

# Meeting Summary

## Public Kickoff Meeting for Cache Slough Public Access Recreation Action Plan

*September 14, 2022 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

*Held Virtually*

### Overview

The Cache Slough Public Access Recreation Action Plan is a planning effort convened through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Partnership by Solano County, the California Department of Water Resources, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (MOU Partners). The purpose of the Public Kickoff Meeting is to provide an overview of public access and recreation planning efforts in the Cache Slough region of the Delta, share findings from discussions with interested parties to date, and gather input on potential new recreation opportunities and considerations for further planning efforts.

The presentation slides and a full recording of the meeting are available on the project website [here](#).

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ben Gettleman, Kearns & West (K&W) Facilitator, welcomed participants to the Public Kickoff Meeting for the Cache Slough Public Access Recreation Action Plan. Solano County Supervisor Mitch Mashburn provided welcoming remarks which emphasized the importance of people engaging with Solano County on issues like public access recreation planning in the Delta. He also shared that the MOU Partners have the ability to address the public's concerns and expressed appreciation for the MOU Partners having a meeting for the public to give input on the planning effort.

A list of attendees and project team members is included in **Appendix A**.

### Agenda Review and Introductions

Ben Gettleman reviewed the agenda, discussion guidelines, and Zoom instructions. The MOU Partner agency staff introduced themselves to participants.

### Action Plan Background and Purpose

Charlotte Biggs, Program Manager at the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), provided background on the recreation planning happening in the Cache Slough region and explained the purpose of developing the Action Plan. The planning effort comes from the Partner Agencies' awareness of the need for better and safer public access to recreation opportunities in the area as a result of land use changes and an increase in demand for outdoor recreational activities due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Erin Chappell, Bay Delta Regional Manager with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), explained the engagement process and timeline for the planning effort. The MOU Partners want to engage and hear from all interested parties on public access opportunities and concerns. The planning

effort is intended to understand current and future potential uses of the area. As such, early input will help the Partner Agencies to explore and develop solutions to minimize impacts to landowners in the Cache Slough region. The goal of the planning process is to finalize the Action Plan in early 2023.

### Questions and Responses

- Question (Q): Is water quality one of the issues at the top of your list to protect in the North Delta?
  - Response (R): The MOU Partner agencies explained they will note this as a topic of concern and will include it as a consideration when balancing concerns with other issues when future decisions are made.
- Q: Are evening hours being considered the future public meetings? Most of the current recreational users in the Shag Slough area are not able to make 1pm Zoom calls.
  - R: Yes, those are certainly being considered. The MOU Partner agencies are also considering more options for future meetings.
- Q: Are there specific funding sources available that are, or will be, available to invest in recreational infrastructure?
  - R: There are some specific funding annually from the National Park Service. The Cache Slough Action Planning effort is being looked at as a multi-year investment. Other options, like federal grant programs focused on recreation, are also being considered as potential sources of funding for these projects. The MOU Partner agencies are continuously looking for ideas and opportunities to be able to fund these efforts.

### Initial Feedback on Recreation Planning Process

Grace Person, Director at K&W, summarized information provided during initial engagement discussions with several entities (See **Appendix B**). Key feedback from the discussions included:

- Engagement efforts should be conducted early and thoroughly with interested parties in the Cache Slough region of the Delta.
- Landowners' desires and concerns should be respected throughout the visioning and development of the Action Plan process.
- All recreation users should benefit from proposed recreation projects, not only select groups.

Participants provided the following comments and questions verbally and via Zoom chat:

### Comments

- The [Delta Protection] Commission has just completed an update to the *Recreation and Tourism Chapter of the Economic Sustainability Plan (2021)* as well as adopted the *Great Delta Trail Master Plan (2022)*. We also think that the State Parks Recreation Proposal that informed the 2012 Economic Sustainability Plan has a useful approach to improving public access and enjoyment of the Delta.
- My most treasured area to hunt and fish is the Liberty Island/Cache Slough area of the North Delta. With the Lookout Slough Restoration Project, foot access to the Liberty Island Ecological Reserve will be lost. This poses a challenge because the nearest public launch is over 10 miles away. A public boat launch in the Cache Slough area would provide access to the Liberty Island

Ecological Reserve, the Calhoun Cut Ecological Reserve, and the Lookout Slough Restoration Project.

## Group Discussion

For the group discussion portion of the meeting, Ben Gettleman facilitated an open conversation among participants, in which they were invited to consider the following questions: What recreational opportunities are available?

1. What recreation uses are lacking?
2. What recreation opportunities best fit in the area?
3. How should potential opportunities be prioritized?
4. What factors are most important to consider when prioritizing opportunities?

Grace Person screen-shared a virtual whiteboard which displayed a map of the project area. When comments were made regarding specific points on the map or to a particular question, notes were recorded for all participants to see. Below are comments that participants shared verbally and via Zoom chat during this portion of the meeting:

- **Current available recreation opportunities:**
  - Shoreline fishing
  - Waterfowl hunting
  - Shag Slough
- **Recreational uses not available or are lacking include:**
  - Shoreline access for fishing / limited public access spots
    - There has been shoreline fishing on Shag prior to the proposed changes by DWR
  - Hiking
  - Calhoun Cut Ecological Reserve is only accessible by boat
  - Picnic sites and day visit sites
  - Public boat launch
  - Hiking and biking trails
  - Environmental education opportunities
  - Following the Recreation Proposal concepts of Gateway- Base camp- Adventure, Rio Vista could be a gateway, and places like Sandy Beach, Snug Harbor and Arrowhead Marina could be base camps, to launch adventures doing picnicking, bank fishing, maybe even a boat-in camping site
  - With all of the proposed restoration projects in the region, it would be helpful to include access for wildlife viewing and school trips to these areas / restoration areas
  - Limited Public Access spots
- **Best recreation opportunities that fit in the area:**
  - Spots easily accessible by car
    - Include recreation opportunities that are not only boat focused
    - Most residents in Solano County don't own a boat
    - Only providing boat access can be a barrier to people
  - Gateway spot for other adventures

- **Criteria to assess and select potential recreational opportunities:**
  - Great Delta Trail Master Plan Checklist for consideration of trail development, but useful for other types of rec planning
  - Whatever that improves accessibility
  - Access to wildlife viewing and school trips to this area and other restoration areas
  - Multi-benefit restoration projects need to include recreation
  - Need to leverage some of the restoration projects planned not to include aspects of recreational access
    - More efficient from a planning and dollar standpoint
    - Should be a priority with the registration projects that are being done

**Participants shared the following question and comment:**

- Is fishing access on Shag Slough no longer available? If yes, why did it end?
  - Foot access to Shag Slough via Liberty Island Road is currently still available.
- The Great Delta Trail Master Plan Appendix H has a helpful checklist for considerations in trail development that can be applied to other types of recreation
  - Link to the Great Delta Trail Master Plan Appendix H is [here](#)

## Ways to Provide Input

Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Coordinator at Solano County, discussed future opportunities to provide input and receive updates. An online survey is available at the Cache Slough Public Access Recreation Planning project [website](#), which will collect input until October 14<sup>th</sup>. There will also be future opportunities, such as meetings and workshops, to provide input to shape the elements of the Action Plan. Misty invited participants to reach out directly to MOU Partner staff for focused discussions, if desired.

The Project website also hosts more information about this effort and can be found at [https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/delta\\_and\\_water\\_programs/cache\\_slough\\_recreation.asp](https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/delta_and_water_programs/cache_slough_recreation.asp).

## Project Schedule and Next Steps

Outreach efforts will continue through December 2022 and will include opportunities for more interactive discussions to identify project elements and prioritization criteria and to develop project concepts. Efforts to draft and finalize the Action Plan, as well as presentations to DWR, CDFW, and the Solano County Board of Supervisors, are planned to happen between January and March in 2023.

## Appendix A Meeting Attendees

### *Attendees*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Karimi Arao	CA Department of Water Resources
Page Baldwin	Landowner
Bryan Barnhart	CA Department of Water Resources
Sam Bobb	CA Striped Bass Assoc. Isleton-Delta Chapter
Ben Botkin	WRA Environmental Consultants
Doug Brown	Douglas Environmental
David Burke	Dixon Boat Club
Melissa Cansdale	City of Vallejo
Edward Coffelt	Dixon Boat Club
Mark Cowan	Larsen Wurzel & Associates
Taylor Dahlke	Liberty Island Access
Ruth Darling	Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Virginia Gardiner	Delta Protection Commission
Megan Giglini	Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Arianne Heath	CA Department of Water Resources
Kelly Huff	Dixon Resource Conservation District
Michelle Jespersen	Attendee
Lupe Laguna	Attendee
Megan LeRoy	CA Department of Water Resources
Amy Marshall	Attendee
Mitch Mashburn	Solano County Board of Supervisors
Pat Negroni	Dixon Boat Club
Ben Salazar	Solano County resident
Michael Triplett	Landowner
Mort Triplett	Landowner
Kristyne Van Skike	Central Valley Flood Protection Board

### *MOU Partners and Consultant Staff*

<b>Project Team Member</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
<b>MOU Partners</b>	
Misty Kaltraider	Solano County
Charlotte Biggs	CA Department of Water Resources
Mike Roberts	CA Department of Water Resources
Erin Chappell	CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ryan Carrothers	CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>Consulting Staff</b>	
Ben Gettleman	Kearns & West

Grace Person	Kearns & West
Jennifer Vazconquelo	Kearns & West
Matthew Franck	Jacobs
Katie Stone	Jacobs
Rebecca McNeil Freeman	Jacobs

**Appendix B**  
**List of Organizations Participating in Initial Engagement**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
CA State Parks	Eddie Guaracha
CA State Parks	Catherin Caldwell
Dixon Resource Conservation District	Kelly Huff
Solano Resource Conservation District	Chris Rose
Ducks Unlimited	Aaron Will
Solano County Board of Supervisors	Mitch Mashburn
Solano County Board of Supervisors	John Vasquez
The Delta Conservancy	Campbell Ingram
The Delta Protection Commission	Virginia Gardiner
Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership	Eric Nagy