

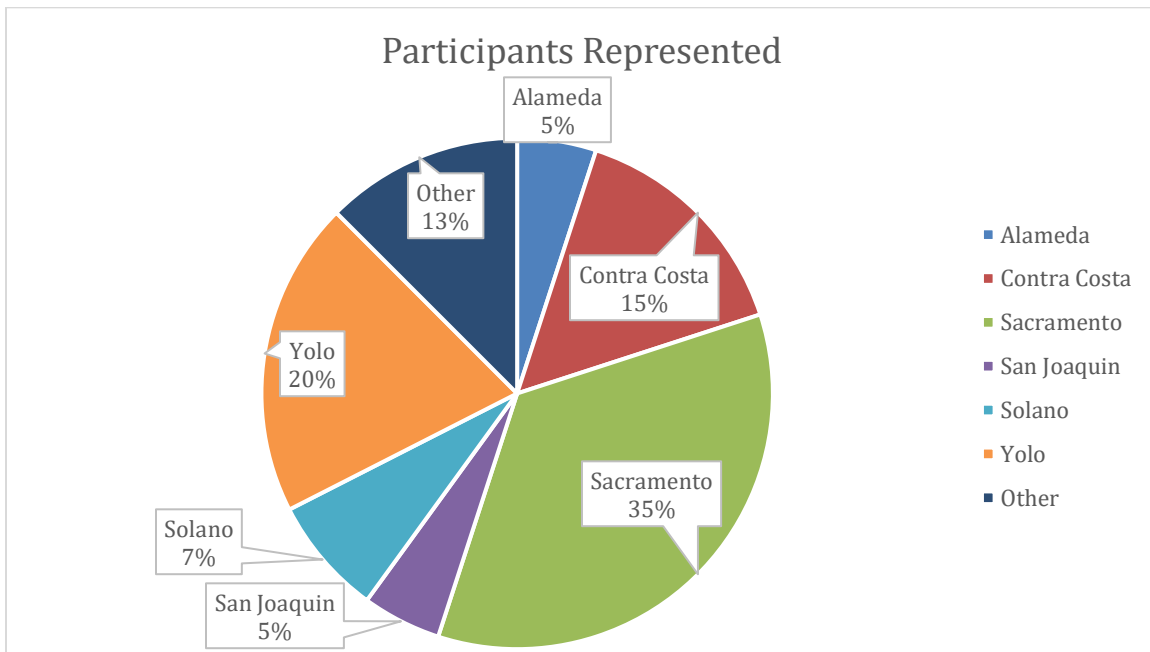
Meeting Summary  
 Proposed Community Benefits Program Workshop  
 Delta Conveyance Project  
 California Department of Water Resources  
 May 6, 2021, 6pm - 8pm

Meeting Synopsis

On May 6, 120 people attended the first proposed Community Benefits Program Workshop (Workshop). Gloria Gray, Chair of the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors, welcomed participants. Carrie Buckman, Environmental Program Manager, Department of Water Resources (DWR), reviewed how the Proposed Community Benefits Program fits into the Delta Conveyance Project and Janet Barbieri described the proposed Community Benefits Program.

DWR is proposing a Proposed Community Benefits Program for the Delta Conveyance Project. Background on the proposed Program is available on the Delta Conveyance Project <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/Community-Benefits-Program>. The second Workshop focused on funding ideas for the proposed Community Benefits Program. Participants provided input in facilitated breakout groups and public comments. The Workshop concluded with dates for the next workshops. DWR will use participant input to develop the Proposed Community Benefits Program Framework. The Framework will be included as an appendix to the project’s Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Workshop participants represented the following California Counties:



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*This meeting summary paraphrases individual comments and suggestions from participants in the Proposed Community Benefits Program Workshop.*

*All materials are available to participants at the DWR [website](#).*

*For questions, please contact DWR at [DeltaConveyanceCBP@water.ca.gov](mailto:DeltaConveyanceCBP@water.ca.gov)  
1-866-924-9955.*

### Participant Welcome and Introductions

Gloria Gray, Chair of the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors, welcomed participants to the second community benefits workshop.

Ms. Gray explained she appreciated the opportunity to speak to Delta stakeholders. She shared her connection to the Delta, serving on the Delta Stewardship Council from 2000, and from 2010 to 2014 as the representative for the State Assembly. Ms. Gray noted that her role had been to protect and enhance the unique characteristics of the Delta. In that role, she learned a lot about the Delta and Delta residents' ideas and concerns. Ms. Gray emphasized the importance of collaborating with one another, with communities of interest, up and down the state, to make progress. Ms. Gray said she believed that collaboration is a key to success, and her experiences as Metropolitan Board Chair, strengthen that belief.

Ms. Gray reiterated that the Workshop was designed to learn about Delta residents' ideas about how to advance the Delta as a place. She explained that people did not have to support a conveyance project to participate in the Community Benefits Project. She supports Department of Water Resources advancing the Proposed Community Benefits Program as part of the Delta Conveyance Project; a project that has tangible benefits for the Delta itself. Ms. Gray noted that the single tunnel project is early in the planning and decision process and investment decisions by Metropolitan and other participating water agencies are a few years away. But she emphasized that this is a suitable time to better understand how to frame a Proposed Community Benefits Program, so that the concept can advance, along with the rest of the planning. Ms. Gray thanked the DWR for hosting this Workshop and thanked participants for sharing their ideas.

The facilitator, Juliana Birkhoff, said the objectives of the Workshop were to:

- Review how the Proposed Community Benefits Program fits into the Delta Conveyance Project
- Review the concept, goals, and purpose of Proposed Community Benefits Program
- Provide participants an opportunity to provide input on community benefits:
  - Funding categories
  - Funding ideas

She explained that the Workshop would conclude with information on next steps.

The facilitator reviewed how to participate in English or Spanish in the meeting. She also explained how participants could provide input in small groups, and through verbal and written input.

### How the Proposed Community Benefits Program Fits into the Delta Conveyance Project

Carrie Buckman, Environmental Program Manager for the Delta Conveyance Project, DWR, presented the purpose of the Delta Conveyance Project. Ms. Buckman started by noting that State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure is aging. She explained how modernizing SWP infrastructure will restore and protect the future reliability of SWP water deliveries. Ms. Buckman said the DWR has designed the proposed project to modernize the infrastructure in a cost-effective way. The Delta Conveyance project is consistent with California's Water Resilience Portfolio. A PDF version of the PowerPoint presentation and a link to the recorded workshop can be found at <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/Community-Benefits-Program>.

Ms. Buckman described the four Delta Conveyance Project objectives. These are:

- Address sea level rise and climate change,
- Minimize water supply and disruption due to seismic risk,
- Protect water supply reliability,
- Provide operational flexibility to improve aquatic conditions.

Ms. Buckman also outlined the timeline for the proposed project, identifying the next major milestone as the release of a public review Draft Environmental Impact Report in early to mid-2022. Ms. Buckman explained that the Proposed Community Benefits Program is part of DWR’s approach to address impacts from Delta Conveyance Project construction and operations which are not addressed through traditional mitigation. She clarified that regulatory mitigation would address proposed project impacts based on requirements in environmental regulations. Ms. Buckman said DWR proposes three complimentary processes to address concerns.

Regulatory Mitigation	Proposed Community Benefits Program	Ombudsman Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose:</li> <li>• Address project impacts related to specific requirements (CEQA/NEPA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose:</li> <li>• Provide resources to direct benefits toward communities most impacted by implementation, based on community collaboration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose:</li> <li>• Clearinghouse single point of contact to streamline information, support, and claims. Includes ensuring just compensation as a result of direct construction impacts.</li> </ul>

Ms. Buckman finished her presentation by outlining five core commitments for the proposed Community Benefits Program. She described the five commitments as:

1. Transparent: open process to collaborate effectively
2. Constructive: participation in good faith with community to create a positive legacy
3. Inclusive: broad stakeholder participation to expand capture of voices
4. Fair: benefits related to localized nature of effects
5. Unconditional: community benefits are not dependent on support for project

#### Proposed Community Benefits Program Overview

Janet Barbieri, a consultant to DWR and the Communications and Public Outreach Manager for the Delta Conveyance Project, reviewed proposed Community Benefits Program concepts, purpose, objectives, components, and categories. She explained that DWR proposed creating the Proposed Community Benefits Program to acknowledge:

- The direct project benefits are not located inside the Delta.
- If the project is approved, it could have potential adverse effects on the Delta through construction.
- The limitations of typical environmental mitigation

Ms. Barbieri explained that DWR conceived the Proposed Community Benefits Program as a defined set of commitments made by project proponents. Community Benefits program commitments would be created with the local community. The goal is to create lasting, tangible, and potentially significant economic and social benefit for residents, businesses and organizations facing project impacts.

The objectives, said Ms. Barbieri, are to provide a mechanism for:

- the Delta community to identify opportunities for local benefits.
- the project proponents to demonstrate good faith, transparency, and accountability to the community through formal commitments developed with community members' input.
- and to protect and enhance the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.

There are two proposed components for the Proposed Community Benefits Program. The first component is a Delta Community Fund. The Delta Community Fund is proposed as a grassroots framework to fund development and management that empowers the local community. The second component is potential Project Implementation Commitments and may include hiring targets, job training and education, local business utilization, infrastructure, and facilities.

Ms. Barbieri summarized the input from the first Workshop. She explained that Workshop participants:

- Do not like the Delta Conveyance Project but are prepared to discuss the Proposed Community Benefits Program.
- Suggested language refinements for the Proposed Community Benefits Program including the proposed purpose and objectives.
- Ranked natural resources, water quality, recreation, agriculture, and culture and history as important benefit categories.

#### Breakout Group Discussion to Generate Funding Ideas

Participants participated in six facilitated breakout groups. Each breakout group had between 5-12 people in it along with a facilitator. The objective of the breakout groups was to learn participants input on funding ideas for the Delta Community Fund. Participants reviewed the following ten categories and discussed the following questions.

Suggested funding categories:

- Water and Air Quality
- Public Safety and Emergency Response
- Recreation
- Habitat Conservation
- Culture and History
- Economy
- Infrastructure
- Agriculture
- Education and Workforce Development
- Levee Maintenance

Breakout group facilitators asked participants the following questions to generate funding ideas:

- What kinds of ideas would the Proposed Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?
- Why is that an important idea?
- Would this idea be at the start of construction, ongoing, or at the end of construction?
- Are there ideas to address similar interests in other Delta regions?
- Are there ideas to replicate or emulate?

The complete list of ideas is in Appendix One. The following ideas are synthesized from the six breakout groups.

## Funding Ideas

### **What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for water and air quality?**

- Assess climate impacts on water health and Delta water availability.
  - Assess the environmental impact of the Delta Conveyance project on water availability and water quality.
- Water quality monitoring
  - Add monitoring points in the Delta to ensure water quality is maintained for monitoring, improvement, and agriculture use.
- Agriculture
  - Provide ongoing support so growers have consistent irrigation water.
  - Provide support for SGMA requirement/compliance assistance.
- Ensure access to quality water for agriculture in the North Delta.
  - Large scale habitat mitigation results in increased special status species that restrict agricultural water users.
- Ensure water reliability across the whole state system.
  - Go beyond best practices, develop water quality projects that can provide multiple benefits.
  - Fund surface water treatments that can benefit residents and other water users.
- Ensure water quality for fishing and boating.
  - Provide funds to update Delta aquatic system.
- Waters and waste management is important for water quality, fish, recreation, and tourism.
  - Fund garbage pickup at dumping hotspots.
  - Remove submerged debris.
  - Provide ongoing funds for equipment and personnel for comprehensive Delta waste management.
  - Air quality should be mitigated, otherwise it is a regional issue, might not be appropriate for a Community Benefits Program.

### **What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for habitat conservation?**

- All habitat conservation programs should go beyond environmental mitigation.
- Look beyond the Delta, sometimes beyond the political Delta, upstream/downstream.
- Create programs to ensure no part of the Delta is any more saline than now.
- Fund large scale projects and fund ongoing monitoring.
- Habitat restoration: develop comprehensive planting program to regenerate species that have gone down; stop the killing with the existing pumps.
- DWR could help create wildlife corridors and connections to other wildlife areas like Vic Fazio in Yolo County.
- Land or easement purchase
  - Set aside land for habitat conservation; perhaps save funds in a trust to help people pursue habitat conservation in the Delta.
- Habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl,
  - Preserve habitat for Sandhill cranes, Swainson's Hawk.
  - The Delta is part of the Pacific Flyway and a crucial resource for migrating waterfowl.
  - Habitat for salmonids would be beneficial, trout and salmon support would be valuable.
  - Reduce bass population.
  - Remove invasive species, they are clogging the Delta,

### **What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for recreation?**

- Increase recreational opportunities throughout the Delta.
- Develop a planned-out transportation network of roadways, bike paths and hiking trails so people of all interests can make a weekend/day out of recreating in the Delta.
- Interface with Sacramento River, Northern Delta: add docks, public beaches, development for recreational purposes in this area.
- Improve stewardship of all the physical infrastructure.
- Need infrastructure funds to provide recreational experiences.
- Fund projects are viable and only need funds to push them across the finish line.
  - Plan and implement trails that are safe for walking, biking, and boating/ fishing throughout the Delta.
  - Create trail connections to amenities and other trails, enhance all trails, remove trash and provide fire protection to trails.

- Link habitat areas and public access with existing plans including the Delta Protection Commission's Great Delta Trail.
- Improve boat recreation.
  - Improve and increase fishing access.
  - Improve bicycle trails and safety.
  - Fund ecotourism projects that provide greater interaction of public with wildlife, including waterfowl hunting, bird watching, and fishing.

**What kinds of ideas would the community benefits program fund for agriculture?**

- Ensure that agriculture has the support to keep up with changes.
- Mitigate farm loss.
  - Figure out how to subsidize payment for any monetary loss to Delta farms.
- The program must support the small communities, they need infrastructure to be sustainable, the small communities are vital for a strong agricultural economy.
  - Support agricultural processing and packing plants so agriculture can develop. Provide farm labor housing to provide for consistent farm labor.
  - Farm labor housing is often in historic buildings, the Fund could examine ways to provide housing alternatives which meet Delta building regulations
- Ensure farm soils are healthy with a close eye on salinity levels.
- Provide improvements to assist farms with water drainage challenges.
  - Incentivize wildlife friendly agriculture.
- Promote tourism as mechanism to support the long-term sustainability of agriculture.

**What kinds of ideas would the community benefits program fund for culture and history?**

- Fund the Delta National Heritage Area.
- Provide funds for capital improvements for historical towns (for parking, museums, and other).

**What kinds of ideas would the community benefits program fund for levee maintenance?**

- Levees are of Statewide importance- redefine what levees mean as a Statewide asset.
  - Use the discussion and focus of the Delta Conveyance Project to focus on levee maintenance.
  - Levee maintenance is way beyond Community Benefits Program, project alternatives do not include upgrading levees as an option instead of a tunnel.
- Significant percentage of community benefits fund should be allocated to levee maintenance.
- Levee maintenance is critical due to sea level rise.
- Focus funds for levee maintenance:
- Levee maintenance is a huge infrastructure cost and essential for livable communities.
- Dredging for marinas and ag pumping has not been done in many decades for most areas of the region.

**What kinds of ideas would the community benefits program fund for public safety and emergency response?**

- Provide funds for personnel and equipment for law enforcement in rural areas.
  - If there is a continuous source of funding, say 50 years, funds could be used for public safety personnel.
  - Public safety is very personnel oriented and local areas need funds.
  - Improve public safety programs and implement in coordination with local public safety agencies.
  - Provide funds so local public safety agencies can respond.
- Need to invest in local Delta districts to fortify infrastructure such as flood control, pumping stations, early warning flood systems, especially for small agencies.
- Focus funds on emergency operations.

**What kinds of ideas would the community benefits program fund for the economy?**

- Promote recreational and cultural tourism in the Delta.
  - Economy and infrastructure tied together, small towns in north Delta have a limited number of opportunities for people to come to the Delta. For example, there is no market in Hood, lack of basic infrastructure limits tourism, agriculture, fishing, and economy.



### **What kinds of ideas would the community benefits program fund for infrastructure?**

- Update infrastructure for local businesses, fund capital improvements.
  - Provide funds to repair and bring buildings up to code.
  - ○ Conduct a traffic and transportation study.
  - Bridges must be structurally updated.
  - Consistent and improved signs would greatly improve safety.
- Internet reliability: hi speed internet for business and private residents.
  - Fund improvements to ferries, Provide funds to smaller marinas.
  - Create places that are safe for disadvantaged community to fish and recreate.

### **What kinds of ideas would the community benefits program fund for education and workforce development?**

- Provide funds for agricultural training programs.
- Outdoor education opportunities for school children at Stone Lakes.
- Funding education and workforce development is beneficial especially now-provide financial support at every level.
- Public education in the Delta: school districts need help, one is \$100 million in the hole, a block grant to school districts.
- Fund special education programs like dual immersion.

### **Break Out Group Shared Ideas**

Following the facilitated break out group sessions, facilitators and break out group participants shared some of the ideas from their groups.

- One participant noted that it was important for the community to learn about and provide input into the scope and scale of the Community Benefit Program. The participant explained that construction and operations should be a part of the thinking about community benefits.
- Another person said that it was important for the community to advocate for a significant funding commitment. He suggested a commitment of 2% or more of total project cost with significant commitment for levee maintenance. Further, he explained that potential threats to water quality because of rising sea level and the impact on Delta levees, it is reasonable for the Delta community to advocate for significant Community Benefits Program funding from the Delta Conveyance project.
- A participant noted that Community Benefits program funds should be incorporated into the bonding and funding commitments for the overall project costs from the public water agencies who are paying for it. DWR should confirm and ensure the Community Benefits Program costs are included in program specifics. The details, about how fund dollars are allocated and how the Community Benefits Program is protected, are important.
- A participant explained that source of funds could put the program at risk. Many people have doubts about where the funds are coming from. DWR needed to be clearer and upfront about fund sources. The participant realized that the public water agencies would be funding the Community Benefits Program, but they need to share more about their plans and resource commitments.
- Another participant said that infrastructure improvements must be a priority for the Community Benefits Program Infrastructure improvements will lead to and allow for improvements in the economic, educational and conservation categories.

### **Public Input**

#### **Comment 1**

- A participant explained that the Delta Conveyance Authority could study infrastructure needs in the Delta. From that assessment, the Community Benefits Fund should repair and improve infrastructure. Infrastructure repairs and improvements would be most beneficial.
- This participant stressed that it was important to ensure community safety and preserve Delta residents' livelihoods during construction.
- Further, it would be beneficial if people came out and spoke to the people of the Delta. Several suggested ideas make assumptions about what would be useful or suggest things that are not relevant to Delta residents or their way of life.



#### Comment 2

- The second commenter, said that he saw competing and conflicting interests in the basic design of the Delta Conveyance Project infrastructure. He suggested an alternative solution, which would be better than the tunnels. The participant advocated building a dam at the narrow part of the Carquinez Strait. A dam would conserve the freshwater flowing down the rivers, it would backstop the saltwater intrusion coming up from the San Francisco Bay. A dam would also provide a huge reservoir of freshwater for agricultural use and urban consumption. The dam could be built with fish ladders and shipping locks so that the salmon can swim upstream to spawn and ships could sail to Stockton. The participant explained that this was not a new idea, it was proposed and engineered in the 1920s but stopped in 1929 due to the stock market crash. At that time, the dam was estimated to cost less than tunnels and could still be cheaper. It is possible the dam could be built with funds from President Biden's infrastructure improvement plan. He encouraged DWR to assess a dam across the Carquinez strait be considered as an alternative to the tunnel.

#### Comment 3

- Another person explained that the Delta Conveyance Projects could potentially be a \$16 billion project. He said that workshop participants should recognize that community benefits should be a significant part of the overall cost of the Delta Conveyance Project. If the Community Benefits Program was between 2% to 5% of the program costs, the Community Benefits Program should provide between six to \$750 million.
- The participant stressed that the commitment should be significant in proportion to the overall cost of the project. DWR and public water agencies should guarantee that the Community Benefits Program must be a significant percentage of the bonded cost of the overall construction of a project.

#### Comment 4

- A participant explained it was important that the Delta Conveyance Project did not reduce the quality of Delta water for recreation, drinking water, history, economy, or agriculture.

#### Comment 5

- Another participant agreed. She said the Delta residents already experienced a degraded habitat. Residents want a better quality of water, for our rivers, our ecosystem, our people, our wildlife, or fish. She explained that Delta residents want better water quality than they have now.

#### Comment 6

- A participant noted that DWR should complete a needs assessment for the entire Delta region. The assessment should discover any current damage, what damage would be done, what would the future needs of this project would require. Following that needs assessment, a Community Benefits Program could be explored.

#### Comment 7

- The fifth participant echoed the previous comments. She explained that the Delta Conveyance Project would take decades to build. There would be significant impacts across the region, with detours and traffic issues.
- She stressed that levees, roads, and medical facilities must be before the Delta Conveyance Project begins. For example, medical response already takes more than half an hour. Detours will create longer delays getting to a hospital.
- Schools and education will also be negatively affected by traffic delays during construction. There will also be significant impacts on agriculture as there will be more water pumping as water levels drop. Pumps will increase greenhouse gases, so there will be required air quality upgrades for pumps. These costs add up and can crush agricultural economies. She stressed that she doubted her farm those impacts through the construction timeline. She did not see how any benefits could offset those costs and losses.

#### Comment 8

- A participant shared that the Community Benefits Program needed to reflect financial as well as time commitments. The Delta Conveyance Project will be here for centuries. A Community Benefit Program must understand and reflect that the impacts will be over a significant period. The public water agencies must be committed to community benefit projects functioning for a significant period. Community benefits would need to continue over a significant period. It was important for the Community Benefit Program to show that it could commit enough resources as well as a provide temporal commitments.

#### Comment 9

- A participant voiced that California Public Trust Doctrine, decided by the Supreme Court in the case of Mono lake, upheld that humans have the right to access any of this area of the Delta and that the animals have a right to live in the Delta. He urged DWR to guarantee that the project would not affect those rights.

#### Next Steps

The facilitator explained that Ag Innovations would summarize participants ideas into a meeting summary and post it on the DWR website.

The facilitator explained that Tribal members are invited to participate in a Workshop on May 17. The final Community Benefits Program Workshop will be on May 25, focusing on implementation commitments and how the public should be involved in developing the Program.

Information from the interviews, public workshops, emails to the program, and input from the comment forms will inform the Community Benefits Framework. The Framework will be included as an appendix in the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

## Appendix One

### Community Benefits Funding Ideas Notes Team 1

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- **Water and Air Quality**
  - Needs assessment study for what is needed in the Delta, and environmental impact.
    - The water project is taking the water south and there has been significant impact to the environment. There is a need to learn of the environmental impact, where the water is going.
  - What are the water quality needs?
  - Ensure water quality for boating.
  - Resolve high algae problem in water quality.
  - Update Aquatic systems to maintain water health.
  - Assessment of climate impacts
  - Transparency in how much water leaves California made public.
- **Public Safety and Emergency Response**
  - Vandalism is a big safety issue - increase law enforcement in rural areas.
  - Stealing copper wire from farmers often - improved safety
- **Recreation**
  - Commercial Boating Facilities, a place to keep their boats.
  - Provide safe places to fish.
  - Pleasure boats and fishing boats
  - Expand marinas.
  - Trails that are safe for walking, biking, and boating/ fishing at the same time
- **Habitat Conservation**
  - Endangered species mitigation - reduce bass population.
  - Support Trout and Salmon habitat
- **Culture and History**
  - Take care of the community health.
  - Community impact assessment

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- **Economy**
  - Sustain a robust Agricultural economy.
- **Infrastructure**
  - Create places that are safe for disadvantage community to fish and recreate.
  - **Repair roads**
  -
- **Agriculture**
  - Ensure a strong agricultural economy.
  - Ensure farmers soils are healthy - with a close eye on salinity levels.
  - Include farmers in a need assessment.
  - Farm improvement to assist farmers with their water drainage.
  - Help farmers pay for levee restoration on and around their properties.
  - Fund for new pumping structures for farmers
    - Help with drainage impacts.
- **Education and Workforce Development**
  - Agricultural Training Programs
  - Mitigate farm loss.
    - Figure out how to subsidize payment for any financial loss to the delta farmers.

- **Levee Maintenance**
  - Levee improvement for the farmers to help water drainage.
  - Keep Levees maintained
    - Especially in disadvantaged/ smaller communities
    - 2 billion dollars in levees
    - Levees that provide protection
    - Resolve systems deficiencies.
    - Prevent levees from flooding.
  - Updating water systems
  - Improve levees wells.
  - Improve levees from freeport to Courtland.

Community Benefits Funding Ideas Notes  
Team 2

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- **Water and Air Quality**
  - State of the art fish screens effect on water quality. *See detailed notes under Habitat Conservation.*
  - Preserve the salinity (*not build the tunnel to*)
  - Build own roads to get the access and not impact the existing roads during construction.
  - Dust mitigation during construction
  - Where does all the excavated dirt go during construction?
- **Public Safety and Emergency Response**
  - Address trash due to homelessness - ends up going into the river. Some sort of patrol for trash.
  - Address trash due to fishing - place for them to put it to alleviate (dumpster or trash can)
  - Areas adequately/appropriately managed
- **Recreation**
  - Increased recreational opportunities.
  - Remove junked boats promptly from the waterways (e.g., not spilling oil or crumbling on levees)
  - Signage on sloughs (e.g., rules and MPH)
  - Boater education program around safety on Delta waterways
  - Increase fishing parking on levee roads - increase safety and access to the river.
    - Fishing turnout with a dumpster and a solar light for safety
- **Habitat Conservation**
  - State of the art fish screens at least as effective as what will be installed for the project should also be installed at the mouth of CCF. Would benefit the entire Delta - economy, fish species, etc.
  - Planting program to regenerate species that have gone down; stop the killing with the existing pumps.
  - Health and safety issues linked to fish consumption (e.g., mercury levels)
- **Culture and History**
  - Capital improvements for historical towns (e.g., for parking, museums, etc.)

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- **Economy**
  - State of the art fish screens effect on the economy. *See detailed notes under Habitat Conservation.*
  - Opportunity zones to help business throughout the Delta (e.g., restaurants, marinas,
  - Delta signage needs updating
    - Directional signage could help tourism and businesses.
  - A way to keep fresh paint on things.
- **Infrastructure**
  - Update infrastructure for local businesses - capital improvements
  - Road maintenance/new roads (i.e., modernization/adding passing lanes)
  - Put a vehicle tunnel to get vehicles off the road - tied to tunnel construction.
  - Conduct a traffic study to assess needs and optimize solutions.

- **Agriculture**
  - No ideas offered.
- **Education and Workforce Development**
  - No ideas offered.
- **Levee Maintenance**
  - Significant portion of community benefits fund should be allocated to levee maintenance.
  - Levees among the Sac River under the 100-year level of flood protection - actually shore these up to 100-year protection level.

Community Benefits Funding Ideas Notes  
Team 3

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- **Water and Air Quality**
  - Water hyacinth way out of control; not good for fish or boats;
  - \$ for water quality monitoring for Elk Grove and other urban runoff into Stone Lakes
  - Waste management and garbage pickup; enhancement funding with equipment and personnel to pick up trash around the Delta (Mabel Slough Rd, and other hot spots)
  - A lot of socially/economically challenged communities (homeless encampments) along the Delta; probably polluting; need to be taken care of and moved away from the water.
- **Public Safety and Emergency Response**
  - Cycling safety
  - Public safety improvements off of Lambert Road into Stone Lakes Refuge making it safer to enter.
  - Construction of potable water supply and fire suppression system; many older structures with unique cultural attributes; legacy communities (Locke, Clarksburg) vulnerable to fire.
  - Need to invest in local Delta districts to fortify infrastructure such as flood control, pumping stations, early warning flood systems; especially for small agencies.
- **Recreation**
  - Bicyclist interested in riding in the Delta if safer; rides long distances 20-30 miles; dedicated bike lanes clearly marked and "share the road" signs; fewer potholes; thinks of bike paths as suburban options; May is Bike month!
  - As a fisher, the predator fish hot spot is Clifton Court Forebay; wants to see fish screens at southern pumps to keep migrating fish out of Forebay (where Salmon, steelhead sturgeon, striped bass--planted in 1888--are preyed upon)
  - Wildlife viewing platform at Stone Lakes.
- **Habitat Conservation**
  - Water hyacinth also a habitat problem- removal
  - How are we doing with Nutria?
  - Natural tidal flushing; DWR and USBR keep X2 in one spot, no flushing; the Delta can't breathe without tidal effect, the Delta is silting up; invasive aquatic plants are clogging up the Delta.
  - 20 species of fish depend on the Delta going fresh and saltwater habitat to support their habitat
  - Enhance the Stone Lakes USFW Refuge; property acquisition to expand.
  - Elk Slough project (near Clarksburg/in North Delta)
  - Set aside land for habitat conservation; perhaps some funds in a trust to help people pursue habitat conservation in the Delta.
  - Delta also part of the Pacific Flyway and an important resource for migrating waterfowl.
- **Culture and History**
  - Concerned about impacts on Locke and other legacy towns.
  - Restoring 1883 Clarksburg schoolhouse; (raised 12 feet yesterday!) to be used as multipurpose community center; other projects like this in other legacy communities.

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- Economy
  - A lot of businesses depend on natural resources such as waterfowl, fish for a way of life (fishing, hunting, birding) so the habitat is essential.
  - A lot of socially/economically challenged communities (homeless encampments) along the Delta; probably polluting; need to be taken care of and moved away from the water.
  - Economic importance of Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge; Lodi Sandhill Crane festival (eco-tourism)
  - Ag industrial areas given an opportunity to develop (related processing plants)
  - Former ag facilities (reuse canneries)
- Infrastructure
  - High speed internet available to everyone
- Agriculture
  - Incentivize wildlife friendly agriculture.
  - Think of ag as historic economic driver that makes the Delta what it is today.
  - Ag industrial areas given an opportunity to develop (related processing plants)
- Education and Workforce Development
  - Outdoor education opportunities for school children at Stone Lakes
- Levee Maintenance
  - Big thing because of the potential for sea level rise.

#### Community Benefits Funding Ideas Notes

#### Team 4

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- **Water and Air Quality**
  - Go beyond best practices and find things that can provide benefit i.e., surface water treatments etc. that can benefit residential and other land uses.
    - Address what is lacking now, what can be improved.
    - Storm water runoff, seasonal flooding
  - Marked bicycle lanes on any roads to be improved will assist air quality.
  - Water quality monitoring that will continue after the project to ensure that water quality is maintained and could be improved; important for Stone Lake Wildlife Refuge
    - Federal wildlife refuge, about 25 years old, considered urban wildlife refuge.
  - Clean drinking water, also for domestic wells
  - Program to address Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB), needs some program to address this problem during construction and following construction, ongoing issue.
  - Build a desalination plant to replace water currently going to the State Water Project
  - Programs to build more resiliency across the state, for local agencies.
    - Additional monitoring points in the Delta to ensure water quality is maintained for M & I and agriculture use.
- **Public Safety and Emergency Response**
  - If there is a continuous source of funding, say 50 years, could be used for public safety personnel.
    - Public safety is very personnel oriented.
    - Implemented in coordination with local public safety agencies.
    - Makes it easier for local public safety agencies to respond.
  - Install ADA accessible gates into all locations that allow public access.
    - Can support recreation as well.
  - Project to mitigate traffic during construction (not new roads)
  - Increased coordination of emergency response capacity throughout Delta Counties
    - Focus on emergency operations.
    - County Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates with other agencies

- **Recreation**

- Funding to projects that are viable and ready to push them across the finish line +
  - Working with agencies that already have the capability.
  - Working with other CBOs etc. that are willing to work on these projects.
  - Counties have different states of readiness.
- Mokelumne Crest Trail
  - Should be completed throughout the Delta.
- The Great Delta Trail
  - Should be completed throughout the Delta.
- At Stone Lakes Refuge, opportunities to fund projects that enhance public understanding.
  - Wildlife observation projects specifically
- Trail projects generally
  - Connection of trails, enhancements to trails, fire protection to trails
  - Greater interaction of public with wildlife
  - "Haul Road to Trail" bike corridors = enhanced public access
- Program to mitigate noise and sound, as well as enhance safety.
- Connection to existing Bay Delta trails
  - Linking habitat and public access with existing plans including the DPC's Great Delta Trail
  - Liberty Island Road, access will now be only via boat (near Lookout Slough)
  - Can link two habitat projects together.

- **Habitat Conservation**

- Look beyond the Delta, sometimes beyond the political Delta, upstream/downstream.
  - Concentrate on wildlife corridors.
  - Large scale projects
  - Ongoing monitoring
  - Multi-stage riparian habitat, younger trees make immediate impact.
  - Coordinating with other agencies
  - Enhancing West Delta Island projects that can benefit against salt water intrusion.
  - Habitat for salmonids would be beneficial.
- Program to ensure no part of the Delta is any more saline than now.
- Programs should go above and beyond environmental mitigation.
  - Emphasis on "above and beyond"
  - Project is directly adjacent to Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge
  - Significant number of properties that could be acquired to create connectivity (with additional property) to other wildlife areas like Vic Fazio in Yolo County
- Transparency will be important in evaluation of these project ideas.
  - Transparent with their research and what they have found.
  - Information sharing about impacts is important.
  - Will help the public to understand whether viable or not.
- Mitigation to replace destruction of riparian areas.
  - Make sure areas are functional to replace before destruction.
  - Sandhill cranes, Swainson's hawk
- Link habitat to each other
  - Consistent with neighboring land uses is optimal.
  - For example, not optimal near an airport due to bird strikes
  - May assist with water quality.



- **Culture and History**
  - Delta Heritage Area

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- **Economy**
  -
- **Infrastructure**
  - Emphasize above and beyond mitigation.
    - Lambert Road is main access to Stone Lakes.
    - Not clear that it is covered by mitigation.
    - But it is an issue that needs to be addressed.
  - Major corridors: traffic corridors improvement
    - Improvement of traffic on major transportation corridors
    - 113, 12, 84, ferries, Rio Vista/Ryer Island
- **Agriculture**
  -
- **Education and Workforce Development**
  -
- **Levee Maintenance**

Community Benefits Funding Ideas Notes  
Team 5

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- **Water and Air Quality**
  - Build a dam at the narrow part of Carquinez Strait
    - Would conserve fresh water, backstop saltwater intrusion, reservoir for agricultural use, build shipping docks and ladders into the dam for fish passage and shift passage.
    - Cheaper than tunnels and would solve saltwater intrusion problems and give water to agriculture.
  - Levee pumps used for ag irrigation - will be impacted by tunnel construction.
    - Pumps need to be brought up to air quality code.
    - Pumps will need to be extended farther into the river as they will be susceptible to drop in water from tunnel construction.
- **Public Safety and Emergency Response**
  - More convenient medical services within the Delta - to reach remote locations - temporary health clinics or other permanent service (Walnut Grove, Isleton)
    - Right now, medical services come from Elk Grove or Lodi which is farther out and takes longer to get to
- **Recreation**
  - More Bike trails throughout the Delta
    - Right now, many people right along the Hwy 160 along levees which is dangerous
    - Bike trails could be added to many levee roads.
    - Sacramento Area Council of Governments is also in development on this - consider partnering with them.
  - Interface with Sacramento River, Northern Delta - add docks, public beaches, development for recreational purposes in this area.
    - Need infrastructure funds to provide recreational experience.
- **Habitat Conservation**
  -
- **Culture and History**
  - Create Asian American Heritage Park
  - Build Delta history museum - encompassing the whole region.
  - Lock and Isleton - Historical building preservation and additional signage to showcase history.
    - Isleton Museum - more funding for this, re opening this.

## Additional Comments

- President Biden's infrastructure plan could provide matching funds for these projects.

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- **Economy**
  - Agree with many of the proposed ideas - but all depend on basic infrastructure needs.
  - Agricultural and fishing communities
- **Infrastructure**
  - Internet reliability - hi speed internet for business and private residents
    - Will lead to better access to education and allow businesses to succeed (which leads to better economy)
  - Better Signage throughout the region
  - Improve building code for easier permitting, improvements and construction.
  - Widen roads by at least 12".
    - Need to be levelled and improved.
    - Commercial buses cannot travel down all the roads in the Delta because of poor quality.
      - This will provide better access to region (increase tourism etc.)
  - Bring buildings up to code.
    - Buildings in the Delta are old, historic, and often not up to code (including ADA compliance)
  - Smaller marinas - depth of waterline is too shallow for boat access - funding for dredging to increase depth - will make them more economically viable.
  - Bridges must be updated structurally and with more signage.
    - Bridges are old and narrow - challenge for bus passage.
    - Signage would greatly improve safety.
  - Dam construction at narrow part of Carquinez Straight
- **Agriculture**
  - Labor camps have been closed because they are not up to code - need to be rebuilt so we can bring in farm labor.
- **Education and Workforce Development**
  -
- **Levee Maintenance**
  - Levee maintenance is a huge infrastructure cost and essential for livable communities.
  - Dredging for marinas and ag pumping
  - Levee structural support with flooding - as water level is raised, more pressure is put on levees.
    - Has not been done in many decades for most areas of the region

## Community Benefits Funding Ideas Notes

### Team 6

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- **Water and Air Quality**
  - Agriculture- ongoing support so growers have consistent irrigation water, as well as SGMA requirement/compliance assistance.
  - Access to quality water for agriculture in the North Delta- have a discussion with North Delta Water Agency about NDWA/DWR agreement and make sure that agreement is met now and into the future.
  - Northern Delta- develop infrastructure to deal with special status species while continuing sustainable agricultural use, large scale habitat mitigation results in increased special status species that restrict agricultural water users, fund support to deal with this situation.
  - Small community water systems- communities have to meet arsenic treatment requirements (zero parts per billion), it is expensive, create a fund to start looking at small water systems to deal with arsenic.
  - Air Quality- regional, may not be appropriate for CBP
- **Public Safety and Emergency Response**

- Courtland Fire Protection District- fund and train for work during project construction, need a better way to alert volunteer firefighters (only have an air siren now)
- **Recreation**
  - Stewardship (mixed use, complex uses)- physical infrastructure, kiosks, difficult to access water, develop/upgrade boardwalks, create ways to access the wildlife, it is hard to interact with wildlife with levees blocking access, create shade structures, interpretation, signage for informal recreation, fund volunteers/docents, promote ecotourism.
  - Develop/fund bike trails.
  - Recreation in the Delta is limited- Stone Lake National Wildlife Area is a great example of recreation in the Delta and is very valuable.
  - Aquatic invasive species management and improved transportation is foundational- develop a planned-out transportation network of roadways, bike paths and hiking trails so people of all interests can make a weekend/day out of recreating in the Delta
- **Habitat Conservation**
  - Take into consideration migratory birds- fund for protecting migratory bird habitat year-round and through construction, sandhill crane protection/consideration
  - Category may not be appropriate (NEPA/CEQA covers) or at least the title should be change because of connection to another permit terms
- **Culture and History**
  - Fund the Delta National Heritage Area

What kinds of ideas would the Community Benefits Program fund for the X category?

- **Economy**
  - Promote tourism in Delta communities (ag, recreational, cultural)
  - Economy and infrastructure tied together- small towns in north Delta have a limited number of opportunities for people to come to the Delta (Hood doesn't have a market), think about infrastructure.
- **Infrastructure**
  - Block grant program for communities- for Courtland boardwalk needs to be upgraded, some opportunities have been identified by the DPC, identify who can manage the funds and implement actions already proposed.
- **Agriculture**
  - Promote tourism as mechanism to support the long-term sustainability of ag
  - Develop an agriculture flavor of recreation/tourism- boat rides in sloughs, ag is a unique strength to focus on, play on strengths.
  - Ag is going to change- not sure CBP funding is going to have significant effect on ag if the CBP doesn't serve the small communities, communities need the infrastructure to be sustainable and support ag.
- **Education and Workforce Development**
  - Beneficial especially now- offer opportunities at every level.
  - Public education in the Delta- school districts need help, one is \$100 million in the hole, a block grant to school districts and fund special programs like dual immersion.
- **Levee Maintenance**
  - Levees are of Statewide importance- redefine what levees mean as a Statewide asset, create a program to look at levee maintenance, support Reclamation Districts, use moment to get movement on relooking at levee maintenance (not using CBP specifically), not enough discussion on the State's role in levee maintenance, opportunity to talk about the big picture, not enough money for levee maintenance and not enough available in CBP.
  - Levee maintenance is way beyond CBP- project alternatives don't include upgrading levees as an option instead of a tunnel.
  - Question- how is the State addressing climate change effects and upgrading levees outside of CBP?