

AGENDA ITEM 7: **Delta Leadership Program Presentations**

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Requested Action: **Receive presentation from Delta Leadership Program participants**

The Delta Leadership Program is a joint effort of the Delta Protection Commission and Delta Regional Foundation (a non-profit public benefit charity that most recently sponsored the “Delta Forever” art shows) to cultivate the best in the region’s existing leadership and assist in the development of informed and energetic leaders for the Delta’s future.

The inaugural group of 22 Delta Leadership Program participants concluded their five-month program with a final seminar on May 13. Over the course of five monthly seminars, participants learned from expert panels about a range of complex issues affecting the Delta, including water, public safety, boating and recreation, Delta environment, wildlife-friendly agriculture and economic development, and took part in exercises and presentations to enhance personal leadership skills. Participants heard from both Delta interests and those outside the Delta who hold differing perspectives on some of the most controversial issues facing the region (for example, water exports).

The Program required participants to develop a community service project benefiting the Delta. Project concepts were sourced from Vision 2030 (Commission Strategic Plan) and from the class members themselves. Project goals focused on providing a direct benefit to the Delta and created an opportunity to form new relationships, demonstrate leadership and practice teamwork. Project topics and teams from the inaugural class are as follows:

Delta Ambassadors – Amanda Beck, Roni Gehlke, Nicholas Lavoie, Jeannie Matthews, John Vasquez and Tim Waits

Tourism Support: Highway 5 Signage – Barbara Daly, John Stump, Anna Swenson, Jeffrey Wingfield and Chuck Winn

Tourism Support: Social Media – Kathy Bunton, Meghan Hertel, Lauren Korth, Emily Pappalardo, Erica Rodriguez-Langley and Justin Van Loben Sels

Farm Worker Housing – Ryan Camero, Lea Castleberry, Marian Norris, Esperanza Vielma and Craig Watanabe

Delta Leadership Program participants will present a summary of their community service projects to the Commission.