01. WHY THIS MATTERS
Delta as Place: Recreation and Tourism

• **The ESP supports investment** in recreation, agriculture, tourism and other land uses

• The ESP Update includes an **analysis of recreation and tourism trends** and recommendations for how to address them

• To **protect the unique values of the Delta**, Council staff analyzed the ESP’s consistency with Delta Plan policies
STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS
Statutory Requirements and Process

• The **Delta Protection Act** requires the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) to prepare an Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) for the Delta region (Pub. Res. Code, § 29761 and 29761.5)

• The **Delta Reform Act** requires the Delta Stewardship Council to review an adopted or amended ESP for Delta Plan consistency (Public Resources Code § 29761.5(b))

• Council staff engaged with Commission staff throughout the ESP Update process

• Commission approved the ESP Update by unanimous vote on March 18, 2021

• Council staff is seeking approval to submit draft comment letter to the Commission with findings related to Delta Plan consistency
DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION PRESENTATION
Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) Recreation & Tourism Update

Delta Stewardship Council
August 26, 2021
Economic Models

- Direct spending in the Delta is down, from about $312 million in 2012 to roughly $250 million (in 2020 dollars), a decline of almost 20%.
- Delta recreation and tourism now supports fewer jobs in the five Delta counties, from about 3,000 jobs in 2012 to almost 2,300 in 2020 (26% decrease).
- Most spending occurs in Legacy Communities and at marinas.
Population vs. Visitation

- Delta Market Area population up by approximately 1,200,000 since 2012.
- Recreation visitation for 2020 flat - similar to 2010 estimates, about 12 million per year.
- Reported pandemic-related boating increases in 2020 – lasting?
Focus on High Economic Impact

- Recommendations are focused to address:
  - Marinas
  - Boating
  - Legacy Community-related recreation and tourism businesses.
Recommended Actions/Focus

• Partnerships to:
  • Expand access to existing public facilities,
  • Restart the Delta Dredged Sediment Long Term Management Plan
  • Develop permit and planning assistance for Legacy Community small businesses
Recommended Actions/Focus (2)

- Expand funding to remove water hazards and abandoned vessels, and improve local boating and water access facilities
- Bring “Save the Waters You Love” campaign into the Delta
- Increase law enforcement funding and presence in the Delta
Recommended Actions/Focus (3)

• Expand Delta Marketing Task Force efforts and VisitCADelta.com promotion
• Prioritize National Heritage Area and Great Delta Trail planning and implementation
• Institute regular Delta recreation and tourism surveys
Next Steps – Potential Participants

- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- Delta Stewardship Council
- CA State Parks and Division of Boating and Waterways
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State Lands Commission
- Representatives of Delta county government agencies, as well as legacy communities, Chambers of Commerce, non-governmental organizations, and recreation and tourism interests
Next Steps – Consensus Points

• Define and prioritize major recreation, tourism, and economic development constraints and obstacles
• Identify actions to address high priorities
• Identify resources needed and responsible parties
• Develop timeframes and success measures
• Obtain commitments, consider need for facilitator entity
ESP Recreation and Tourism Chapter Update
Prepared by Dangermond Group
for Delta Protection Commission
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Key Recreation Data

- Farms with direct sale operations, such as farm stands, you-pick operations, agritourism or recreation sales, have increased in the six Delta Counties since 2002.
- Associated increases in income per farm.
- In addition, many wineries and wine tasting establishments have opened.
- Hunting licenses increasing statewide.
• Marinas in the Delta: decrease from 112 in 2008 to 97 in 2020.
• Recreation-related establishments located in the primary zone: decrease from 96 in 2008 to 70 in 2020.
• Boat builders in the Delta: down by 50% since 2008, along with drops in most other recreation related businesses, including camping, restaurants, and boat repair.
Recreation Trends

• Declining boat ownership in the market area

Source: State of California Department of Motor Vehicles 2019
FINDINGS
Summary of Findings

Consistency with the Delta Plan: *Land Use*

- **DP P1**: Locate New Urban Development Wisely
  - Potential application to recreation or agritourism sites

- **DP P2**: Respect Local Land Use when Siting Water or Flood Facilities or Restoring Habitats
  - Future projects associated with the Update’s “recreation enhancement”

*Staff recommends that the Council find that the ESP Update is not inconsistent with Delta Plan Policies DP P1 and DP P2.*
Summary of Findings

Consistency with the Delta Plan: *Ecosystem Restoration*

- **ER P3**: Protect Opportunities to Restore Habitat

- **ER P5**: Avoid Introductions of and Habitat Improvements for Invasive Nonnative Species

*Staff recommends that the Council find that the ESP Update is not inconsistent with Delta Plan Policies ER P3 and ER P5.*
Other Considerations

Joint Powers Authority

Multi-Benefit Projects

Climate Change

Environmental Justice
05.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff Recommendation for Council Action

• Staff recommends that the Council approve submittal of a comment letter containing findings on the consistency of the ESP Update with the Delta Plan (provided as Attachment 1 to the staff report)

• If approved, staff will submit the letter to the Commission inclusive of any comments received from the Council at today's meeting.
THANK YOU