



INFORMATION ITEM

Sherman Island Panel Presentation

Summary

The Council is meeting at Belle Vie Vineyard and Events Center on Sherman Island in the Delta this month, which provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the area. Located at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, Sherman Island serves as the epicenter for Delta recreation, levee management, subsidence reversal, restoration, and wildlife management activities. This information item will feature a panel of experts highlighting Sherman Island from a variety of perspectives.

Background

Sherman Island is a 10,000-acre island located in the Western Delta at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. It is largely owned by the Department of Water Resources and managed by Reclamation District 341. Sherman Island is primarily used as pasture, but also supports some farming of corn, grains, and alfalfa. Its landscape is shaped by wetlands, marshes, riparian forests and woodlands, and it features over 8,000 acres of conserved lands. This abundance of natural habitat makes Sherman Island a popular recreational destination offering camping, fishing, and renowned windsurfing opportunities.

Due to land subsidence, Sherman Island now lies below sea level and faces significant flood risk. Its 19.5 miles of surrounding levees protect State Highway 160, utility infrastructure, freshwater wetlands, and water quality in the Delta. To help protect these assets, Sherman Island is categorized as a Very-High Priority Island in the Delta Levees Investment Strategy Prioritization. Through the California EcoRestore program, various habitat restoration projects have been completed or are planned on Sherman Island and in nearby areas with the added benefit of helping reverse subsidence and decreasing flood risk.

About the Panel

Today's panel will present information about various activities on and around Sherman Island which intersect with the Council's work, including subsidence reversal and carbon sequestration, habitat restoration and the multiple benefits of setback levees, a nearby experimental release of cultivated Delta Smelt, and recreational boating and aquatic activities.

Today's panelists include:

- **Bryan Brock**, Manager, Delta Levees and Habitat Restoration Branch, Division of Multi-benefit Initiatives, Department of Water Resources.
- **Randy Mager**, Senior Environmental Scientist, Delta Ecosystem Enhancement Section, Division of Multi-benefit Initiatives, Department of Water Resources.
- **Dan Welsh**, Deputy Field Supervisor; Conservation, Restoration and Contaminants Program; United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **Fran Sticha**, Bay Area Sea Kayakers

Contact

Jeff Henderson

Deputy Executive Officer for Planning and Performance

Jeff.henderson@deltacouncil.ca.gov