

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Executive Director report – May 21, 2015**

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Requested Action: **Receive report**

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**Executive Director Report**

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Program and Project Update

1. **Delta Heritage Area Initiative (DelHAI)/Delta Awareness Campaign:** The second phase of the Delta Awareness Campaign is proceeding, in partnership with the Delta Conservancy. The Delta tourism website is almost constructed and will be reviewed by both the Conservancy and Commission staff before going online as a secondary tier of the Visit California website. Two meetings held with Delta residents and business owners yielded three very good promotion proposals from the community; one has been selected for implementation in 2016. Jungle Communications (the Conservancy’s marketing consultant) will develop the associated traditional and social media campaigns for the Delta promotion.
2. **Bay Delta Conservation Plan Successor:** As has been widely reported, the Governor released preliminary details on California EcoRestore (more than 30,000 acres of habitat restoration in the Delta over the next 5 years, led by the Delta Conservancy with a priority on using public lands) and California Water Fix (twin Delta tunnels with a total 9,000 cfs capacity) on April 30. These proposals replace the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Further details on the proposed twin Delta tunnels are anticipated in late June when the recirculated environmental documents are released. Based on the details that have been announced, it appears that the twin tunnel intake facility design has been modified to reduce impacts cited in the Commission’s July 2014 EIS/EIR comment letter (and by other commenters). Commission staff anticipate providing a briefing to the Commission at its July 16 meeting and preparing comments on the recirculated environmental documents.
3. **Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC):** The DPIIC (Chair Piepho is the Commission’s representative) met on May 11 in Sacramento. As part of the DPIIC efforts, Commission staff will be convening a committee to monitor implementation of the Delta Plan Chapter 5 (“Delta as Place”) recommendations. The committee will be comprised of staff from State agencies and local governments identified as lead agencies in the Delta Plan. Commission staff are currently preparing a baseline report on implementation by meeting with proposed committee members, and will report on committee activities to the Commission and DPIIC.
4. **DPC Land Use Comments:** As part of our responsibility to ensure that local land use decisions in the Delta are consistent with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan

(LURMP), Commission staff prepare comment letters to advise local agencies on their projects’ consistency with the LURMP. The chart below lists the comment letters prepared by Commission staff from March 12, 2015 through May 8, 2015.

**LAND USE PROJECTS - COMMENT LETTERS PROVIDED**  
**March 22, 2015 to May 8, 2015**

County	Project	Substantial	Primary Zone	Secondary Zone	In Both Zones
<b>Contra Costa</b>	None				
<b>Sacramento</b>	American River Common Features Reevaluation Report (15.5 miles of levees)	X		X	
	California American Water Sanitary Sewer Connection		X		
	Sacramento Area Flood System Improvements (6 miles of levees)	X		X	
	Sherman Island Cell Site (24 acres)		X		
	Twitchell Island Habitat Enhancement (45 acres)	X	X		
Van Loben Sels Lot Line Adjustment (48 acres)			X		
<b>San Joaquin</b>	None				
<b>Solano</b>	Solano County Urgency Ordinance Defining a Solar Energy Plot Project (Countywide)	X			X
<b>Yolo</b>	City of West Sacramento SB 5 Flood Protection Policy Amendment (Citywide)	X		X	
<b>Multi-County</b>	California Department of Water Resources Emergency Drought Barriers (3 proposed barriers)	X	X		
	US Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Drought Barriers (3 proposed barriers)	X	X		

5. **Delta Emergency Drought Barriers:** The Department of Water Resources has begun construction of an emergency drought barrier at West False River, with the barrier anticipated to be completed by the time of the Commission meeting. Although emergency drought barriers were proposed for North Delta locations, these were eliminated from consideration because of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerns about potential effects on Delta smelt. The Commission sent comment letters to DWR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the proposed barriers, acknowledging the benefit of repelling salinity in extreme drought conditions but expressing concerns about the impact of drought barriers on Delta water quality, recreation and aquatic weeds, among other impacts.
6. **Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District Feasibility Study:** The Commission has been delayed in signing the contract with M.Cubed to carry out the Feasibility Study due to a delay in processing the revised interagency agreement with

DWR (both increasing the amount of the agreement and extending the expiration, as was approved by the Commission at the March 2015 meeting). Although the DWR interagency agreement is now being executed, this administrative delay will likely alter our schedule for the Feasibility Study, delaying the start and the completion of all tasks by approximately 6 weeks.

### Administrative Update

1. **Commission Staffing:** The Commission is in the process of filling the Commission Clerk position and is again conducting interviews for a staff planner position. These are the final vacancies on the Commission staff roster.
2. **Commission Budget:** As has been previously reported, due to overcommitment of the Environmental License Plate Fund, the Commission has been directed to reduce its spending from the Fund in both the current fiscal year (FY 2014-15) and the upcoming fiscal year (FY 2015-16). Other State agencies receiving ELPF funding have also been directed to reduce their spending from this special fund source. Because savings have accrued due to staff vacancies in the current fiscal year, Commission staff believe they can advance the important work of the Commission while absorbing these cuts, which now total \$200,000 in FY 2014-15 and \$80,000 in FY 2015-16. The Governor's revised budget is expected to be released on May 14, 2015.

The next Delta Protection Commission meeting will be on July 16 in Oakley.