



## INFORMATION ITEM

### Delta Protection Commission's Recreation and Tourism Update to the Economic Sustainability Plan

---

**Summary:** Delta Protection Commission (Commission) Executive Director Erik Vink will summarize the draft chapter update for Recreation and Tourism for their Economic Sustainability Plan.

---

#### BACKGROUND

The Commission has completed the 2020 update to the Recreation and Tourism Chapter of the 2012 Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) to incorporate the best available current data and update recommendations regarding visitation, economic activity, and emerging recreation and tourism trends in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The 2009 amendments to the Delta Protection Act required the Commission to prepare an ESP for the Delta region (Public Resource Code 29759). The ESP was published in January 2012 and includes information and recommendations on a range of topics, including Delta agriculture, recreation and tourism, public safety, levees, and potential conveyance and restoration impacts. The 2012 ESP informed policies of the 2013 Delta Plan with respect to the socio-economic sustainability of the Delta. Since 2012, several developments have impacted, or may impact, recreation and tourism in the Delta, including the 2019 designation of the Delta as a National Heritage Area (NHA), continued work on the Great Delta Trail, the creation of a marketing task force ([visitCAdelta.com](http://visitCAdelta.com)), the proposed Delta Conveyance project (and prior iterations), and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commission staff received input on the draft ESP update in December 2020 and January 2021 via two virtual public workshops. Council staff participated in both workshops and submitted a comment letter addressing the update and areas for which the Council would like more information (**Attachment 1**).

According to the ESP Update, overall, the Delta recreation and tourism economy declined by approximately 20 percent between 2012 and 2019. The challenges facing these sectors have been relatively constant since 2012. Some of the main concerns are regarding facility maintenance, water quality, programming and promotion of recreational and tourism destinations, and public access and safety.

The ESP update proposes the creation of a collaborative management entity to help tackle the range of concerns the document describes. The ESP update identifies the

Council as a potential partner in implementing the recommendations. Council staff has requested more information regarding the vision for the management entity, funding options, and how it would be integrated with participant's existing responsibilities. Staff has also requested to learn more about the Commission's perspective on the:

- Expected impacts of the NHA designation on recreation funding as recognition increases;
- Strategies for planning for and managing changing recreation trends considering factors such as climate change, conveyance, and habitat restoration; and
- Public spaces best suited to serve a dual conservation and recreation purpose.

#### **TODAY'S PRESENTATION**

At today's meeting, the Commission's Executive Director, Erik Vink, will summarize recent trends and projections for recreation and tourism for the Delta region and the Commission's preliminary recommendations for addressing some of the challenges and constraints in the draft ESP update. Mr. Vink will also identify potential collaborative roles for the Council in implementing the ESP.

#### **FISCAL INFORMATION**

Not applicable.

#### **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Council Letter to Commission regarding Comments on the 2020 Update to the ESP: Recreation and Tourism Chapter

#### **CONTACT**

Jeff Henderson, AICP  
Deputy Executive Officer  
[jeff.henderson@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:jeff.henderson@deltacouncil.ca.gov)

Morgan Chow  
Senior Environmental Planner  
[morgan.chow@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:morgan.chow@deltacouncil.ca.gov)