



DRAFT

**SUMMARY: OCTOBER 22, 2020
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For Review and Adoption by the Council at the November 19, 2020 Meeting.

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 9:10 AM, October 22, 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, Mike Gatto, Daniel Zingale, Maria Mehranian, Oscar Villegas, and Susan Tatayon.

**3. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION: LITIGATION (NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)
(ACTION ITEM)**

Chair Tatayon announced that the Council would not hold a Closed Executive Session.

~~4. CONTINUE OPEN SESSION~~

~~5. ROLL CALL – RE-ESTABLISH A QUORUM (WATER CODE §85210.5)~~

6. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)

6a. Adoption of September 24, 2020 Meeting Summary

6b. Amendment to an Agreement with the Aquatic Science Center for Expansion of the Delta Landscape Scenario Planning Tool

Motion: Offered by Villegas, second by Damrell – Approve the Consent Calendar items.

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Vote: 6/0 – Damrell, Gatto, Mehranian, Villegas, Zingale, and Tatayon. The motion was adopted.

The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-10-22> minute 00:06:30.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Special Assistant for Planning & Science, Amanda Bohl, provided a brief update on the two agenda items scheduled for the October 26 Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) meeting.

At the meeting, DPIIC members will receive an update on the October 5 and 6 Science Needs Assessment Workshop. Results from the workshop will be presented at the meeting. A draft Science Needs Assessment will be released by December 2020, with the final document expected to be released in early 2021. There is also a summary of the workshop in the October Lead Scientist's Report.

The DPIIC meeting will also cover Bay-Delta climate change initiatives. Panelists will present findings from the Council's Delta Adapts initiative, the San Francisco Bay Development and Conservation's Bay Adapts effort, and address Governor Newsom's priorities around climate change. DPIIC members will discuss how to leverage and align these regional initiatives with statewide efforts.

The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-10-22> minute 00:07:24.

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Pearson reminded the public that the Council's physical office is closed. However, Council staff is working remotely to support physical distancing efforts. The public should contact hello@deltacouncil.ca.gov to be directed to the appropriate staff person for assistance. Additionally, the Council has changed its public meeting formats to be fully remote for the public health emergency's duration.

The Council sent two comment letters regarding active projects during the past month:

- City of Tracy regarding the Notice of Preparation of an EIR for the Tracy Alliance Project.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding their Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project.

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Pearson also noted the Outreach Highlights report, Active Projects List, and Quarterly Contract Report were available in the Councilmember's packets and on the Council's website.

8a. Legal Update (Information Item)

Chief Counsel Bethany Pane had nothing to report during the legal update.

The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-10-22> minute 00:10:45.

11. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES DIVISION OF MULTI-BENEFIT INITIATIVES (INFORMATION ITEM)

At the recommendation of the Chair, this item was taken out of order.

DWR's Chief of the Division of Multi-benefit Initiatives, Steve Rothert, and Branch Chief for the Delta Levees Integrity and Delta Habitat Restoration Branch, Robert Charney, provided an update on DWR's efforts regarding multi-benefit initiatives and Delta levees. Rothert provided DWR's vision for the new division and how it will work collaboratively with the Council.

Councilmembers and panelists discussed funding of the Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program and Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects Program, stating that additional funding sources are needed, as current funds are anticipated to be depleted within the next 1.5 years. They also discussed addressing climate change considerations for projects and collaborating with state and local partners to align existing and upcoming levee maintenance plans.

Public Comment:

Gilbert Cosio – Cosio endorses the new division and addressed two questions regarding climate change scenarios within the Delta Adapts project and projects within the Lower Sacramento River/ Delta North Regional Flood Management Group.

Osha Meserve, Local Agencies of the North Delta (provided at the end of Agenda Item 9) – Meserve stated that it is not necessary nor feasible to include an ecosystem restoration component in every levee project, and that multi-benefit not be construed to only pertain to habitat.

This agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-10-22> minute 00:20:11.

9. LEAD SCIENTIST'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Delta Lead Scientist Dr. Laurel Larsen discussed an article from *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Sciences*, which represents a synthesis of data sets of long-term species trends in the San Francisco Estuary and provides guidance for other synthesis projects; reported on the recent Sacramento River Spring Run Chinook Salmon, Science Action Agenda, and Science Needs Assessment Workshops; reviewed upcoming events; and provided the By the Numbers Report.

The Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-10-22> minute 00:47:36.

10. DELTA WATERMASTER UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)

Delta Watermaster Michael George provided details on the progress of the Watermaster Office's 2020 Workplan Initiatives, estimating actual Delta water use, and reducing reliance on the Delta.

Councilmembers and the Watermaster discussed how water flows affect the proliferation of aquatic weeds.

Public Comment:

Osha Meserve, Local Agencies of the North Delta – Meserve provided a response to the Councilmember question regarding flows. Meserve also shared concerns about impacts to Delta-adjacent groundwater basins.

The Delta Watermaster agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-10-22> minute 01:18:38.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

13. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting is November 19 and will be conducted remotely.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

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