

AGENDA ITEM 5: **Executive Director report – March 17, 2016**

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Requested Action: **Receive report**

Executive Director Report

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Program and Project Update

1. Delta Heritage Area Initiative (DelHAI):

Delta Community Action Planning: Commission, Sacramento County, and Sacramento State staff are working with Courtland and Walnut Grove residents to develop action plans for each community. Participants will discuss draft plans at the third round of workshops (March 15th in Courtland and March 16th in Walnut Grove). Commission, Yolo County, and Sacramento State staff will be hosting a first workshop in Clarksburg in April.

2. Delta as Place Interagency Working Group: Commission staff held the second meeting of the Delta as Place Interagency Working Group on March 1. The working group (comprised of staff from federal, State and local agencies) is focused on facilitating Delta as Place projects and advancing related policies in the Delta Plan. The March 1 meeting included presentations by Dr. Richard Norgaard (Delta Independent Science Board) on Delta as Place research and by Delta Stewardship Council staff on refinements to Delta Plan performance measures. The Commission plans to report progress from the Delta as Place Interagency Working Group at the next Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee on May 9 in Sacramento.

3. Delta Region Agricultural Analysis (RUCS): Commission staff continue to work with the Delta Conservancy to undertake a regional agricultural analysis for the five Delta counties. As envisioned, the Delta Conservancy would provide funding to the Commission from Proposition 1 funding and the Commission would execute an interagency agreement with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to complete the work using their Rural Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) model. Discussions with Delta local officials have been ongoing, and we continue to refine the scope of work with the intention that the Commission will be asked to approve associated documents at its May 19 meeting.

4. **Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District Feasibility Study:** Commission staff and the consultant team held the first stakeholder workshop on March 9 at the State Library. The consultant team presented three memos that constitute the "building blocks" for the analysis of financial mechanisms, covering historic funding of Delta levee improvements, current legal and institutional constraints on raising fees or taxes, and the proposed "archetypes" that will be used to help screen potential funding mechanisms. We had good representation of Delta stakeholders (Melinda Terry-CA Central Valley Flood Control Association, Tom Zuckerman-Central and South Delta Water Agencies, Gilbert Cosio-MBK Engineers, Rogene Reynolds- Delta landowner), and representatives from Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Contra Costa Water District, CA Transportation Agency (Commissioner White), DWR, and the Delta Stewardship Council. The next workshop will be in approximately one month, and will cover the beneficiary analysis.

The Commission Subcommittee on Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District Feasibility Study will meet in Sacramento on May 21.

5. **Delta Leadership Program:** The Commission, in conjunction with the Delta Regional Foundation and consistent with the Commission's 2015-2020 Implementation Plan, has launched a pilot effort to develop the knowledge, skills and capabilities of a select group of Delta leaders. The second seminar was held at the Haggin Museum in Stockton on February 19 and featured speakers on Delta agriculture and water; the next seminar will be held in Rio Vista on March 11 and feature a visit with Congressman Garamendi and speakers on the Delta environment and public safety. The final two seminars will be on April 8 in Oakley and May 13 in Clarksburg. Commission members will be invited to join the program participants at a reception on May 19 prior to the Commission meeting in Isleton.

6. **Commission Land Use Comments:** As part of the Commission’s responsibility to ensure that local land use decisions in the Delta are consistent with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP), staff prepare comment letters to advise local agencies on their projects’ consistency with the LURMP; the Commission also frequently comments on State and federal projects that would impact Delta resources. The chart below lists the comment letters prepared by Commission staff from January 9 through March 10, 2016.

**Land Use Projects – Comment Letters
January 9, 2016 through March 10, 2016**

County	Project	Substantial	Primary Zone	Secondary Zone	In Both Zones
San Joaquin	Agricultural Excavation Application (PA-1500096)		X		
	Woodward Island Bridge Project over Middle River		X		
	Winery Ordinance Update				X
Yolo	2016 Zoning Code Amendments (ZF #2016-0005)				X

Administrative Update

2016 Legislative Session: Senate Bill 554 (Wolk), legislation to remove the sunset date for the 75% State cost share under the Delta Levee Subvention Program, passed out of the Senate with a unanimous vote in late January and is now being considered in the Assembly. Under existing statute, the State cost share will decrease to 50% on July 1, 2018. Consistent with Vision 2030 objective L.2.4 and the Commission’s approval of a levee policy statement advocating retention of the Delta Levee Subvention Program at its November 2015 meeting, Commission staff forwarded the attached support letter to Senator Wolk.

Budget Update: The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-17 was released January 7. It includes stable funding for Commission staff and operations, and a \$150,000 augmentation for updating Economic Sustainability Plan policies related to agriculture. The Commission’s proposed budget is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Budget Subcommittee March 16 and the Senate Budget Subcommittee April 7.

For the current fiscal year 2015-16, see the attached overview through January 2016, with distributed allocations across general Theme Areas identified in the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan. Adjustments to project and program costs occur through the fiscal year as it progresses.

Upcoming Events:

March 31: *Cesar Chavez Day*

April 1-3: *McCormack Ranch Sheepdog Trials*, Rio Vista

<http://siriovista.org/events/upcoming-events/2016-sheepdog-trials/>

April 1-23: *DeltaFOREVER Landscapes Show*, Sacramento State University

www.csus.edu, www.deltaregionalfoundation.com

April 9: *Opening Day Parade & Blessing of the Fleet*, Pittsburg Yacht Club

www.pittsburgyc.com

April 15-17: *San Joaquin Asparagus Festival*, Stockton

www.sanjoaquinasparagusfestival.net

May 1: *Delta Century Ride*, Jessie's Grove Winery in Lodi

www.stocktonbikeclub.org

May 7: *Delta Loop Opening Day*, Delta Loop

www.deltaloop.net

May 13-15: *Lodi Zinfest*, Lodi

www.zinfest.com

May 19: *Delta Protection Commission Meeting*, Isleton

May 21: *Asian Pacific Spring Festival*, Locke

www.locke-foundation.org

May 22: *AMGEN Tour of California Bicycle Race* - Sacramento through the Delta

www.amgentourofcalifornia.com