

ACTION

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT

2014



2014 COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

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San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Mary N. Piepho, Vice-Chair
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Brian Bugsch
CA State Lands Commission

Christopher Cabaldon
City of West Sacramento

Robert K. Ferguson
South Delta Reclamation Districts

Brian Kelly
CA State Transportation Agency
Alternate: Kate White

John Laird
CA Natural Resources Agency
Alternate: Todd Ferrara

Kathy Miller
City of Stockton

Don Nottoli
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

Norman Richardson
City of Rio Vista

Karen Ross
CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Alternate: Joshua Eddy

Michael Scriven
Central Delta Reclamation Districts

Skip Thomson
Solano County Board of Supervisors

Justin van Loben Sels
North Delta Reclamation Districts

Oscar Villegas
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
California State Senate

Honorable Jim Frazier
California State Assembly

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DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

2014



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February 17, 2015

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Honorable Edmund G. Brown
 Governor of California
 State Capitol
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Honorable Members of the California State Senate and California State Assembly
 State Capitol
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Solano County Board of Supervisors

Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Re: 2014 Annual Report of the Delta Protection Commission

Cities of Contra Costa and Solano Counties

Dear Governor Brown and Members of the State Senate and State Assembly:

Cities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties

I am pleased to submit the 2014 Annual Report of the Delta Protection Commission (Commission). As required by Public Resources Code Section 29780, the Commission's Annual Report outlines the progress towards achieving the objectives of the Delta Protection Act and evaluates the effectiveness of Commission efforts.

Cities of San Joaquin County

Central Delta Reclamation Districts

In addition to the Commission's crucial role as a forum for Delta residents to engage in the decisions affecting their communities, the Commission has a regulatory role overseeing Delta land use. We also engage in projects to support long-term economic sustainability, water quality and Delta water uses, levee and emergency response planning, and tourism and recreation development, as well as public outreach and education. The following are among the highlights of the Delta Protection Commission's 22nd year:

North Delta Reclamation Districts

South Delta Reclamation Districts

CA State Transportation Agency

CA Department of Food and Agriculture

Land Use and Resource Development: Commission staff reviewed and commented on 42 land use projects in 2014. The majority were in San Joaquin County (33%), Sacramento County (24%) and Contra Costa County (21%). Of the 42 projects commented on by the Commission this year, 10 have the potential to convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use beyond an additional rural homesite; none of these projects were for residential subdivision-scale conversions of agricultural land. It should be noted that some of these projects are county-wide or are for planning efforts that would not be seen on the ground for a number of years.

CA Natural Resources Agency

CA State Lands Commission

Regional Levee Assessment District: The Commission continued efforts towards establishing a Regional Levee Assessment District to increase funding for levee improvements by extending the assessment base to include all beneficiaries. This proposal originated in the Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan and was subsequently included in the Delta Plan and the Governor's Water Action Plan. The Commission selected a consultant in late 2014 and the work will be largely completed on this effort during the coming year.

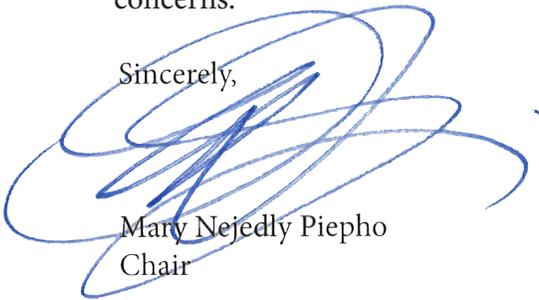
Delta Flood Preparedness Week: Commission staff worked to increase risk awareness with the distribution of a 2015 Flood Preparedness Calendar and the creation of the first Delta Flood Safety Fair held in conjunction with California Flood Preparedness Week.

Recreation and Tourism: The Commission began updating its Recreation Inventory and continued work on the Delta Awareness Campaign, focusing on promoting the cultural, historical, recreational and ecological treasures of the region. We expect to see significant outcomes with this effort for 2015.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC): The Commission reconvened the Delta Protection Advisory Committee with a new charter and membership representing a wide and balanced range of Delta interests. Three in-Delta community meetings were convened, focusing on the Commission's Strategic Plan update.

The Commission looks forward to working with you and continuing its responsibilities under the Delta Protection Act of 1992 and the Delta Reform Act of 2009 to protect and enhance the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta. Please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Erik Vink with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Mary Nejedly Piepho
Chair



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2014 was a year of implementation and change for the Delta Protection Commission – beginning or continuing the implementation of several major initiatives in the ongoing effort to protect and enhance the unique cultural, recreational and agricultural resources of the Delta.

In addition to the Commission’s crucial role as a forum for Delta residents to engage in the decisions affecting their communities, the Commission plays a regulatory role in overseeing Delta land use proposals in the Primary Zone. We also engage in projects to support long-term economic sustainability, water quality and Delta water uses, levee and emergency response planning, and recreation and tourism development, as well as public outreach and education on a wide variety of Delta-focused topics.

The following were highlights of the Delta Protection Commission’s twenty-second year:

Land Use and Resource Development:

Commission staff reviewed and commented on 42 land use projects in 2014, 43% of which were in the Primary Zone, 24% in the Secondary Zone and 26% that affected both Zones. Three were not in the Legal Delta but would have affected the Delta. More than half of these projects were considered “substantial”, that is, involving major construction, large land areas or multiple potential effects on Delta resources. The majority were in San Joaquin (33%), Sacramento (24%) and Contra Costa Counties (21%).

Bay Delta Conservation Plan:

The Commission followed up its opposition to the BDCP with a comment letter, and published photo and video simulations of the project’s impact on Delta communities. We continue to provide a forum for the concerns of Delta residents and to advocate for further analysis of alternative conveyance proposals.

Regional Levee Assessment District:

A consultant has been identified and work will begin in early 2015 on the Regional Levee Assessment District Feasibility Study. A District might distribute the costs of levee improvement and maintenance among a wider base of beneficiaries, including interests that currently do not contribute.

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Agriculture, Recreation and Tourism:

The Delta Protection Commission's Recreation Inventory update began in 2014, which will result in current improved data for evaluating trends and opportunities for Delta recreation providers. We also moved forward with the Delta Awareness Campaign, a cooperative effort that will highlight the Delta's attractions as both a cultural and ecological treasure and a compelling recreation destination. New research identifying ways to strengthen agricultural infrastructure will help boost regional markets.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC):

The Commission restructured and reconvened the Delta Protection Advisory Committee, with representatives from Delta agriculture, business, habitat conservation, flood protection, utilities, recreation, water exporters, State agencies, and other organizations as well as the general public. We expect this dedicated Committee will inform and shape Commission discussions for years to come.

Please see the full Annual Report
for more details.



The Delta Protection Act, adopted by the Legislature in 1992, is codified in the Public Resources Code beginning with section 29700. It was updated by the 2009 Delta Reform Act. The Act declared 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, created under the Act, “provides an existing forum for Delta residents to engage in decisions regarding actions to recognize and enhance the unique cultural, recreational, and agricultural resources of the Delta.” The legislation further defines the Commission as “the appropriate agency to identify and provide recommendations to the Delta Stewardship Council on methods of preserving the Delta as an evolving place as the Delta Stewardship Council develops and implements the Delta Plan”. Based on this Act, the Commission concentrates its efforts on the oversight of Delta land use and resource management, levees and emergency response, the support of Delta agriculture, recreation and tourism and local economic development, and the protection of Delta historical and cultural resources.

BACKGROUND

The Delta Protection Act also delineates Primary and Secondary Zones within the Legal Delta, and requires that the Commission adopt and maintain a comprehensive long-term resource management plan for land uses in the Primary Zone. The Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP) established goals and policies aimed at protecting, maintaining, enhancing, and restoring the overall quality of the Delta environment. LURMP elements include land use, agriculture, natural resources, recreation and access, water, levees, and utilities and infrastructure.

(continued)



BACKGROUND

The fifteen members of the Commission include a member of the County Board of Supervisors from each of the five Delta counties (Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo); three elected city council members representing cities in the North, Central, and South Delta; representatives from North, Central and South Delta Reclamation Districts; and four State representatives, one each from the Department of Business, Transportation, and Housing, the Natural Resources Agency, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the California State Lands Commission. Two ex-officio members include a member of the California State Senate and a member of the State Assembly.

The Commission adopted a Strategic Plan in 2006, which provides a framework for implementing the Commission's authorities and mandates. The Commission initiated work in 2013 to update its Strategic Plan to reflect its new responsibilities and the evolving context of the Delta. In 2014, the Commission considered an updated mission statement and first draft of the updated Strategic Plan, "Vision 2030". Commissioners formed a Strategic Plan subcommittee to further refine the document. A public meeting was held to solicit input, and the Delta Protection Advisory Committee began developing recommendations for the Commission. The Strategic Plan is expected to be finalized in 2015, and guide Commission priorities through 2030.

Provisions of the Act and section 29780 of the Public Resources Code require that in January of each year, the Commission submit to the Governor and the Legislature this Annual Report describing the progress that has been made in achieving the objectives of the Act.



IMPLEMENTATION

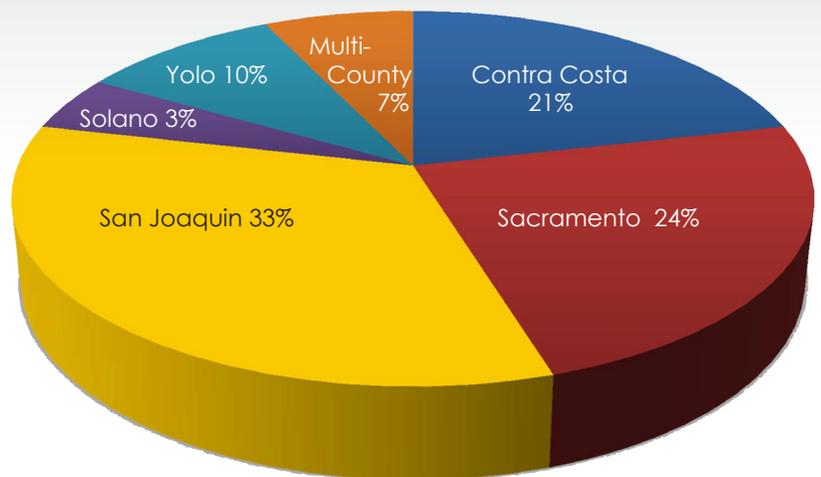
Local government general plans and approved projects must be consistent with the LURMP. Commission staff review proposed plans and projects within the Primary Zone for consistency with the LURMP, and may comment on proposed projects in the Secondary Zone that have the potential to impact the Primary Zone. The Commission also serves as an appeal body if a person challenges a project in the Primary Zone as inconsistent with the LURMP. If the appeal is upheld, the proposed project must be brought into conformity with the LURMP before proceeding.

During the course of 2014, Commission staff reviewed proposed projects within the Legal Delta for consistency with the LURMP and impacts to other Commission projects, such as the Great California Delta Trail. Project information is received from different sources, such as city and county planning offices, State agencies, special districts, and utilities.

The Commission monitors those projects that could have an impact to Delta resources and submits comment letters where staff feels that decision-makers should have more information about the LURMP and other Commission policies. The table (below) lists those projects on which the Commission commented in 2014, the location of the project, and whether the project was considered substantial. The chart shows that most of the comment letters provided were for projects in San Joaquin (33%), Sacramento (24%), and Contra Costa (21%) counties.

Commission staff maintain a project log with the Commission's consistency determination, whether the Commission provided a comment letter, current project status, and agency actions. The Commission did not hear an appeal of a land use decision in the Primary Zone during 2014.

2014 Land Use Comment Letters Provided by County



OF THE LAND USE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Of the 42 projects commented on by the Commission this year, ten had the potential to convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use beyond an additional rural homesite; none of these projects were for residential subdivision-scale conversions of agricultural land. It should be noted that some of these projects are county-wide or are for planning efforts that would not be fully developed for a number of years.

The Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) produces biennial surveys of land use in California. For the Legal Delta from 2010 to 2012 (the most recent survey data available), FMMP shows that there were 934 net acres converted to urban use (167 acres in the Primary Zone and 767 acres in the Secondary Zone), an approximately 1.2% increase in urban land over a two-year period (total urban land in the Legal Delta is 77,837 acres); half of this conversion occurred in Contra Costa County. During this same period, there was a net reclassification of 4,783 acres of agricultural land to "other land" (3,327 acres in the Primary Zone and 1,456 acres in the Secondary Zone); this can mean either that land was fallowed for a period of years and was no longer classified as agricultural, or that land was converted to a restored natural use (restored natural land would be classified as "other land" unless it was converted to wetlands, in which case it would be considered "water area"). The Commission will seek to better define these restored natural land use conversions in future annual reports.

In 2015, the Commission anticipates initiating review and update of the LURMP to reflect evolving policies and conditions.



COMMISSION COMMENT LETTERS in 2014

County	Projects	Total	Substantial	Primary Zone	Secondary Zone	Both Zones	Out of Legal Delta
Contra Costa	City of Brentwood General Plan (<i>Citywide</i>) City of Oakley Housing Element (<i>Citywide</i>) Contra Costa County Housing Element (<i>Countywide</i>) Contra Costa Countywide Comprehensive Transportation Plan (<i>Countywide</i>) Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration (<i>1,178 acres</i>) Minor Subdivision Application MS 14-005 (<i>28 acres</i>) Mobile Home Land Use Permit Application LP 14-02007 (<i>2 acres</i>) Tesoro Avon Marine Oil Terminal Lease (<i>13.33 acres</i>) West Antioch Creek Channel Improvement (<i>1.3 acres</i>)	9	4	1	4	3	1
Sacramento	Capital South East Connector (<i>35 miles</i>) City of Sacramento 2035 General Plan Update (<i>Citywide</i>) Decker Island Electrical Crossing (<i>900 feet</i>) EchoWater (Formerly Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant) (<i>200 acres</i>) Old Sacramento State Historic Park General Plan and EIR (<i>16 miles of railroad right-of-way</i>) Runyon House Tentative Parcel Map and Lot Reduction Permit (<i>173 acres</i>) Sacramento County Development Code (<i>Countywide</i>) Sherman Island "Little Baja and Manzo Ranch" Fish Release Sites (<i>32 acres</i>) Sherman Island Sacramento River Habitat Restoration and Levee Improvement (<i>44 acres</i>) Twitchell Island Levee Improvements (<i>4 levee miles</i>)	10	7	5	2	2	1
San Joaquin	City of Stockton Climate Action Plan and Related Documents (<i>Citywide</i>) Entertainment Permit PA-1400122 (<i>1,800 sf</i>) KOA Campgrounds Entertainment Permit (<i>29 acres</i>) Lot Line Adjustment PA-1400015 (<i>1,058 acres</i>) Lot Line Adjustment PA-1400026 (<i>503 acres</i>) Lot Line Adjustment PA-1400033 (<i>704 acres</i>) Lot Line Adjustment PA-1400041 (<i>94 acres</i>) Lower San Joaquin and Delta South Regional Flood Management Plan (<i>14,700 square miles</i>) Minor Subdivision Application PA-1400103 (<i>44 acres</i>) San Joaquin County Development Title Text Amendment (<i>Countywide</i>) San Joaquin County General Plan Update (<i>Countywide</i>) San Joaquin County Regional Transportation Plan (<i>Countywide</i>) Smith Canal Gate (<i>Undisclosed</i>) Zone Reclassification PA-1300122 (<i>2.5 acres</i>)	14	7	6	3	4	1
Solano	Integrated Mosquito Management Program (<i>Countywide</i>) Minor Slough Levee Repair (<i>2.2 levee miles</i>)	2	0	2	0	0	0
Yolo	Clarksburg Community Plan Update (<i>35,091 acres</i>) Old Sugar Mill Telecommunications Facility (<i>2,500 sf</i>) Raley's Dock Replacement and Rice Mill Pier Rehabilitation (<i>0.4 acres</i>) Yolo County Zoning Code Update (<i>Countywide</i>)	4	3	3	1	0	0
Multi-County	SACOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Update (<i>SACOG Region</i>) Spongeplant Control Program (<i>66,000 acres</i>) Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study – Big Break and Little Franks Tract (<i>90 acres</i>)	3	3	1	0	2	0
	Totals	42	24	18	10	11	3
				(43%)	(24%)	(26%)	(7%)

COMMISSION PRIORITIES



WATER

WATER SUPPLY, QUALITY AND RELIABILITY

Bay Delta Conservation Plan:

The Delta Protection Commission continued to support the interests of Delta residents in 2014. The Public Review Draft of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) was released in December of 2013 for 120 days of public review. The deadline for public comment on the project was extended twice, finally closing on July 29, 2014. After many hours of staff review and analysis, including a public meeting in April to receive local input, the Commission submitted a comment letter, accompanied by an extensive matrix detailing profound negative impacts of the proposal.

In addition, Commission staff sought expert assistance to produce photo simulations of representative BDCP construction sites, based on data within the BDCP documents. These photo simulations, including animated aerial and eye-level views of the proposed intake facilities in Clarksburg and Hood, graphically depicted the potential impacts on Delta landscapes and communities. The simulations were presented at the May meeting and published online and on YouTube.com, where they garnered more than eight thousand views. DWR later developed additional visual simulations of the project and presented those renderings to the Commission at the June meeting, where there was debate about the actual impacts of the project, both above and below-ground, on Delta resources and communities.

DWR Emergency Drought Barriers:

Delta Protection Commission staff continued to monitor efforts related to the proposed installation of emergency drought barriers in the Delta. This included commenting on the permit required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and seeking updates from DWR at Commission meetings. As of May, DWR withdrew plans to install any emergency drought barriers in 2014. However, DWR continued to process its permits (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and State Water Resources Control Board) in anticipation that barriers might need to be installed in the future if drought conditions persist into 2015. Commission staff will continue to monitor this situation in 2015.

LEVELS

LEVELS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Delta Flood Risk Management District:

In 2013, the Commission contracted with DWR to develop a Levee Assessment District Feasibility study. In 2014, Commission staff identified a consultant to conduct the work, and anticipate work to commence in early 2015. In addition, DWR contracted with the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) to prioritize State investments in Delta levees. Delta Protection Commission, DWR and DSC staff have met on several occasions to coordinate the two efforts, and will continue to meet regularly as the two efforts proceed.

Delta Flood Preparedness Week and Flood Safety Fair:

Delta Flood Preparedness Week and Flood Safety Fair: As part of Delta Flood Preparedness Week (October 20-25), the Commission mailed a 2015 Delta Flood Preparedness Calendar and Flood Safety Fair invitation to 5,400 Delta residents, mostly in the Primary Zone. 2014 also saw the inauguration of a Flood Safety Fair, co-hosted by Discover the Delta and held on October 25 at the Delta Farmers' Market in Isleton. It received good participation from information presenters, including first responders from throughout the Delta (City of Rio Vista Fire Department, Solano County Office of Emergency Services, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department), DWR, CA Conservation Corps, American Red Cross, North Delta Water Agency, Dutra Museum of Dredging and the Commission, as well as general public attendees.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSITION 1:

While early iterations of the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Act of 2014 included significant bond funding for Economic Development in the Delta, it was largely eliminated from the final version that was approved by voters in November. However, some funding may be available to projects with an economic benefit, specifically when fisheries and sustainable agriculture are concerned. Commission staff will work to ensure that the funding designated for Delta projects (funding for the Delta Conservancy, Delta restoration funding for CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delta levees funding for DWR and Central Valley Flood Protection Board) provides maximum benefit to the Delta and advances both the Land Use and Resource Management Plan and the Economic Sustainability Plan. Pursuant to the Delta Conservancy's requirement to consult with the Commission on its grants in the Delta, staff anticipates development of a consultation process in collaboration with the Conservancy in early 2015.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY PLAN:

The Commission completed its initial Economic Sustainability Plan in 2011, and officially adopted it in January of 2012. A large portion of its recommendations were adopted into the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan, with which all covered actions in the Delta must be consistent. Per Public Resources Code section 29761.5(a), an update to the Economic Sustainability Plan is due in 2016-2017. Commission staff is gearing up to meet this significant and important mandate, but required funding has not yet been identified.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RURAL-URBAN CONNECTION STRATEGIES (RUCS):

The Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan of 2012 identified the rising demand for locally grown food as an opportunity for Delta counties to exploit the proximity of their agricultural regions to the dense urban populations of Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area, and maximize their potential as agricultural suppliers in a local food system. In 2014, the Commission contracted separately with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development on related Rural-Urban Connection Strategies (RUCS) projects.

SACOG's project builds on its RUCS program initiated in 2007, and will update data and models that help answer questions about how to stimulate economic development, the feasibility of expanding and creating new agricultural infrastructure, and how to expand market opportunities for agricultural producers in the portions of Sacramento and Yolo counties in the Legal Delta. Scenarios will demonstrate possible strategies that Delta stakeholders (member jurisdictions, partner agencies, non-profits, agricultural businesses, and investors) may explore for food system economic development. The project is anticipated to be complete in 2016.

The Contra Costa County project will assess the existing agriculture, food, and beverage sectors, including their total economic impact, opportunities to increase their economic value, jobs, and social benefit, and barriers to development. The project will support further work to identify policy reforms and additional resources required, assess potential partnerships for building a local food system, and create an action plan for expanding the economic value, job creation potential, and community benefit of the agricultural, food, and beverage sectors. The project is anticipated to be complete in 2015.



DELTA HERITAGE AREA

DELTA HERITAGE AREA INITIATIVE (DelHAI)



The Delta Awareness Campaign:

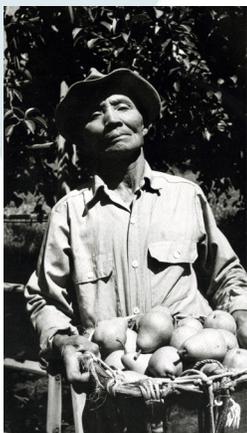
Initiated in 2013 by the Delta Protection Commission with support from the Delta Conservancy, the Delta Awareness Campaign is intended to raise awareness of the Delta as a tourist destination. Progress in 2014 included development of a logo and tagline suitable for use by a future Delta Heritage Area and other regional marketing. Delta residents and businesses provided significant input at several focus group meetings and online surveys. Targeted market research will provide the foundation for the second phase of the Awareness Campaign, to be led by the Conservancy in 2015 in partnership with the Commission. Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) supporters met in early 2014 to discuss efforts to advance the NHA legislation in Congress. There was some activity late in 2014, but Congress ultimately did not vote on the NHA legislation. We expect the new Congress to re-introduce the proposal in 2015.

The Delta Stewardship Council Implementation Committee:

The Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) convened in 2014 as a high-level gathering of State and federal agencies responsible for implementing provisions of the Delta Plan; early priorities were identified as levees, habitat, financing, and science. The Commission was represented by Vice-Chair Mary Piepho, who reported on needed Delta aquatic weeds research and abatement efforts, and committed Commission staff to convene a working group of agencies responsible for implementing Delta Plan recommendations related to “Delta as Place”, as well as other activities that enhance and preserve unique Delta values.

Cultural Resources:

Commission staff continue work on an inventory of a wide variety of Delta cultural resources, as basic information necessary to protect and preserve them. In 2014, in partnership with California State University Sacramento (CSUS), the Commission, and the Delta Conservancy, graduate students developed an **oral history project** on Delta pear farming and the post-World War II Walnut Grove Japanese District. Interview transcripts are housed with the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society and available through the Commission.



A INITIATIVE



Commission staff also obtained grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the State Office of Historic Preservation to host a public workshop with technical experts and local stakeholders, to inform future planning and preservation of the **Holland Union Gakuen** in Clarksburg -- one of the only intact pre-World War II Japanese language schools in the State, owned by the Sakata family. The Sakatas have farmed the area since the early 1900's and are interested in donating the property to a long-term steward for re-use. Commission and Delta Conservancy staff will continue to partner to implement recommendations arising from the workshop.

The Commission also contracted with the CSUS Center for California Studies to support the **Delta Narratives** project, which will coordinate the different story lines of Delta history into themed museum exhibitions, showcasing the Delta for what it truly is: one of the most historically important regions in the United States. The project, expected to be complete in 2015, includes scholars and cultural institutions throughout the Delta to develop a plan that outlines possible exhibitions and presentation concepts, including traditional museum exhibits, traveling exhibits, interactive media displays, cultural "trails", and in-school learning kits.

Placemaking in Legacy Communities:

The Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan recommends that local governments, in cooperation with the Commission and others, prepare Legacy Community plans that "emphasize its distinctive character, encourage historic preservation, identify opportunities to encourage tourism, serve surrounding lands, or develop other appropriate uses, and reduce flood risks." In 2014, the Commission supported this recommendation by contracting with CSU Sacramento's Center for Collaborative Policy to provide planning and facilitation assistance to local governments and Legacy Community residents in a pilot project to develop several Legacy Community plans. In 2015 and 2016, Action Plans will capture stakeholders' vision for their communities, as well as achievable actions that enhance and promote the unique cultural, economic, and geographic qualities of these communities – also known as "placemaking".





SEEKING AND SHARING THE DELTA'S VOICE

Delta Protection Advisory Committee:

Under the provisions of SBX7-1 and pursuant to Public Resources Code section 29753, in 2014 the Commission adopted a revised charter and reconvened the Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC). Meetings have been very well attended; members include representatives from Delta agriculture, business, habitat conservation, flood protection, utilities, recreation, water exporters, State agencies, and other organizations as well as the general public. As an initial project, the DPAC began developing recommendations for the Commission's Strategic Plan update.

Delta Voice Newsletter and Other Commission Communications:

Four quarterly editions of Delta Voice were released in print and electronic format, and the final distribution plan is evolving. The Commission received many kudos for the excellent content, especially the focus on Delta museums and agriculture, and the Spring issue's Delta As Place book list which has resulted in our Delta Library, maintained at the Commission office in West Sacramento.

2014 also saw the implementation of a web-based e-mail system that improved the ability of the Commission to communicate important information to large groups of people. Similarly, improvements in printed document layout and design, print production and mailing procedures resulted in reduced costs and better performance.



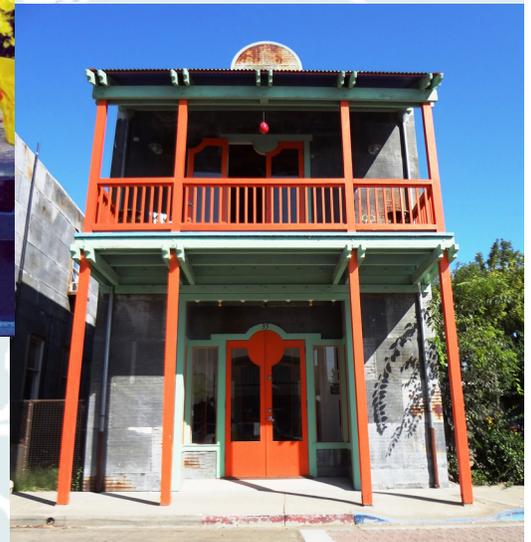
VOICE OF THE DELTA

Delta Conservancy Liaison Advisor:

The Delta Conservancy legislation provides for liaison advisors to serve in an advisory, nonvoting capacity; one of these liaison advisor slots is designated for the Delta Protection Commission (Public Resources Code Section 32330(c)(10)). In mid-2014, Mark Wilson of Clarksburg stepped down as the Delta Protection Commission liaison advisor and Erik Vink represented the Commission as the liaison advisor thereafter. This important role provides for good coordination of activities among Delta sister agencies, clarifying responsibilities and nurturing productive partnerships.

Organizations and Events:

The Commission supported multiple other community organizations, museum foundations and clubs throughout the Delta in 2014. Executive Director Vink and staff represented the Commission at multiple Delta cultural events in 2014, increasing the visibility of Delta Protection Commission and continuing to foster “Voice of the Delta” relationships. Events included the Courtland Pear Fair, the Harvest Moon celebration in Locke, the Taste of the Delta, the Isleton Cajun Festival, Rio Vista Vision and others. The Delta Voice newsletter assists with partners’ event promotion by also publishing a comprehensive calendar of upcoming Delta events in each issue.





RECREATION

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Recreation Inventory:

The update of the Delta Protection Commission's Recreation Inventory progressed with contracted assistance from California State Parks. Recreation providers were surveyed at the end of the year and data collection will extend into 2015. For the first time, the survey seeks to include agritourism providers in addition to wineries and other traditional recreation providers, and to collect providers' opinions on trends and needs. Publication of the results is expected in summer 2015.

Abandoned Vessels:

Delta Protection Commission staff established a partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to establish a digital database of abandoned vessels; according to the USCG, the Delta has more abandoned vessels than any other part of the State. Commission staff expects to begin the creation of the digital database of abandoned vessels in 2015, and anticipates that the database will heighten awareness of the extent of the problem, potentially increasing the availability of abatement funding.

The Great California Delta Trail:

Initial steps were taken to develop a Blueprint for the Eastern Region (to complement the Western Region Blueprint adopted in 2010); staff expects to release a draft Eastern Region Blueprint in 2015. A logo for the Trail that can be incorporated into the marketing of Trail-complementary Delta businesses is also in progress.

Cleanups:

The Delta Protection Commission sponsored Sacramento County Creek Week activities in the spring, which included a creek clean-up in the Delta. As part of the State Coastal Cleanup Day in September and in partnership with the Delta Conservancy, Commission staff led Delta Waterway cleanup events in four Delta counties: Clarksburg boat launch (Yolo), Kellogg Creek near Discovery Bay (Contra Costa), Buckley Cove in Stockton (San Joaquin), and Sandy Beach Park near Rio Vista (Solano County). (Delta Conservancy staff led a Sacramento County event.)

THE YEAR AHEAD

The landscape has changed significantly since the 1992 Delta Protection Act was enacted, with declining fisheries, rapid growth in the number and amount of invasive species, changes in levee standards, water conveyance challenges, declining quality of the water discharged from all sources into the Delta, and changing agricultural and recreational uses. These changes have brought new challenges to the Delta and more players to resolve – or complicate – the issues. The Commission is committed to working, together with our sister agencies the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Conservancy, to achieve the coequal goals of water reliability and ecosystem restoration, in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, and agricultural resources of the Delta, for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

With the increased State focus on both drought and water conveyance, water supply and quality remain at the forefront of the Commission’s focus for the year to come. Advocating for fresh water solutions that reduce reliance on the Delta’s supplies, protecting Delta values and Delta water rights, is a top priority. With the combined leadership and wisdom of Commissioners and Delta stakeholders, 2015 will see the finalization of the Delta Protection Commission Strategic Plan, “Vision 2030”. We anticipate successful engagement with Commission priorities, setting a course for productive efforts into 2030 and beyond.



Among Many Others, Actions in 2015 are expected to include:

- Continued advocacy for Delta interests in on-going water conveyance and quality discussions, including the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and efforts to manage aquatic invasive weeds.
- Advocacy for maximizing positive impacts of Water Bond expenditures in the Delta
- Advanced analysis on possible funding sources for Delta levees, including options for regional assessments.
- Continued research and support of initiatives to advance Delta regional economic sustainability, including opportunities in agriculture, recreation, and others.
- Assessment of any necessary updates to the Land Use and Resource Management Plan.
- Identification and promotion of unique values of “Delta as Place”, to protect and preserve them even as water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration are addressed.
- Continuous efforts to hear and share the voice of those who live, work and play in the Delta in conversations that affect the Delta.

