



**DRAFT**

*For Review and Adoption by the Council at the June 25, 2020 Meeting*

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**

**Friday, May 1, 2020**

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 12, 2020, and the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, the meeting's proceedings were conducted entirely remotely.

*All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>.*

**MEETING SUMMARY**

---

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Tatayon called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, May 1, 2020.

**2. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum (Water Code §85210.5)**

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following councilmembers were present: Frank Damrell, Randy Fiorini, Maria Mehranian, Mike Gatto, Oscar Villegas, Daniel Zingale, and Susan Tatayon.

**3. Consideration of Authorization to Commence California Environmental Quality Act Review of the Draft Ecosystem Amendment as the Proposed Project (Action Item)**

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson began with a summary of the proposed Ecosystem Amendment and agenda item. Deputy Executive Officer for Planning Jeff Henderson provided an overview of the presentation and introduced the panel of staff: Former Program Manager II (now at the California Department of Parks and Recreation) Ron Melcer; Senior Environmental Planner Avery Livengood; and Senior Environmental Scientist Chris Kwan. The presentation topics include background on the proposed Ecosystem Amendment; details of the Preliminary Public Review Draft; an overview of the comments and responses received; requested Council action; and next steps.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the species of concern, the rationale for the two-year waiting period for the amendment's effective date, and combining an overarching goal with a set of sub-goals to address salmon doubling regulation concerns.

Councilmember Villegas highlighted a comment letter submitted by the Delta Protection Commission (Commission). He stated that the letter mentions five key areas for the Council to consider during the amendment. These considerations included the impacts on local landowners and reclamation districts; avoiding conflict with local plans; using the good neighbor checklist; analyzing the social benefits; and the role of resource conservation districts in agricultural management. He stated that one outstanding item was not yet addressed – evaluating setback levees and how they apply to rural or urban areas. Councilmember Villegas thanked the Council for addressing many of the key areas brought up by the Commission.

Public Comment:

- Osha Meserve, Local Agencies of the North Delta: Does not object to moving forward but shared concerns about the recommendations for deeply subsided lands, compatible management methods for existing land use, screens, and levee policy ER P4.

**Motion:** Offered by Fiorini, second by Villegas – Approve staff request to initiate CEQA environmental review of the proposed project, with a 60-day comment period, using the May 2020 draft Ecosystem Amendment (Attachments 2 - 9) as the proposed project. The proposed project consists of eight (8) documents:

The Chapter 4 narrative (Attachment 2; which includes policies and recommendations);

Three regulatory appendices:

- Appendices 3A and 4A and New Definitions (Attachment 3; two appendices in one combined document);
- Appendix 8A (Attachment 4);

Four technical appendices:

- Appendix Q1 (Attachment 5);
- Appendix Q2 (Attachment 6);
- Appendix Q3 (Attachment 7);
- Appendix Q4 (Attachment 8); and
- Appendix E, Performance Measures for the Delta Plan (Attachment 9).

**Vote:** 7/0 – Damrell, Fiorini, Gatto, Mehranian, Villegas, Zingale, and Tatayon. The motion was adopted.

The motion and vote is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-05-01> minute 01:39:30.

**4. Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment.

**5. Preparation for Next Council Meeting**

The next Council meeting is June 25, 2020. The Council meeting is scheduled to be conducted remotely.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

***All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>.***