

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Executive Director report – July 21, 2016**

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Erik Vink

Requested Action: **Receive report**

\*\*\*\*\*

Executive Director Report  
July 21, 2016

Program and Project Update

1. **Delta Heritage Area Initiative (DelHAI):**

**Delta Community Action Planning:** Commission, Yolo County, and Sacramento State staff hosted a third and final workshop on June 7th with Clarksburg residents to develop a community action plan. Commission staff are preparing the final community action plans for Clarksburg, Courtland, and Walnut Grove and are working with Clarksburg and Walnut Grove residents and the Courtland Town Association on next steps.

2. **MWD Purchase of Delta Wetlands Properties:** As reported at the last meeting, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) is attempting to proceed with its \$175 million purchase of five Delta islands totaling almost 20,000 acres in San Joaquin County (Bouldin Island and Bacon Island), Contra Costa County (Webb Tract and Holland Tract) and Solano County (Chippis Island); MWD has claimed that the purchase is related to potential for habitat restoration and that the agency does not intend to proceed with the proposal by current property owner Delta Wetlands Properties to create reservoir storage on Bacon Island and Webb Tract. The counties of San Joaquin and Contra Costa, along with Central Delta Water Agency and other private parties, have challenged MWD’s CEQA notice of exemption in San Joaquin County Superior Court; as of July 14, the Court of Appeals has stayed the closing of the sale pending review by the California Supreme Court. In addition, Central Delta Water Agency (CDWA) has filed suit to require MWD to abide by the terms of the settlement agreement between CDWA and the current owner of the property.

3. **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 May 13 through July 14, 2016.

**Land Use Projects – Comment Letters May 13 through July 14, 2016**

<b>County</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Primary (P) or Secondary (S) Zone; D (Delta-wide)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Multi-County</b>	San Francisco Bay Area Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (Plan Bay Area 2040): <i>Plan will identify general location of land uses, residential densities, building intensities, and transportation network within the region.</i>	Development project; PRC §29765 Findings required; Projects within Secondary Zone that impact Primary Zone; Delta as Place; Great California Delta Trail	P/S	Request consideration of the Commission’s jurisdiction and concerns about Primary Zone. Environmental analysis should identify the changes in Delta land use resulting from proposed land use and transportation scenarios.
<b>Sacramento</b>	Courtland, Locke, and Walnut Grove Special Planning Area Amendments: <i>Amendments to project review process and land use tables for the three communities.</i>	Projects within Secondary Zone that impact Primary Zone	S	Support for economic development and tourism efforts.
<b>Sacramento</b>	Franklin Boulevard Bridge Replacement at Lost Slough: <i>Construction of a replacement bridge with two 12-foot travel lanes with adjacent paved shoulders on both sides.</i>	Great California Delta Trail	S	Support for installation of bike lanes and potential incorporation into the Great California Delta Trail.
<b>San Joaquin</b>	Development Title Text Amendment: Wineries and Related Facilities: <i>Amendments involve new and revised definitions, related winery operations, and land use intensity.</i>	Development project; PRC §29765 Findings required;	P/S	Support for agricultural tourism and value-added agricultural production.
<b>Yolo</b>	Liberty Specific Plan: <i>Up to 1,503 residences, up to 10,000 square feet of commercial and office uses, public and private parks, greenbelts, and trails, an elementary school site, and open space and ponds on approximately 341 acres in the City of West Sacramento.</i>	Projects within Secondary Zone that impact Primary Zone; Great California Delta Trail	S	Recommend discussion of Primary Zone resources and Delta Trail when evaluating environmental impacts of project.

Administrative Update

1. **Staffing Update:** The Commission is pleased to welcome Natasha Nelson (formerly of the DWR Delta levees program) as the Acting Assistant Executive Director while Catherine Caldwell is on extended medical leave. Natasha began work on July 12. Also, the Commission is seeking a new Executive Secretary (and Commission Clerk); a job posting is open until the position is filled, and staff anticipates conducting interviews before the end of July.
2. **Budget Update:** The Commission’s FY 2016-17 budget includes a \$150,000 augmentation from the general fund for updating Economic Sustainability Plan policies related to agriculture; the remaining \$1,339,000 of Commission funding is from the Environmental License Plate Fund (\$1,086,000) and Harbors and Watercraft Fund (\$253,000). The final results on the FY 2015-16 budget year are still being tabulated and will be presented to the Commission at the next meeting.

***Upcoming Events:***

July 30<sup>th</sup> – Taste of the Delta – KOA Tower Park Resort <http://www.tasteofthedelta.com/>

July 31<sup>st</sup> - Pear Fair – Courtland <http://pearfair.com/>

August 5<sup>th</sup> – First Friday Gallery Walk, Walnut Grove <https://www.facebook.com/The-Tong-405175322844713/>

August 13<sup>th</sup> – Second Saturday Art Walk <http://www.oldsugarmill.com>

August 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>: Sacramento River Delta Grown Passport Weekend – Delta wide <http://www.sacrivertagrown.org>