

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 website.

MEETING OVERVIEW

The 18th meeting of the Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) was held via video conference on September 22, 2021. The meeting video, agenda, presentation, and supplemental materials are available for review on the dcdca.org [website](#).

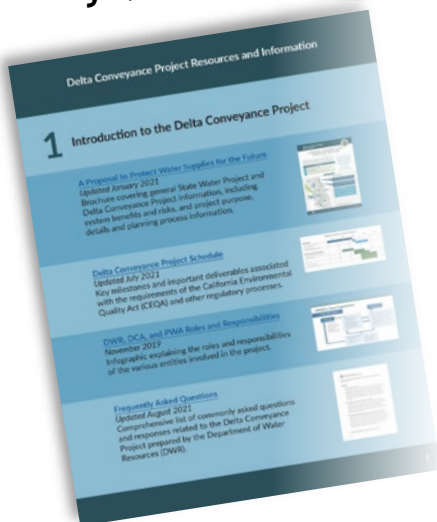
DCA UPDATES AND COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Graham Bradner, DCA Executive Director, shared that the September 16 Board of Directors meeting featured DCA's Environmental Liaison, Karen Askeland as September's Senior Leadership Spotlight. There was an update on outreach efforts that included information on distribution of DCA materials to libraries throughout the region and small community engineering briefings with nearby neighbors of areas within the conceptual footprint of the proposed project. The DCA Board also heard from SEC member David Gloski who gave a presentation. Mr. Bradner also noted that SEC member Angelica Whaley who represented North Delta Local Businesses resigned from the SEC.
- Carrie Buckman, DWR Environmental Manager, shared that DWR is continuing to work on technical analysis of potential impacts as part of the CEQA process, which will be followed by the team identifying measures to reduce or mitigate anticipated impacts. Field investigations have resumed and there is a two-week look-ahead on the DWR [website](#).

PRESENTATIONS & COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- DWR air quality consultants ICF reviewed the methodology used to conduct air quality analysis, discussed preliminary early analysis, and presented some mitigation considerations.
 - ◆ Laura Yoon, ICF Air Quality Analyst, described the four different levels of analysis that will be included in the CEQA air quality review for the project. The presentation to the SEC featured two of the four different levels of analysis that will be included in the Draft EIR.
 - ◆ Laura Yoon described the regional air quality analysis and indicated that the modeling used state and local agency approved methods and thresholds.
 - ◆ Edward Carr, ICF Air Quality Analyst, reviewed the current and projected preliminary local short and long term air quality impacts.
 - ◆ Engineers are working with ICF to refine modeling for the most accurate results and have developed a tiered approach for handling potential mitigation for localized air quality impacts. One possibility is monitoring air quality during construction and taking specific actions if the results exceed a certain threshold. Mitigation for regional air quality impacts will focus on partnerships with local air quality management districts to support emissions reduction projects.
- Nazli Parvizi, DCA Communications Director, gave updates about DCA outreach.
 - ◆ Virtual Tours are now available on the DCA website in Spanish and Chinese, as well as English.

Library Materials Distribution



- **20 Delta area libraries have updated mapbooks, flash drives with videos and print materials from DWR & DCA for reference**
- **Provides a one stop shop for materials for those who have trouble accessing computers or internet connections**

NEXT MEETING

DATE*:
December 8, 2021

TIME:
3-6 p.m.

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

POSSIBLE MEETING TOPICS:

- Overall Review of Current Configurations
- * 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

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



PRESENTATIONS & COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, cont.

- ◆ Twenty Delta-area libraries now have a variety of informational materials including map books, flash drives and printed materials. Julie Spezia has coordinated with the State Librarian to get information to County Library Managers. DCA staff is coordinating with librarians about the materials and how they can be used to obtain information about the proposed project. Once the materials have been catalogued by the County Librarians, DCA will promote information about the availability of materials.
- ◆ There are small community engineering briefings taking place in the Delta. The engineering team can discuss very localized issues with stakeholders and property owners who are in or adjacent to the proposed project areas, as well as provide an overview of the current proposed project. Most recently, the team has met with the Nature Conservancy, residents of Point Pleasant and RD 1002.
- ◆ If any SEC member or community representative would like to request a briefing in their area, they are encouraged to contact DCA staff at info@dcdca.org.
- Janet Barbieri, DWR Communications Director, reported that DWR has recently completed four informational webinars. There are links on the DWR website to the information presented at the meetings.
 - ◆ DWR will also be posting FAQ's from those webinars. DWR continues to do work on a Community Benefits Framework and is currently working on a case studies workshop. There will also be an additional tribal-focused Community Benefits Workshop; registration closes on September 22, 2021. If SEC members or community representatives would like to request a DWR presentation or information, please contact delta-conveyance@water.ca.gov
 - ◆ Mr. Bradner provided engineering highlights and updates:
 - ◆ system-wide flood risk analysis has been conducted in consideration of the proposed ring levee at the Twin Cities launch site.
 - ◆ The approach used for hydraulic modeling was consistent with the Sacramento North Delta Model that is also being used on the McCormack Williamson Tract project. The Twin Cities study evaluated a 100-year run-off event.
 - ◆ The temporary ring levee and permanent RTM stockpile would have the largest footprint in the Bethany Alternative, so it was used as the most conservative case for the summary of ongoing hydraulic modeling. Preliminary results of the analyses indicate there would be an increase of less than half a foot in some localized open space areas for the temporary ring levee and less than 0.1 feet for the permanent stockpile. No effects were observed north of Lambert Road or west of I-5.
- Chair Palmer explained that the SEC has fulfilled its purpose of providing input to DCA engineers during the development of conceptual designs to be evaluated in the EIR that could help reduce or avoid potential effects. Since the conceptual engineering phase has concluded, the DCA is considering winding down the SEC, which will ultimately be determined through a vote of the DCA Board of Directors. If the Board decides to sunset the SEC, there will still be ongoing communication with former SEC members and continued outreach to Delta communities.
- Josh Nelson, DCA Lead Counsel, explained that the Brown Act generally restricts a majority of SEC members from convening outside of an agenda meeting to discuss the project. It also prevents members from commenting on social media postings regarding the proposed project. These restrictions could create legal constraints for SEC members who want to engage and collaborate with one another in person or on social media during the public comment period of the Draft EIR.

SEC MEMBER THOUGHT EXCHANGE

- Mr. Gloski suggested providing the results of the air quality analysis to other projects or power plants to provide a relative comparison.
- Ms. Swenson said the air quality monitoring should take into consideration the varying wind patterns throughout the Delta, levee repairs, the existing agricultural activities, and wildfires. Ms. Yoon explained that the modeling included data from 3-5 years of past air quality monitoring stations throughout the Delta and the list will be included in the Draft EIR. Mr. Carr added that the data includes years that had active wildfires.
- Ms. Barrigan-Parilla said the studies should be looking at air quality in Contra Costa County, along Highway 4, along South Bay, and anything that involves the Ports. The data should not have been presented at this stage because it appears incomplete. The CARB data is unreliable and is an ongoing issue for Stockton residents. Ms. Yoon said this presentation focused on only one of four levels of analysis being conducted as part of the environmental analysis for the proposed project. There is also a regional analysis and a photochemical analysis that will be conducted of the study area and beyond.
- Mr. Moran suggested sharing the analysis with local communities in a more visual or graphic format that compares the baseline and the effects with the proposed projects.
- Ms. Moreno said the past year should not be included in modeling since traffic was lower due to COVID. Ms. Swenson said that more recent data should be used because air quality is deteriorating at a more rapid pace each year that passes. Ms. Barrigan-Parilla said the data for the past 7 years should be included in the modeling, including 2018 when there were mass wildfires. Ms. Yoon explained that the CARB data taken was for each year 2017-2019 and this is the standard recommended by the EPA.
- Ms. Swenson said it may be helpful to provide a flyer or sign to libraries to let patrons know that DCA informational materials are available for review.
- Ms. Moreno said many community members are still unaware of the project or its status as well as what information is available. Outreach efforts should increase, especially to hard-to-reach stakeholders who may





SEC MEMBER THOUGHT EXCHANGE

- not be able to actively participate.
- Ms. Mann suggested partnering with chambers of commerce and city managers to get materials to people in Delta communities. Ms. Parvizi said they have been contacted, but DCA staff cannot compel them to meet with DCA or distribute materials if they are not interested in doing so.
 - Ms. Swenson said ring levee hydraulic modeling analysis shown in the presentation doesn't align with known history of flooding in the area and climate change should be included as part of the analysis. Mr. Bradner said the modeling included real data from conditions that existed in 1997 and 2017 and the modeling has been validated based on those events.
 - Mr. Cosio asked what type of climate change considerations would be included in the modeling.
- Mr. Bradner said the ring levee is designed based on current FEMA 100-year water surface elevations.
- Mr. Moran suggested ring levee hydraulic modeling for higher level floods than the 100-year standard.
 - Ms. Barrigan-Parilla shared an opinion from Restore the Delta regarding Participating Water Agencies, the Newsom Administration, and DWR concerning water quality and air quality as pertains to Stockton and Environmental Justice communities. She noted Restore the Delta is planning to remove themselves from the process.
 - Ms. Giacoma said all the other boards throughout the Delta are meeting in person and the SEC should be doing so as well.
 - Ms. Swenson said the SEC experience has been invaluable and a lot has been learned from the presentations. The opportunity for the public to engage with DCA should continue.
- Mr. Gloski said it would be valuable to continue the SEC in order to keep getting information and it would be unfortunate to see it end.
 - Mr. Cox said the fishing community has expressed frustration about wanting fish screen protections at Clifton Court and that has not happened. The fishing community feels unheard. Ms. Buckman noted that the concerns are important, but are a separate issue and not part of a proposed Delta Conveyance Project.
 - Mr. Moran said the SEC experience was also valuable in connecting various Delta interests to one another and suggested finding a mechanism to still convene outside of a Brown Act body, perhaps as a resource group.

Find Meeting Materials on our Website

Looking for meeting materials, presentations or videos? The new dcdca.org website contains a library of all information associated with SEC meetings as well as a database of questions and answers about the proposed Delta Conveyance project.

