

AGENDA ITEM 9:      **Delta Socioeconomic Indicators**

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Presented by: Anne Visser and Catherine Brinkley

Requested Action: **Receive report**

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In 2012, the Commission submitted a “Proposal to Protect, Enhance, and Sustain the Unique Cultural, Historical, Recreational, Agricultural and Economic Values of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as an Evolving Place” to the Delta Stewardship Council. Based on its Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP), the Proposal included policies and recommendations to be incorporated into the Delta Plan. Among these, Proposal 8.3 called for “Maintaining an “Economic Sustainability Scoreboard” to track progress.” Later that year, the Delta Stewardship Council accepted this proposal, noting that performance measures would be developed for Delta Plan Chapter 5, to “Protect and Enhance the Unique Cultural, Recreational, Natural Resource, and Agricultural Values of the California Delta as an Evolving Place.”

The Commission has contracted with the UC Davis Center for Regional Change to prepare Delta socioeconomic indicators to fulfill Proposal 8.3. Professors Anne Visser and Catherine Brinkley will produce an “Economic Indicators of the Delta Report” that presents a set of social and economic indicators of the Delta region with special attention to the agricultural economy. The indicators may be adopted for use as the Sustainability Scoreboard.

The development of a comprehensive set of measures will be completed with input from members of the Commission, Delta stakeholders, Commission staff, and other relevant entities. Commission staff have been working with Professors Visser and Brinkley to develop an approach to the indicators, addressing goals and objectives of the research, data requirements and sources, and methods. This briefing will cover the proposed approach, highlighting two indicators—jobs and land use.

The indicators will be replicable over time. They will include measures of economic, political, and social well-being including, but not limited to, measures of the agricultural economy, labor market and job quality measures, economic security, as well as education and employment security.

Staff requests that the Commission provide feedback and guidance to the staff and Professors Visser and Brinkley concerning the scope of the Indicators. Currently, the proposed indicators include:

**People:**

- Jobs: unemployment rates, job sector growth trends, wages, tourism
- Health: diet-related diseases, asthma rates
- Education: primary and secondary education trends, school quality

**Place:**

- Urban development trends: residential building permits issued (to forecast development trends and verify related indicators), housing value trends
- Population trends: population growth and per capita income
- Agriculture: production values, commodity trends, value-added income streams, farm employment and wages
- Transportation: commuter numbers and travel time
- Investment in the Delta: per capita federal spending, per capita non-profit spending

The Indicators will be presented in a narrative, tabular, and spatial (map) forms. These formats will highlight trends across the Delta Region. For example, a map of farmland-uses can be compared over a 5 -year period to identify areas of farmland conversion and urban development.

The project schedule calls for a draft version of a 20-25 page report by June 2017. The report will include

- Proposed indicators to be used in ongoing evaluation of the agricultural economy of the Delta Region
- Description of how these indicators were constructed and a detailed analysis of these indicators
- Identification of high priority areas in relation to the agricultural economy of the Delta Region
- Identification of other agencies and organizations active in the region and the potential to work in collaboration with these agencies and organizations
- Policy implications presented by the findings of the analysis

Staff anticipates bringing the final Indicators report to the Commission in November 2017.