a plan for developing the plans.

## 4) Internet and Cell Phone Connectivity:

- Work with DPC and Sacramento County to access Public Utilities Commission and service providers to expand internet and cellular service Delta communities.

## 5) Governance:

- Walnut Grove has a long history of civic service organizations and active individuals. And yet, it is not clear where to have Walnut Grove-specific conversations about community planning and

development. There may be a need for better coordination of existing groups, or perhaps the formation of a small organization to oversee Walnut Grove action planning initiatives.

- Option: convene a general committee/board comprising membership from community organizations, and hold regular, to hold twice annual meetings. Community organizations can include: Rotary, the fire department, churches, homeowners, merchants, PTA, residents, Park committee, and if there is one, the formal representative for Locke.

## 6) Medical Access

- It will be difficult to recruit full time medical professionals in the Delta. They need housing at least, and likely other incentives.
- This process should include an evaluation of pop-up health clinics for checkups, flu shots, etc. that can visit Walnut Grove, Courtland, and other Delta communities periodically. Walnut Grove will continue to work with Sacramento County Rural Health.
- Potential resource: P. Brown's daughter is a nurse, and is investigating options for clinics in Walnut Grove.
- There is a need for Spanish speaking health services.
- Volunteers: Liz, Kristen Montero.

## DCAP Process: Discussion and Questions

Blake Roberts overviewed the DCAP process:

- Walnut Grove and Courtland are pilot communities, and the hope is to expand to other communities.
- The idea is to identify needs that the community cares about, and develop action plans to address them. Some actions will be small and some may be large-scale.

Participants had a number of questions and comments about the process:

- What is DPC's role?
  - Mr. Roberts answered that DPC's role is to facilitate the process and keep it moving, working with the county and the community to put together the action plan. DPC wants to build a group in the community as a Steering Committee to help them move forward.
  - Enhancing and protecting the character of Delta legacy communities is part of the Delta plan, but there are no mandates or funding for these. The DPC is approaching the communities to ask, in an organic way, what should we plan?
- Is DPC still working to eliminate the tunnels? That's most important.
  - The DPC continues to work on that issue. But this action planning effort is separate from that. This is an opportunity to develop and enhance Walnut Grove as a community. Erik Vink of DPC explained that, while that issue grinds on, we also want to help the Delta communities.
- Concern about community safety, in light of recent murder.
- We need to slow cars on both side of the river.
- Idea of a historical museum in Walnut Grove.
- It makes sense to focus on options that are do-able and fundable.

### ***Discussion of Additional Needs***

- Address mistletoe problem in the trees. The trees help define the Delta and our town.
- Trash cans on River Road, in front of Mel's.
- Need for river access, fishing dock. Would make the community more of a destination.
- Regular farmers' market. Reach out to farmers.
- Development of Delta towns based on shared history – museum, lighting, historical buildings. Learn from successful communities like Napa and Yountville.
- Possibly work with Courtland on the public dock issue.

### **Attendees**

Stacy Benson  
Amanda Bohl  
Robyn Brown  
Tom Cappelletti  
Sally Christie  
Deborah Ellen  
Penelope Hays  
C.A. Giacoma, River News Herald  
Douglas Hsia  
Greg Kann  
Liz Kann  
Michaele and Kendall LeCompte  
Emily Pappalardo  
Jason Puckett  
Kathleen Puckett  
Patrick Puckett  
Robin Rhodes  
Liz Roman  
Darrylynn Shatting  
Jim Salisbury  
Jill Steinbacher  
Michael Steinbacher  
Justin van Loben Sels  
Amelia Wareham  
Karrie Wyatt  
Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission  
Eric Vink, Delta Protection Commission  
Michael Winter, Sacramento County Planning and Environmental Review Division  
Caelan McGee, Center for Collaborative Policy  
Ariel Ambruster, Center for Collaborative Policy