

This summary is provided as a resource for committee members and the public to have brief highlights following SEC meetings. In addition to this summary, detailed meeting minutes, question and answer documents and full meeting video will be available on the [dcdca.org](https://dcdca.org) website.

## MEETING OVERVIEW

The 16th meeting of the Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) was held via video conference on April 28, 2021. The meeting video, agenda, presentation, and supplemental materials are available for review on the [dcdca.org](https://dcdca.org) [website](https://dcdca.org).

## DCA UPDATES AND COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Sarah Palmer, SEC Chairwoman, introduced special guest Karla Nemeth, Director of the California Department of Water Resources.
- Ms. Nemeth thanked SEC members for their participation and input. She expressed hope that committee members will engage deeply in the Community Benefits discussion. Ms. Nemeth thanked Kathryn Mallon for her strong leadership, fresh sensibility and candid approach to community collaboration. She then welcomed Graham Bradner as DCA's Interim Executive Director, noting his experience on the project.
- Barbara Keegan, SEC Vice Chairwoman, thanked SEC members for their work over the past 16 months and addressed the changing work ahead as the main conceptual design work has been delivered to DWR. Moving forward, continued coordination between the community and DCA engineers will be key in maintaining open, transparent communication. She noted the SEC meeting cadence would change, slowing down to be respectful of the community's time and reflecting the pacing of engineering and design adjustments that will be ongoing but intermittent. She encouraged ongoing SEC participation and emphasized the DCA will continue to reach out to stakeholders to ensure all communities understand the proposed conveyance project.
- Ms. Palmer emphasized changes and studies are still yet to be done, and information will continue to be provided to SEC members in a transparent and accessible manner.
- Graham Bradner, DCA Interim Executive Director, provided a brief introduction presentation on his professional background, experience and path forward. He highlighted the continuity in DCA's approach moving forward with the guiding principles of collaboration, communications, quality, innovation, and community. He reviewed a few examples of how SEC feedback was incorporated into conceptual designs. Now that conceptual plans have been delivered to DWR for their environmental analysis, Mr. Bradner described how DCA's work will shift to support design changes as requested.

## NEXT MEETING

### DATE\*:

June 23, 2021

### TIME:

3-6 p.m.

### LOCATION:

RINGCENTRAL WEBINAR:  
<https://webinar.ringcentral.com/j/1480658465>

### POSSIBLE MEETING TOPICS:

- Community Benefits Framework
- Design Change Updates

\* DCA will comply with public health recommendations regarding public meetings and social distancing efforts. Any meeting changes or cancellations will be communicated to members and the public.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**Anna Swenson**

At Large - Yolo

**Angelica Whaley**

North Delta Local Business

**Barbara Barrigan Parrilla**

Environmental Justice

**Cecille Giacomia**

Public Safety

**David Gloski**

At Large - Contra Costa

**Douglas Hsia**

At Large - Sacramento

**Gilbert Cosio**

Ex-Officio

**Isabella Gonzalez Potter**

Environment NGO - Aquatic

**Jim Cox**

Sports Fishing

**Jesus Tarango**

Tribal Government Representative  
(Alternate)

**Karen Mann**

South Delta Local Business

**Lindsey Liebig**

Agriculture

**Mel Lytle, Ph.D.**

Delta Water District

**Michael Moran**

Ex-Officio

**Malissa Tayaba**

Tribal Government Representative

**Phillip Merlo**

At large - San Joaquin

**Mike Hardesty**

At large - Solano

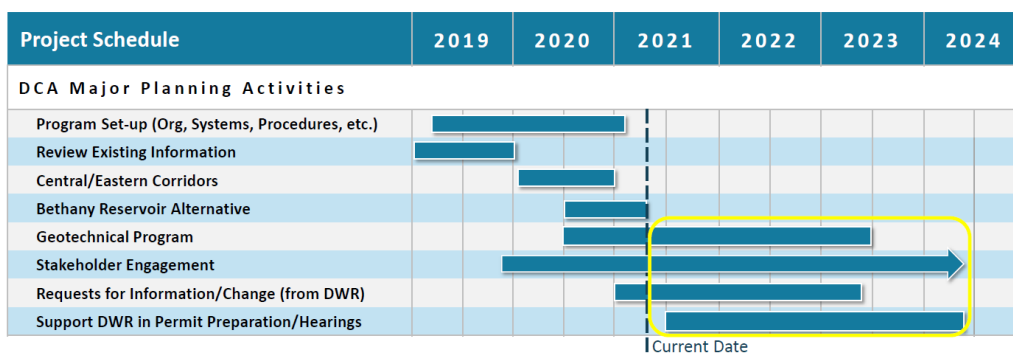
**David Welch**

Ex-Officio

**Gia Moreno**

City of Hood

## Anticipated DCA Planning Phase Schedule



Disclaimer: These pages are for Stakeholder Engagement Committee discussion purposes only. They do not represent a decision by the DCA or DWR. Final decisions about the project will be made by DWR and will NOT be made until the concluding stages of the CEQA process.

APRIL 28, 2021

10

- Carrie Buckman, DWR Environmental Manager, reviewed the project schedule. DWR and USACE are trying to coordinate their DEIR/DEIS review periods to occur in the same time frame to make it easier for the public to provide comments. Two additional community benefits workshops are upcoming (May 6 and May 25), and there will also be a tribal workshop on May 17. For registration information, click [here](#).

# PRESENTATIONS & COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- The communications managers for DWR and DCA provided an overview of their perspective outreach efforts planned over the next year and a half.
- ♦ Janet Barbieri, DWR Communications Manager, noted that in addition to general public outreach, there will be specific, targeted efforts for both tribal and environmental justice communities.
- ♦ Nazli Parvizi, DCA Stakeholder Engagement Manager, explained DCA's continued community outreach to support community understanding of a proposed project.

## DCA's Ongoing Outreach Efforts

- Stakeholder Engagement Committee and collaborations
- Virtual Tours, with translations
- Informational video series
- Website content updates, optimization, and expansion
- Social media updates and information sharing
- Monthly Newsletter
- SEC Meeting Summaries
- Presentations/materials for community groups as requested



## Public Outreach Activities

Public Information	E-blasts, blogs, fact sheets, videos, presentations, briefings, media
Informational Webinars	Provide background, assumptions, preliminary findings; Q&A
Community Benefits Program	Interviews, workshops, briefings
Design-Focused Stakeholder Engagement	Presentations to DCA's Stakeholder Engagement Committee
Public Participation	Public review and comment
Agency Coordination	Consultation or meetings as needed



Delta Conveyance Project | [www.water.ca.gov/deltaconveyance](http://www.water.ca.gov/deltaconveyance)

- Phil Ryan, DCA Engineering Manager, provided updated design changes resulting from input received from DWR on potential ways to avoid environmental effects.
- ♦ The Southern Forebay Complex proposed power supply was revised to reflect a single power provider, which was assumed to be WAPA for the purposes of environmental assessment. This change provided the opportunity for DCA engineers to remove about 7 miles of previously proposed new powerlines. This change eliminates most of the urban and rural residential footprint and most of the proposed new corridor.
- ♦ The Bethany Reservoir access road was realigned to avoid alkali wetlands. The proposed new haul road is approximately the same length, the road cut is much smaller and there is less dirt to move to the stockpile area, and it eliminates the additional footprint within the wetlands area.
- ♦ The Southern Complex haul road and rail originally proposed would have gone through existing alkali wetlands. The new alignment resulted in a slightly smaller overall footprint and substantially reduced effects to the wetlands areas.
- Genevieve Taylor, Ag Innovations, reviewed the results of DWR's Environmental Justice Community Survey and its key findings. The full 100-page report on the Environmental Justice Survey will be released soon. Main takeaways included:
  - ♦ Delta Disadvantaged Community (DAC) participants have strong interests in the natural environment and preserving the Delta and its community, agriculture, and heritage. For many, their quality of life is interwoven with "life on the water."
- ♦ Outdoor activities are important to Delta DAC participants, including hiking, walking, running and water activities.
- ♦ Services are needed, with a strong emphasis on homelessness.
- Ms. Taylor provided a summary of DWR's Community Benefits Program efforts, sharing ideas from community interviews and workshops conducted. SEC members were asked for input on the concept of a community benefits program, the program's purpose and objectives, reaction to the proposed program components, feedback on the proposed categories of benefits, and any program suggestions. SEC members can also submit their input to [deltaconveyancecbp@water.ca.gov](mailto:deltaconveyancecbp@water.ca.gov) or visit the DWR website to fill out a form.





## SEC MEMBER THOUGHT EXCHANGE

- Gil Cosio, Gia Moreno, and Anna Swenson didn't agree that SEC participation equates to "collaboration" but instead represents a compromise because they personally do not support the project.
- Douglas Hsia asked about Chris Martin's project finance presentation regarding project finance at the Feb 24 SEC meeting. He inquired about the equity ratio and the response from Mr. Martin was that it was beyond his scope. He expressed that it should be a primary consideration for any owner.
- Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla requested that committee members be informed of any DWR meetings that will share hydrology water modeling information with the public.
- Michael Moran wanted to know whether the new proposed haul road would remain after the project, as it is main foraging area for various birds. Consider drainage and other impacts to the wetlands.
- Karen Mann asked about the construction of a proposed new heliport and first aid center near the proposed Southern Forebay instead of using the existing airport. She also asked if a new fire station will be built in Byron and raised concerns about the complexities involved in addressing emergency services since the Bethany Reservoir is at the meeting point of three counties. Mr. Ryan said the team is open to working with the local community and public agencies to determine the best approach. The goal is to avoid additional burden on local facilities, but DCO would also be interested to know how they can support the services needs in the areas affected by the project.
- Ms. Swenson asked for the name of the wetlands that were being impacted by the conceptual designs before the changes were implemented. Ms. Buckman said that these wetlands are not named but have been identified in their efforts to map wetlands and waterways. Mitigation efforts will be established as the projects move forward. Mr. Moran offered that the East Contra Costa County Nature Conservancy might have information on the wetlands.
- Ms. Swenson said poor broadband access will likely hinder DCA's planned outreach efforts. Ms. Parvizi offered materials drop offs and, once conditions are safe and restrictions lifted, in-person meetings. SEC members are encouraged to provide their recommendations for outreach.
- Ms. Moreno said the average person has difficulty understanding the materials. Ms. Parvizi asked SEC members to reach out to DCA if there are specific information needs for the community groups they represent. Jennifer Malone, DCA Administrative Manager, explained how to participate in SEC meetings via telephone if broadband service is an obstacle.
- Mr. Moran and Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla said it would be valuable to have zip code data associated with responses to the Environmental Justice Survey.
- Mr. Cosio noted that levee maintenance has been a long-time concern in the Delta, and the project could further lessen the state's interest in maintaining them.
- Mr. Moran noted that the 90% of respondents who reported eating Delta fish four or more times a week is a potential concern that relates with the work of the Nature Conservancy to educate the community about mercury.
- Ms. Swenson thanked Ms. Taylor for the translation on the Community Benefits Program section of the presentation.
- Ms. Mann and Ms. Swenson expressed that they do not support the idea of a Community Benefits Program, because there are not benefits that can be gained from the project and the community cannot be bought. Ms. Barbieri noted that the Community Benefits program is a step beyond the project's mitigation measures, which are part of the CEQA process. She reiterated the opportunities availed the region if projects can be identified that would leverage the investment associated with a conveyance program to address needed community improvements. It's not about supporting the project; it's about maximizing the related funds for the benefit of the community. She said there is a presentation on the [website](#) about the purpose of a Community Benefits Program and its main considerations.
- Ms. Swenson said she could appreciate a reminder of the Community Benefits Program meeting the day of the meeting because she would like to attend.
- Ms. Giacomina thanked Ms. Taylor for the Environmental Justice survey. The Community Benefits Program should include efforts to ensure quality drinking water, ensure levee maintenance, and provide other community necessities.
- Mr. Cox said the Community Benefits Program from the fishing community's perspective is not a trusted process because the efforts over the past 20-30 years have not materialized. Their input is not generally sought or heard. He will be presenting information at the next Community Benefits Program workshop.
- Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla said she thinks that SEC members seem to be confusing mitigation efforts with the community benefits discussion. She encouraged fellow SEC members to take the opportunity to provide input on community improvements that could be beneficial to their respective communities after the project is constructed. For disadvantaged communities, this is their primary opportunity for a voice in the project.

## NEXT STEPS

- SEC members can submit their input on DWR's Community Benefits Program to [deltaconveyance-cbp@water.ca.gov](mailto:deltaconveyance-cbp@water.ca.gov) or visit the DWR [website](#) to fill out a form.
- SEC members are encouraged to review the question tracking packet to ensure the questions they have asked received a response. If there are outstanding questions, please contact the DCA team.

