

AGENDA ITEM 10: Delta Conservation Framework

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Requested Action: **Receive report**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is currently developing a 25-year, high-level conservation framework for the Delta, Yolo Bypass, and Suisun Marsh. According to CDFW, the Delta Conservation Framework will:

- Serve as the long-term continuation of the California EcoRestore initiative;
- Provide a shared vision and overarching goals for Delta conservation;
- Offer a forum for collaborative engagement and broad buy-in;
- Inform future Delta Plan amendments;
- Lay out a path for integrating stakeholder concerns into future conservation planning;
- Acknowledge challenges, potential regulatory conflicts, and other barriers to conservation project implementation;
- Solicit and integrate local, state, and federal agency feedback to ensure alignment with other conservation plans and opportunities;
- Inform State funding priorities.

The Delta Conservation Framework will be completed in Winter-Spring 2017 and will guide conservation efforts beyond 2040. The Delta Restoration Network, which was established by the Delta Conservancy as a forum for information sharing and coordination, is hosting a series of four community workshops for interested stakeholders on the Framework. The first three workshops were held in August, September, and October. A final workshop will take place at the Jean Harvie Senior and Community Center in Walnut Grove on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. In early 2017, a first draft of the Framework will be made available for a 30-day public review and comment period.

Dr. Brooke Jacobs and Dr. Christina Sloop will brief the Commission on the Delta Conservation Framework. Dr. Jacobs is a Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor at CDFW’s Water Branch. She currently supervises senior staff leading the Department’s involvement in several Delta programs, including the Delta Conservation Framework, California Water Fix, and the Water Storage Investment Program established by Proposition 1.

Dr. Sloop is a Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) in CDFW’s Water Branch. For over 25 years, she has worked in the fields of ecology and natural resource conservation across Northern California, and North America’s Central and Pacific flyways. She joined CDFW in January 2016 to lead the Delta Conservation Framework planning effort.