

# Delta Community Action Planning

## Workshop 3 – Summary

Walnut Grove, California  
Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Jean Harvie Community Center

### DPC Contact Information

Blake Roberts, Senior Environmental Planner, Delta Protection Commission, encourages residents to get in touch with any questions or comments. Phone: 916.375.4237, email: [blake.roberts@delta.ca.gov](mailto:blake.roberts@delta.ca.gov).

### Process Overview 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. To date, there have been a series of interviews and two workshops toward this effort.
- The process has resulted in a draft framework for a Community Action Plan, developed by Blake Roberts of the Delta Protection Commission (DPC). The draft plan identifies a set of community priorities, as well as potential partners, resources, and possible next steps for each.
- The goal of Workshop 3 is to review and discuss the draft action plan and identify next steps for implementation.
- Key questions for this workshop are: how can we gather momentum and energy around the projects you'd like to see in your community, and make them happen?

### Key Outcomes

- The group identified a set of actions to move forward on – a small package of short-term roadway improvements including:
  - One to two stop signs with blinking red solar lights at the intersection of Highway 160 and the bridge.
  - A “your speed is” electronic sign.
- The Delta Protection Commission agreed to provide staff to work with community volunteers on the roadway improvements.
- Individuals volunteered to take on specific roles to help accomplish the roadway improvements actions.

### Next Steps and Actions

- Volunteers for the ad hoc roadway improvements group include:
  - Amelia Cook
  - Liz Roman
  - Mark Rogerson
- Community volunteers can continue working on the project that Amelia Cook has started, and invite DPC to a next meeting when an additional DPC/community discussion to move the actions forward is timely.
- Meeting volunteers can develop an agenda, arrange for a meeting location and announce the meeting to community members and past DCAP meeting participants.
- Meeting volunteers are:

- Emily Pappalardo – announcements;
- Michael Steinbacher – agenda development; and
- Liz Roman – meeting location.
- Blake and facilitators will make sure Emily has all meeting sign-in sheets for use in announcements.
- Blake will act as an agency liaison and offer oversight on the actions. He will continue looking for resources and will be in touch with community members, and will update Supervisor Nottoli's Office as needed.
- Any Walnut Grove community members with thoughts or input on the draft Community Action Plan framework can communicate with Blake at 916.375.4237 or [blakeroberts@delta.ca.gov](mailto:blakeroberts@delta.ca.gov). Blake will revise it into a semi-final plan.
- DPC and the Center for Collaborative Policy will evaluate the DCAP meeting process.

## Discussion Summary

### Draft Action Plan

- Blake Roberts of the Delta Protection Commission walked the group through the Draft Community Action Plan framework (see Attachment).
- Some goals and actions described in the plan are unique to Walnut Grove (labeled "Goal W-1" etc.), and others are joint with Courtland (labeled "Goal J-1" etc.).
- Some actions are shorter term and some are longer term, so the community can work on low-hanging fruit while building momentum for larger projects.
- Since the last workshop, Blake has reached out to agencies, such as the County Department of Transportation, and others who are potential partners, to discuss feasibility, next steps, and funding options for these actions.
- The DPC understands it will take time to implement the actions, and is committed to continuing to work with the community.

### Review and Discussion

Meeting participants were asked to identify any issue, project or action missing from the draft plan. The following items were identified:

- Beautification, including tree maintenance, and finding ways, including funding, to preserve/restore historic buildings.
- Establish a museum and a self-guided building tour.

### Continued Community Involvement

Because Walnut Grove does not have an organized body representing the whole community, Facilitator Caelan McGee offered two options for ways Walnut Grove community members could organize to continue working on the desired actions: 1) a single community forum that works with the DPC to achieve all the actions in the plan; or 2) separate champions of particular actions who work independently and each liaison with the DPC.

- Meeting participants did not feel they represented the community at large, and some expressed interest in another entity such as the DPC continuing with oversight in plan implementation.
- Erik Vink, Executive Director of the DPC, agreed that his organization would staff work on one of the plan's actions to keep work going forward.

- The group agreed on a separate champions approach.
- They agreed on a short list of traffic improvements to focus on as a next step, with decisions held off on whether to pursue other goals and actions.
- Individuals volunteered to help work on the traffic improvement package, including helping to set up a next community meeting with the DPC on the desired actions.

### *Items of Particular Interest and Champions*

The following items in the draft plan drew particular interest from meeting participants. In some cases, champions were identified.

- Traffic Improvements – Amelia Cook, Liz Roman, Mark Rogerson
- Bike/pedestrian improvements
  - Boardwalk between Walnut Grove and Locke – Douglas Hsia and Eugene Phillips
  - Sidewalks
  - Lighting
- Law enforcement/communication

### *Additional comments*

- It's important to remember that this is a bucolic area. As we put up flashing lights and signs, the area can lose a lot of its beauty. It's a huge trade-off.
- Locke cell phone service is terrible. Possibly the major communication towers here create a disturbance.
- Our focus is agriculture and tourism. Maybe we should form our own county. Our interests are different from about everybody else around us.
- We never heard about the law enforcement meeting, because there is no communication for the entire town.

### *Additional actions and ideas*

- SMUD installed new streetlights, so now streetlights in some places are too bright; they shine in residence windows and seem city-like. Some community members want something done.
- Get a review and comments from the County Department of Transportation and/or Supervisor Nottoli's office on the Walnut Grove list of ideas, to gather pros and cons and information on cost and feasibility.
- Public restroom: try out a temporary mobile restroom to assess if its impact is positive or negative.
- For a new community forum, one idea is for each community group to contribute a representative.
- An elevated walkway would resolve needing to get easements on private property to create a walking route between Walnut Grove and Locke. One potential funding source is DWR special projects money, if the walkway could be shown to serve multi-benefits such as the environment or flood protection.
- There are a couple Walnut Grove Facebook pages as potential communication vehicles.
- One possible avenue for medical services would be through UC Davis's dedicated rural health program. The dental offices have underutilized space.

## Attendees

Robyn Brown  
Amelia Cook  
Douglas Hsia  
Emily Pappalardo  
Eugene Phillips  
Mark Pruner  
Curtis Reed  
Mark Rogerson  
Liz Roman  
Jill Steinbacher  
Michael Steinbacher  
Erik Vink, Delta Protection Commission  
Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission  
Michael Winter, Sacramento County Planning Department  
Caelan McGee, Center for Collaborative Policy  
Ariel Ambruster, Center for Collaborative Policy