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Delta Protection Commission

**Vision 2030
Strategic Plan**

DRAFT

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR

DRAFT

INTRODUCTION

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the Heart of California on many levels – geographically, historically, and even physically as the central distribution point for California’s lifeblood: water. The region enjoys a lovely, moderate climate and a prime location – only a brief drive from every major population center in Northern California, and bounded by highways to world-famous Lake Tahoe and Yosemite. It’s an oasis of rural beauty surrounded by high density urban populations, dotted with small towns that tell the stories of the opening of the West – the Gold Rush, immigration, riverboat travel.

The Delta’s incredibly productive soil has helped feed Americans for generations, and now the growing Farm-to-Fork movement makes Delta growers the ideal *local* suppliers for over 9.5 million people in the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and Stockton metropolitan regions, and the growing Interstate highway corridors.

The Delta’s thousand-plus miles of levees and waterways and vast islands offer recreation options for multiple outdoor enthusiasts: boaters, hunters, fishermen, pedalers, paddlers, bikers, heritage tourists, wine tasters, ecotourists, music buffs, photographers, historians, birdwatchers and more. It’s a natural resources paradise, a physical, livable place, reflective of our heritage and rich beyond compare in beauty and wildlife.

It HAS to be safe. It HAS to be viable. It HAS to be protected, and it needs to be shared.

Yet Paradise is in crisis. Delta water exports and other stressors over the decades have coincided with declines in the Delta ecosystem. These negative effects will only get worse as populations grow, demand for fresh water increases and climate change continues.

With freshwater quality deterioration and fish population decline, the economic sustainability of Delta communities – now overwhelmingly supported by agriculture (dependent on water quality) and recreation in the form of boating and fishing (which require clean water and strong fish populations) - is threatened.

The levee system, even more crucial to protect lives, businesses and infrastructure as sea levels rise and soils subside, is under increasing pressure. Invasive species are clogging waterways, impeding commercial shipping and recreation, and a struggling economy means fewer resources are directed toward solving these urgent problems.

Everything in the Delta is interconnected. The environment sustains the economy which supports the people who run the businesses that attract the people who enjoy the environment, and the circle begins again. As the State’s population increases, the demand for water grows, and irreplaceable natural resources and fisheries continue to struggle. The choices made in the Delta over the next fifteen years will dramatically affect California and her people.

The legislation creating the Delta Protection Commission affirms “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.” Later legislation in the form of the 2009 Delta Reform Act introduced the concept of the “co-equal goals” of both Delta protection and “providing a more reliable water supply for California”, but insisted that these co-equal goals “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 Delta Protection Commission’s Vision 2030 will guide the Commission’s efforts towards this ideal over the next fifteen years.

COMPANION PLANS

Throughout Vision 2030, reference will be made to two landmark planning documents:

The Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP) and the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP)

These Plans direct and inform the land use and economic sustainability activities of the Delta Protection Commission. The guidance from these documents have protected and served the Delta in the past, and the Commission will continue to rely on them as a significant resource in the future, to preserve and enhance the Delta's precious resources for generations to come.

Land Use Resource Management Plan (LURMP)

The Delta Protection Act requires the Delta Protection Commission to prepare, adopt, review, and maintain a comprehensive long-term resource management plan for land uses within the Primary Zone. The LURMP describes the needs and goals for the Delta, and presents a statement of the policies, standards, and elements of the plan. All local governments are required to submit proposed amendments to their general plans to the Delta Protection Commission, to ensure that local government general plans are consistent with the Commission's plan. The plan applies to land uses, not to water supply or water quality, and generally addresses local government issues and actions, not those of State or federal agencies. Local government actions may be appealed to the Delta Protection Commission for review of consistency with the LURMP.

The LURMP is one of the few examples in California where a State agency has regional oversight over local land use decisions, and is designed to ensure that proposed land use changes in the Delta are protective of the region's abundant agricultural and natural resource values. Over the years this document has been repeatedly invoked to prevent inappropriate development within the Delta.

Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP)

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 established the following requirements for an Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) that includes, but is not limited to:

1. Public safety recommendations, such as flood protection recommendations.
2. The economic goals, policies, and objectives in local general plans and other local economic efforts, including recommendations on continued socioeconomic sustainability of agriculture and its infrastructure and legacy communities in the Delta.
3. Comments and recommendations to the Department of Water Resources concerning its periodic update of the flood management plan for the Delta.
4. Identification of ways to encourage recreational investment along the key river corridors, as appropriate.

It is significant that the Legislature directed the Commission to lead development of these policies and recommendations, many of which were adopted into the final Delta Plan. The Commission continues to monitor, update and implement ESP recommendations on an ongoing basis for the benefit of the Delta economy.

VISION STATEMENT

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Valuing the needs of the Delta as well as the needs of the State is fundamental to achieving the Delta Protection Commission’s vision: the ideal synthesis of cultural, ecological and agricultural values in a sustainable, healthy, and celebrated way of life.

By 2030, the Delta will be recognized and enjoyed as a prime leisure destination, agriculture and its support services will thrive, and unique “Delta as Place” values will be embraced Statewide, nationally and worldwide.

By 2030, the Commission will represent Delta interests in development of a water solution for California that ensures water supply reliability to both Delta and outside-of-Delta interests.

The Commission will continue to work to expand and enrich the Delta economy. Protection and enhancement of commercial agriculture in the Delta is essential to the economic sustainability of the Delta as a globally-important source of food production.

The Commission will advocate for the safety and prosperity of the Delta by supporting necessary maintenance and improvements for Delta levees and roads, effective emergency response planning, and flood preparedness throughout Delta communities.

The Commission will secure funding for the Delta Investment Fund, advance investments in Delta communities, and obtain grants, develop partnerships and gain policy support for Commission objectives.

The Commission, through its strong relationships with Delta stakeholders and other agencies, is in a powerful position to promote, educate and advocate for Delta interests. Commission members will continue to deliver balanced, effective and trusted leadership of Delta interests to supporters and opponents alike, aided by dedicated, professional Commission staff.

MISSION STATEMENT

“Committed to the Protection and Health of the Delta”

We protect, maintain, enhance and enrich the overall quality of the Delta environment and economy.

We do this with a focus on agriculture, recreation and natural resources, while remaining mindful of the importance of the Delta to all Californians.

Sidebar:

“The Legislature further finds and declares that the basic goals of the state for the Delta are the following:

(a) Achieve the two coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall 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.

(b) Protect, maintain, and, where possible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the Delta environment, including, but not limited to, agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreational activities.

(c) Ensure orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources.

(d) Improve flood protection by structural and nonstructural means to ensure an increased level of public health and safety.”

Delta Protection Act of 1992, updated 2009 (Public Resources Code 29702).

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CHALLENGES, PRINCIPLES, THEMES AND GOALS

Throughout the modern history of the Delta, its residents have faced recurring challenges:

- Managing too much water, or not enough of the right quality water
- Meeting the needs of some without ignoring the needs of others
- Keeping people and property safe
- Sustaining long-term economic and environmental vitality
- Developing and maintaining community infrastructure for essential services
- Competing with Statewide interests on crucial Delta issues

For more than 20 years, the Delta Protection Commission has been the Voice of the Delta and a catalyst for identifying and implementing solutions for these challenges and others. The Commission has adapted to emerging issues with its focus always on protecting the unique values of the Delta.

The Commission's guiding principles articulate the values and criteria to be used in developing objectives and actions:

Protect – the land, its people and its ecosystems

Restore – Natural resources, economic health and wildlife populations

Enhance – Economic drivers, historic and cultural treasures, and appreciation

Provide - A voice for residents in decisions affecting their region

Facilitate - Partnerships among stakeholders, agencies and beneficiaries

The Strategic Themes for Vision 2030 represent the Commission's portfolio of responsibilities and are supported by legislative mandates of the Delta Protection Act of 1992 and Delta Reform Act of 2009, as well as the recommendations and directives of the Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan and Economic Sustainability Plan, and the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan. The Strategic Themes are:

Water

Agriculture

Levees and Emergency Response

Regional Economy

Delta Heritage

Recreation and Tourism

Education and Outreach

The Overarching Goals represent the aim of the Delta Protection Commission to fulfill its Mission by:

Sustaining and enhancing existing economic drivers

Fostering new opportunities for economic development

Protecting and promoting cultural treasures

Creating cooperative relationships

Proactively addressing funding

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STRATEGIC THEME: 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.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Promote Statewide water solutions that **reduce reliance on Delta fresh water** supplies, **provide through-Delta fresh water conveyance** to protect Delta water quality and water rights, and **protect and enhance** the Delta’s natural resources, agriculture, adjacent urban areas and economies.
 - a) Create products (e.g. white papers, videos, brochures etc.) to **inform and educate** the public, opinion leaders and policymakers on the benefit of through-Delta conveyance on water quality, water rights, and regional ecosystem and economy.
 - b) Work with Delta-supportive interests to **identify alternative solutions** for fresh water supply reliability in California.
 - c) **Analyze proposals** for addressing fresh water supply reliability for compatibility with Delta values.
- 2) Increase Commission coordination to **advocate for legislation and funding** that protect the Delta’s fresh water resources.
- 3) Work to resolve the problem of **aquatic invasive species** as a fundamental water quality issue in the Delta.

SIDEBAR:

“Water is extremely valuable to all Californians. Adequate water supplies are critically important to agriculture and industry, and for urban health and resource protection. Northern California is a significant source of the state’s water projects’ exports, and this water moves through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta...Many programs and plans have been developed over the last 100 years to transport this water to agricultural and urban users in other parts of the state. All these programs and plans included elements to protect the riparian water rights of upstream rights holders and Delta water rights holders. These water rights are key to the longevity and vitality of Delta agriculture and the Delta region as a whole.” (2012 Economic Sustainability Plan, Chapter 4.5, pg. 55)

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1 STRATEGIC THEME: AGRICULTURE

2
3 The Delta Protection Commission works to conserve agricultural land and economically sustainable
4 agricultural operations in the Delta.
5

6 OBJECTIVES:

- 7 1) **Protect and enhance long-term viability** of commercial agriculture.
- 8 a) Develop and adopt an Agricultural Sustainability Plan
- 9 b) Develop and implement Rural-Urban Connection Strategies (RUCS) for infrastructure that
10 enhances the Delta agricultural economy.
- 11 i) Partner to acquire regional RUCS analysis funding.
- 12 ii) Complete updating of RUCS data for Delta portions of Sacramento and Yolo counties.
- 13 iii) Complete Delta portion of Contra Costa County RUCS project.
- 14 iv) Disseminate RUCS project findings in support of advancing necessary agricultural support
15 infrastructure.
- 16 c) Research and evaluate options to provide adequate farm labor housing.
- 17 d) Promote Farm-to-Fork and agritourism opportunities for the direct benefit of Delta growers.
- 18 2) **Protect agricultural lands from inappropriate development.**
- 19 a) Implement the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP).
- 20 b) Evaluate and update the LURMP to address current conversion challenges in the Delta, including
21 proposed industrial-scale alternative energy developments and large-scale habitat restoration.
- 22 c) Advocate for the use of existing public lands and conservation-owned lands for habitat
23 restoration and minimize the conversion of productive Delta agricultural land.
- 24 i) Encourage entities involved in Delta habitat restoration to inventory and map existing public
25 land and conservation-owned land suitable for habitat conversion.
- 26 d) Establish and implement Commission consultation process on Delta Conservancy restoration
27 projects, as required by the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014
28 (Proposition 1).
- 29 3) Support **wildlife-friendly farming** and **agriculture-friendly habitat restoration**.
- 30 a) Promote and disseminate the Department of Water Resources' "Good Neighbor" policies to
31 Delta farms and environmental entities.
- 32 b) Collaborate to develop, adopt and publish "best management practices" for ag-friendly habitat
33 restoration, based on outcomes of the Delta Working Landscapes project).

34 SIDEBAR:

35 "The delta is an agricultural region of great value to the state and nation and the
36 retention and continued cultivation and production of fertile peat lands and prime soils
37 are of significant value. The agricultural land of the delta, while adding greatly to the
38 economy of the state, also provides a significant value as open space and habitat for
39 water fowl using the Pacific Flyway, as well as other wildlife, and the continued
40 dedication and retention of that delta land in agricultural production contributes to the
41 preservation and enhancement of open space and habitat values." (Public Resources
Code 29703(a) and (b))

1 STRATEGIC THEME: LEVELS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

2
3 The Delta Protection Commission promotes the protection of life and property through the maintenance
4 and improvement of Delta levees, and emergency preparedness and response. This includes long-term
5 planning for ongoing, cumulative levee improvements to address new problems over time.

7 OBJECTIVES:

- 8
- 9 1) Partner with local, State, and federal governments to **improve emergency preparedness and**
10 **response** to protect Delta communities, property, and infrastructure.
 - 11 a) Support development of a **Delta-wide Unified Emergency Plan**.
 - 12 b) **Support Levee Maintaining Agencies** in collaborative efforts (e.g. emergency preparedness and
13 response, levee standards, regional funding, public education, communication) and advocate for
14 inclusion of Levee Maintaining Agencies in levee prioritization and other Delta-wide decision-
15 making processes.
 - 16 2) Advocate for **reliable funding** for Delta levee maintenance and improvements.
 - 17 a) Seek pro-Delta implementation of levee funding in the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure
18 Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1).
 - 19 b) Advocate with all agencies to prioritize levee funding for minimum **PL 84-99 level of protection**
20 **for the entire Delta**.
 - 21 c) Develop and promote a **levee funding strategy** that incorporates private and public sources,
22 including contributions from previous non-contributors (**"beneficiaries pay"**).
 - 23 d) Pursue removal of the sunset clause and other Delta-supported changes to Delta Levee
24 Subvention Program and Delta Levees Special Projects Program.
 - 25 e) Advocate at the federal, State, and local level to ensure that levee repair and recovery programs
26 for damages after flood events are available for rural Delta levees.
 - 27 3) Work to ensure that Delta residents are represented in decision-making processes.
- 28
29

SIDEBAR:

"The Legislature further finds and declares that the leveed islands and tracts of the delta and portions of its uplands are flood-prone areas of critical statewide significance due to the public safety risks and the costs of public emergency responses to floods, and that improvement and ongoing maintenance of the levee system is a matter of continuing urgency to protect farmlands, population centers, the state's water quality, and significant natural resource and habitat areas of the delta." (Public Resources Code 29704)

1 **STRATEGIC THEME: REGIONAL ECONOMY**

2

3 The Delta Protection Commission promotes a robust regional economy that protects agriculture, natural
4 resources and cultural values of the Delta.

5

6 **OBJECTIVES:**

7 1) Lead the **implementation of the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP)**.

8 a) Convene and coordinate a working group to collaboratively implement recommendations of the
9 ESP.

10 b) Monitor, research and report on regional economic conditions and identify funding to update
11 ESP.

12 c) Update the ESP.

13 2) Evaluate the **regional infrastructure** needs and identify opportunities to maximize Delta regional
14 benefits.

15 a) Develop a Needs Assessment for the Legacy Communities and surrounding areas.

16 b) Synthesize with infrastructure needs (Agriculture Goal 1.b.) for agriculture.

17 c) Disseminate results to local government and other partners.

18 3) Facilitate regional economic development projects using **Delta Investment Fund**.

19 a) Develop a work plan for Delta Investment Fund spending and seek support for Delta Investment
20 Fund through State appropriations and other support.

21 4) Identify environmental factors that negatively impact economic sustainability of the Delta

22 a) Partner with local government and state agencies to control invasive aquatic species which
23 negatively impact recreation, tourism and water supply.

24 b) Advocate for improved beautification of Delta roadways.

25

SIDEBAR:

“The region’s rich history boasts of bustling, river-based commerce before the automobile age, and its cultural uniqueness includes the only rural town in America built by early Chinese immigrants. As the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas, the Delta is also a place of striking natural beauty and ecological significance... Although surrounded by growing cities, the Delta remains a highly-productive agricultural area with rural charms, landscapes, and waterscapes not found elsewhere in California.” (2012 Economic Sustainability Plan, Chapter 1)

1 STRATEGIC THEME: DELTA HERITAGE

2
3 The Delta Protection Commission promotes and enhances the Delta's unique cultural and natural
4 heritage.

5 6 OBJECTIVES:

- 7
8 1) Protect the Delta's **distinctive character** and **land uses** through implementation of the LURMP
9 (ongoing).
10 2) Protect and promote the **cultural and historical resources** of the Delta.
11 a) Complete and maintain a cultural and historical resources inventory.
12 b) Work with Congress and the National Park Service to establish a National Heritage Area in the
13 Delta and complete an approved management plan.
14 c) Advance recognition of themes identified in the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study and
15 support implementation of associated projects.
16 d) Plan and pursue funding for historic preservation projects, e.g. Delta Asian and Pacific Islander
17 Heritage Corridor, Holland Union Gakuen.
18 3) Support local governments in preparing plans that emphasize the **vitality and preservation of**
19 **Legacy Communities**.
20 4) Promote and enhance the Delta's heritage of **natural resources**, such as wildlife habitat, scenic
21 value, soils and water.
22 a) Coordinate with the Delta Conservancy to complete a biological and ecological inventory.
23 b) Facilitate habitat restoration and enhancement projects consistent with Delta values.
24 c) Establish and implement Commission consultation process on Delta Conservancy restoration
25 projects, as required by the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014
26 (Proposition 1).
27 d) Partner with local, State and federal agencies to establish a coordinated Delta-wide program to
28 control invasive aquatic species.

29 30 SIDEBAR:

31 "The first goal is to "identify the Delta as a region of national significance to educate
32 the public about 'Delta as a Place', and build more support for preserving, protecting,
33 and enhancing the Delta". Other goals are related to economic development, public
34 access, historic preservation, interpretation, and more. Utilizing public input, five
35 proposed themes have been developed which explain the Delta's national
36 significance:

- 37 1. At the heart of California lies America's inland Delta.
- 38 2. Conversion of the Delta from marshland to farmland was one of the largest
39 reclamation projects in the United States.
- 40 3. Multi-cultural contributions and experiences have shaped the Delta's rural
41 landscape.
- 42 4. The Delta, California's cornucopia, is amongst the most fertile agricultural
43 regions in the world.
- 44 5. The Delta lies at the center of California's water resource challenges."
45 (2012 National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, Executive Summary, pg. 4)

1 STRATEGIC THEME: RECREATION AND TOURISM

2
3 The Delta Protection Commission is committed to national recognition of the Delta as a diverse,
4 accessible, modern recreation and tourism destination.

5 6 OBJECTIVES:

- 7 1) Partner with local agencies/entities to **encourage increased recreation and tourism** in the Delta.
- 8 a) Complete Delta recreation facility inventory.
- 9 b) Promote public-private partnerships and multiple-use of appropriate Delta lands for recreation
10 and tourism.
- 11 i) Identify, recruit and develop entities best positioned to make meaningful progress with
12 Delta recreation and tourism by identifying needs, resources and partners.
- 13 c) Extend the Great California Delta Trail by continuing planning, support and collaboration efforts
14 on all segments.
- 15 d) Partner with Visit California to promote the Delta as a unique destination region to potential
16 visitors, in-state, nationally and internationally.
- 17 e) Increase awareness of Farm-to-Fork elements, enhancing Delta agritourism.
- 18 2) Encourage **protection of private lands** from unauthorized recreational uses by promoting and
19 educating users on recreational opportunities on public lands and private recreation facilities.
- 20 3) Promote and encourage **Delta-wide coordination** and collaboration on **boating, boating safety,** and
21 related programs.
- 22 a) Delta Waterways maintained clear of abandoned vessels.
- 23 i) Work with State Parks Division of Boating & Waterways, US Coast Guard and local agencies
24 on an updated marine patrol strategy to remove abandoned vessels.
- 25 ii) Work with State Lands Commission, Division of Boating and Waterways and Department of
26 Motor Vehicles to improve title transfer procedures and develop incentives for non-
27 abandonment.
- 28 4) Partner with local government and State and federal agencies to **control invasive aquatic species**
29 which negatively impact recreation, tourism and water supply.
- 30

SIDEBAR:

“The Legislature declares its support for the creation of a Great California Delta Trail, linking the San Francisco Bay Trail system and the planned Sacramento River trails in Yolo and Sacramento Counties to the present and future trailways around the delta, including, but not limited to, the delta's shorelines in Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Solano, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties.” [2006 Statutes, Chapter 839: Section 1, 11(b)]

1 **STRATEGIC THEME: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

2

3 The Delta Protection Commission is the voice of those who live, work and play in the Delta. In this role,
4 the Commission is committed to actively supporting communication between stakeholders and
5 policymakers, creating a forum through which Delta residents, businesses and interests can make their
6 positions heard.

7

8 **OBJECTIVES:**

9

- 10 1) Develop, maintain and implement a proactive Delta Protection Commission Communication and
11 Outreach Plan.
- 12 a) Cover all program areas with a clear and coordinated message.
- 13 b) Respond to issues of importance emerging in the Delta in a prompt, effective and transparent
14 manner, with a **high degree of flexibility**.
- 15 c) **Foster two-way communication** throughout the Delta.
- 16 (i) Actively **seek input** and opinions from the Delta to inform decisions impacting the region.
- 17 (ii) **Provide a forum** for residents, businesses and Delta interests to participate in decisions
18 affecting the Delta.
- 19 (iii) Foster communication **between Delta interests** for improved, coordinated action.
- 20 (iv) Develop an **ambassador program** to effectively elicit input of Delta residents and
21 businesses.
- 22 d) Monitor effectiveness and reach to ensure successful and clear communication through all
23 channels, adapting to address evolving needs.
- 24 2) **Support an active and engaged Delta Protection Advisory Committee** structure, including utilizing
25 expert work groups, to provide recommendations to the Commission.
- 26 3) Collaborate or partner with others on communicating about shared projects, e.g. Delta Awareness
27 Campaign, economic sustainability projects, abandoned vessel abatement, invasive species control,
28 etc.

29

CAPACITY BUILDING

The Delta Protection Commission continually strives to adapt and grow in order to most effectively fulfill its Mission. In addition to the Strategic Themes, it has established a complementary set of initiatives planned to increase capacity to deliver superior service to Delta constituents and to the Delta region as a whole, as follows:

- The Commission promotes a **culture of leadership** and excellence among Commission members and staff, and
- The Commission creatively develops funding to **increase the overall feasibility** and sustainability of all of the Commission's Vision.

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COMMISSION LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

The Delta Protection Commission demonstrates effective and efficient leadership by developing and supporting Commission members and providing expert Commission staff.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Support Commission members, so that each member can operate at their most effective level.
 - a) Develop and implement a Commissioner Orientation program.
 - b) Ensure well-informed and prepared Commission members.
- 2) Encourage subcommittees as needed to advance Commission Initiatives (e.g. Strategic Plan Subcommittee).
- 3) Recruit, develop and maintain effective Commission staff.
 - a) Develop and regularly update a Vision 2030 Implementation Plan, corresponding staff Work Plans, and Individual Development Plans to implement Commission initiatives.
 - b) Annually review staffing needs, expertise and organizational capacity. Evaluate long-term needs for positions and levels of expertise.

DRAFT

1 **FUNDING**

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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.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Secure funding for Delta Investment Fund.
 - a) Identify federal, State and private sources of potential funding.
 - b) Explore feasibility of a Delta License Plate to benefit Delta Investment Fund.
 - c) Assist the interested Delta public to create fundraising to benefit Delta Investment Fund.
- 2) Continuously research, identify and develop funding sources to assist in the support of **worthy and compatible activities** in the Delta.
 - a) Explore entities such as In Our Back Yard (IOBY) and Kickstarter to help crowd-source funds for Delta community investments.
 - b) Evaluate the feasibility of establishing a Delta Region Community Benefit Foundation.
 - c) Secure funding for Commission priorities by pursuing grants, partnerships and budget change proposals.

COMMON ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

1		
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4	AWAF Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund	NAIP National Agriculture Imagery Program
5	BDCP Bay Delta Conservation Plan	NASS National Agricultural Statistics Service
6	BLS Bureau of Labor Statistics	NBA North Bay Aqueduct
7	BMP Best Management Practices	NFIP National Flood Insurance Program
8	CalEMA California Emergency Management Agency	NGO Non-Governmental Organization
9	Caltrans California Department of Transportation	NIMS National Incident Management System
10	CBDA California Bay-Delta Authority	NRC National Research Council
11	CCWD Contra Costa Water District	NCCPA Natural Communities Conservation Plan
12	CDBG Community Development Block Grant	PG&E Pacific Gas and Electric Company
13	CDWR California Department of Water Resources	PL Public Law
14	CEQA California Environmental Quality Act	PL 84-99 Public Law 84-99 Federal Levee Standards
15	Cfs Cubic Feet per Second	POD Pelagic Organism Decline
16	CPI Consumer Price Index	PPIC Public Policy Institute of California
17	CVFPP Central Valley Flood Protection Plan	ROA Restoration Opportunity Area
18	CVP Central Valley Project	ROW Right of Way
19	CWC California Water Code	SA Study Area
20	The Delta The Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta	SACOG Sacramento Area Council of Governments
21	DAPC The Delta Area Planning Council	SAFCA Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
22	Delta Conservancy The Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Conservancy	
23	DFW Department of Fish and Wildlife	SEMS Standardized Emergency Management System
24	DHCCP Delta Habitat Conservation & Conveyance Plan	SFHA Special Flood Hazard Area
25	DLHAC Delta Levees Habitat Advisory Committee	SHRA Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency
26	DMV Department of Motor Vehicles	SJAFCA San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency
27	DPC Delta Protection Commission	SRA State Recreation Area
28	DRMS Delta Risk Management Strategy	SWP State Water Project
29	DSC Delta Stewardship Council	SWRCB State Water Resources Control Board
30	DU Ducks Unlimited	TNC The Nature Conservancy
31	DWR Department of Water Resources	TRPA Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
32	EDI Economic Development Initiative	UC University of California
33	EIR Environmental Impact Report	UOP University of the Pacific
34	EIS Environmental Impact Statement	UPL Urban Project Levee
35	ESA Federal Endangered Species Act	USACE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
36	ESP Economic Sustainability Plan	USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture
37	EPA Environmental Protection Agency	USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
38	FDPA Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973	USGS U.S. Geological Survey
39	FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency	WSAFCA West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
40	FIS Flood Insurance Study	
41	FMPP California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	
42	GIS Geographic Information System	
43	HCP Habitat Conservation Planning	
44	ICS Incident Command System	
45	IEP Inter-Agency Ecological Program	
46	IRP Independent Review Panel	
47	JPA Joint-Powers Authority	
48	MOU Memorandum of Understanding	
49	MWD Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	
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DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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3	Mary N. Piepho, Chair	Michael Scriven
4	Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	Central Delta Reclamation Districts
5	Alternate: Karen Mitchoff	Alternate: Dante Nomellini Sr.
6		
7	Skip Thomson, Vice-Chair	Anthony Silva, Mayor
8	Solano County Board of Supervisors	City of Stockton
9	Alternate: John Vasquez	Alternate: Alan Nakanishi
10		
11	Brian Bugsch	Justin van Loben Sels
12	CA State Lands Commission	North Delta Reclamation Districts
13	Alternate: Eric Gillies	Alternate: Tom Slater
14		
15	Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor	Oscar Villegas, Supervisor
16	City of West Sacramento	Yolo County Board of Supervisors
17	Alternate: Chris Ledesma	Alternate: Jim Provenza
18		
19	Bob Elliott, Supervisor	<u>Ex-Officio Members</u>
20	San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors	Honorable Jim Frazier
21	Alternate: Kathy Miller	California State Assembly
22		
23	Robert K. Ferguson	Honorable Cathleen Galgiani
24	South Delta Reclamation Districts	California State Senate
25	Alternate: Dean Ruiz, Esq.	
26		<u>Commission Staff</u>
27	Brian Kelly, Secretary	Erik Vink
28	CA State Transportation Agency	Executive Director
29	Alternates: Kate White & Brian Annis	
30		
31	John Laird, Secretary	Catherine Caldwell
32	CA Natural Resources Agency	Assistant Executive Director
33	Alternate: Todd Ferrara & Janelle Beland	
34		Nicole Bert
35	Don Nottoli, Supervisor	Communications Specialist
36	Sacramento County Board of Supervisors	
37	Alternate: Patrick Kennedy	Jann Bullock
38		Interim Clerk to the Commission
39	Norman Richardson, Mayor	
40	City of Rio Vista	Blake Roberts
41	Alternate: David Hampton	Environmental Planner
42		
43	Karen Ross, Secretary	Jennifer Ruffolo
44	CA Department of Food and Agriculture	Project Manager
45	Alternate: Josh Eddy	Jessica Tucker-Mohl, Deputy Attorney General

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Prior to 1992

1959 – Water Code Section 12220 establishes the legal Delta boundaries.

1967 – Inter-County Delta Planning and Recreation Advisory Committee established to study planning matters and recreational developments. Committee had limited staff support to implement planning efforts.

1972 – Delta Advisory Planning Council (DAPC) – a regional planning council established to coordinate the activities of local governments, maintain a comprehensive plan, and strengthen participation in state and federal planning.

Delta Protection Act

1992 – Delta Protection Act establishes DPC to develop a comprehensive land management plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta. The DPC replaces DAPC.

1994 – DPC conducts various studies on land use, agriculture, recreation and levees to inform a comprehensive management plan.

1995 – The DPC adopts the Land Use and Resource Management Plan.

1996 – The Legislature extends the Commission’s original sunset date from January 1, 1997 to January 1, 1999.

1997 – DPC updates the Inventory of Delta Recreation Facilities.

1998 – The Legislature extends DPC’s sunset until January 1, 2010, in order to provide continued oversight of land use changes in the Primary Zone, due to continued urbanization pressures in the Secondary Zone.

1998 – The Commission advises and monitors the CALFED process and the proposed impacts to land uses in the Delta Primary Zone.

1999 – Delta Protection Act is amended to include the new City of Oakley and requires that any new General Plans in the Primary Zone of the Delta must be consistent with the Commission’s adopted Land Use and Resource Management Plan.

The Early 2000s

2000 – Delta agriculture suffers several hard blows, including the bankruptcy of Tri Valley Growers cooperative, the closure of tomato processing facilities and sugar refineries in Woodland, and lower than usual Delta Crop prices.

2000 – CALFED Record of Decision signed.

2001 – The Nature Conservancy acquires 9,200 acre Staten Island to permanently protect wildlife – friendly agriculture. The Commission advocates on the importance of developing a long-term strategy to protect agriculture on Staten Island.

2002 – DPC supports the development of the Delta Resource Conservation and Development Council through the US Secretary for Agriculture, with a mission to ensure the protection and enhancement of agriculture.

2002 – U.S. Department of Food and Agriculture designates the Legal Delta a State Conservation Priority Area for the Federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, making funding opportunities available for enhancing habitat and water quality as part of agriculture on private lands.

2002 – DPC participates in the Delta Dredge Reuse Strategy and Technical Advisory Panel to develop a strategy for reused materials for incorporation into CALFED program. The final report summarizes all dredging data for the last decade and addresses regulatory challenges associated with dredging in the Delta.

2002 – California Bay-Delta Authority created to oversee implementation of the CALFED program, with one representative of the Delta appointed by the Governor.

2003/04 – The LAO recommends elimination of the Commission because its mandated tasks have been completed. After a year of public hearings and discussions, the Legislature recognized DPC’s continued role in the region and maintained its jurisdiction and authority unchanged.

2004 – Jones Tract levee breaks, and consequently DPC prepares a Delta levees conference in co-sponsorship with the California Bay-Delta Authority.

2005 – DPC completes the Delta Recreation Master Strategy focusing on Aquatic Resources with funding from the Department of Boating and Waterways.

2005 – In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, there is heightened attention to flood protection and water conveyance at the local, state and federal levels for the Delta region.

The 2006 Strategic Plan

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2 **2006** – DPC initiates an Abandoned Vessel Discussion Group.
3 **2006** – Senator Tom Torlakson Bill 1556 passes establishing the Great California Delta Trail.
4 **2006** – Little Hoover Commission reviews CALFED using contributions from DPC regarding land use indicators and
5 trends in the areas of agriculture, habitat, and recreation.
6 **2006** – Senator Lois Wolk Bill AB 797 passes, affirming the importance of DPC’s role, strengthening its membership,
7 increasing its appeal authority, and adding tools to facilitate long-term agricultural land conservation.
8 **2006** – DPC and five counties collaborate to install “Welcome to the Delta” signs at strategic entry points and
9 establish the contemporary marketing of “Delta as Place.”
10 **2006** – DPC contributes towards development of a Long Term Management Strategy for Dredging and Lower Yolo
11 Bypass Management Plan.
12 **2006** – DPC participates in the Delta Emergency Response Summit.
13 **2007** – DPC adopts a Strategic Plan and articulates the role of Commission as the “voice for those who live, work
14 and play in the Delta.”
15 **2007** – DPC participates in the visioning process for the Delta Blue Ribbon Task Force.
16 **2007** – DPC facilitates a five-County Emergency Planning Forum, which influenced the introduction and passage of
17 SB 27 –the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Emergency Preparedness Act.
18 **2007** – Clarksburg Sugar Mill Development Appeal – Clarksburg Land Use Decision played a pivotal role in
19 demonstrating the strength of the Land Use and Resource Management Plan and DPC Appeal Authority.
20 **2008** – DPC introduces the concept of establishing a National Heritage Area in the Delta.
21 **2008** – DPC contributes to a proposal for a Delta specific conservancy.
22

Delta Reform Act

- 23
24 **2009** – Legislature passes Delta Reform Act, which reaffirms and modifies DPC’s role, and establishes the Delta
25 Stewardship Council and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy.
26 **2010** – The Commission adopts an updated Land Use and Resource Management Plan.
27 **2010** – Pursuant Delta Reform Act, the DPC participates on the Delta Stewardship Council and as a member of the
28 Delta Conservancy; initiates the Economic Sustainability Plan; and pursues a proposal to protect the unique values
29 of the Delta as an evolving place.
30 **2010** – DPC adopts the Great California Delta Trail Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano Counties.
31 **2010** – DPC leads a collaborative that contributes to the Regional Water Quality Board’s draft document on
32 Mercury TMDL, in response to mandates from the US EPA and CA EPA.
33 **2012** – The Commission adopts the Economic Sustainability Plan, which is largely incorporated into the Delta
34 Stewardship Council’s Delta Plan.
35 **2012** – DPC recommends to Congress the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study as proposal to protect the
36 unique values of the Delta.
37 **2012** – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Multi-Hazard Coordination Task Force (SB 27) Report released.
38 **2012** – DPC cosponsors the Delta Levee Standards Conference with the Water Education Foundation.
39 **2013** – DPC declares and establishes “Delta Flood Preparedness Week,” an awareness campaign providing
40 residents with flood preparedness tools and resources.
41 **2013** – DPC completes the Evapotranspiration Study (E.T. Study) addressing concerns over beneficial uses of
42 agricultural water and Delta agricultural water user efficiency requirements.
43 **2013** – DPC initiates the Eastern Region Delta Trail Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo
44 Counties.
45 **2013** – DPC initiates branding partnership with Delta Conservancy.
46 **2013** – DPC celebrates 20 years of protecting the Delta.
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