



# Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

## Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee

March 15, 2021

### Meeting Summary

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The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) established the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC or Committee) after adopting the Delta Plan in 2013 and continues to oversee DPIIC activities as required by the Delta Reform Act. DPIIC serves as a forum to lead state, federal, and local agencies' efforts to implement the Delta Plan and Delta Science Plan. Committee members collaborate to implement their agencies' policies and authorities in ways that help achieve the co-equal goals of a more reliable California water supply and a restored, enhanced ecosystem in the Delta.

The recording of the meeting can be found online:

<https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-03-15>

Meeting materials and presentations can also be found on the Council's website:

<https://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/dpiic/meetings>

### Attendees

The following committee members were in attendance:

Ellen Blake	Assistant Director, Water Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (for Tomas Torres, Director Water Division, Region 9)
Chuck Bonham	Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ernest Conant	Mid-Pacific Regional Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Joaquin Esquivel	Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Lenny Grimaldo	State Water Project Assistant Environmental Director, California Department of Water Resources (for Karla Nemeth, Director)
Campbell Ingram	Executive Officer, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Laurel Larsen	Delta Lead Scientist
Cathy Marcinkevage	Assistant Regional Administrator, California Central Valley Office, NOAA Fisheries (for Barry Thom, Regional Administrator)
Don Nottoli	Chair, Delta Protection Commission
Kristin Peer	Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Water Policy, California Environmental Protection Agency (for Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary)
Eric Reichard	Acting Regional Director for the Pacific Region, U.S. Geological Survey
Karen Ross	Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Tim Ramirez	Board Member, Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Paul Souza	Regional Director, Bay-Delta Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Susan Tatayon	Chair, Council
Cindy Tejada	Watershed & Floodplain Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (for Josephine Axt, Chief of Planning and Policy, South Pacific Division)
Nancy Vogel	Director of the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio Program, California Natural Resources Agency (for Wade Crowfoot, Secretary)

In addition to those listed above, the following were also in attendance to present during the meeting (listed in order of appearance):

Andrew Schwarz	State Water Project Climate Change Advisor, DWR
Dr. Letitia Grenier	Resilient Landscapes Director, San Francisco Estuary Institute – Aquatic Science Center
Dr. Amrith Guneseekara	Science Advisor, CDFA
Julie Rentner	President, River Partners
Dr. Steve Brandt	Chair, Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB)
Dr. Jay Lund	Past Chair, Delta ISB

## **Overview and Introductions**

Chair Tatayon called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on March 15, 2021 and welcomed the members and attendees. Chair Tatayon noted that technical

difficulties with the virtual platform might cause disruptions to the meeting, provided the mission of DPIIC, and noted the process for providing public comments during the meeting.

Members were given the opportunity to share critical updates with other DPIIC members. No updates were provided.

Chair Tatayon asked the members if there was any comment on the summary of the October 26, 2020 DPIIC meeting; there was none.

### **Nature-based Climate Adaptation**

Chair Tatayon introduced the agenda item and invited Schwarz to introduce the panel.

Schwarz presented condensed findings from the Delta Adapts Vulnerability Assessment and gave an overview of the adaptation strategy's upcoming development. Schwarz asked members to consider the question, "How can Delta Adapts link to or complement climate adaptation planning efforts of DPIIC agencies?" as they listened to the panel presentations.

Dr. Grenier presented how the Delta Landscapes Scenario Planning Tool (DLSPT) can support nature-based adaptation and ecosystem-based water management in the Delta.

Dr. Gunsekara gave an overview of incentives and demonstration projects undertaken as part of the Healthy Soils Program and recent CDFA-hosted farmer and rancher listening sessions undertaken to identify farmer- and rancher-led climate change solutions.

Rentner shared the context, partnerships, and work that led to River Partners' floodplain restoration projects in the south Delta, such as Paradise Cut and Dos Rios Ranch.

DPIIC members provided comments on various aspects of the presentations and shared their thoughts about the question Schwarz raised, including the need to take into account that 40 percent of the state's water flows through the Delta, the need to take a holistic approach, the growing interest in crop conversion to rice, using the DLSPT to help stakeholders define restoration

actions, and the timeframe, collaboration and partnerships necessary to carry out floodplain restoration projects.

Chair Tatayon provided observations about the potential uses of the DLSPT and the comments provided by DPIIC members.

Chair Tatayon asked if there was any public comment. Dante Nomellini, Central Delta Water Agency, expressed the need for adequate levees to protect landmass and the necessary water quality to support Delta agriculture. Nomellini provided documents for the members to review.

This section is viewable at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-03-15> minute 06:24.

### **Delta Science Lightning Updates**

Due to time constraints and technical difficulties, this agenda item was postponed to the July 12, 2021 DPIIC meeting.

### **Report out: *Science Needs Assessment***

Chair Tatayon invited Dr. Brandt and Dr. Lund to give DPIIC members an overview of efforts to complete the Science Needs Assessment (SNA). After the overview, the panel requested that DPIIC members contribute staff to an ad hoc interagency forecasting task force to refine final recommendations for discussion and endorsement at the July 12, 2021 DPIIC meeting. No objections were raised, and Council staff will reach out to the identified agency staff for participation in the task force.

Chair Tatayon asked if there was any public comment; there was one. Deirdre Des Jardins, California Water Research, thanked the SNA team for their focus and the project's outcome and expressed concerns regarding compensation for Delta ISB members.

This section is viewable at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-03-15> minute 1:32:40.

## **Closing Remarks and Committee Business and Public Comment**

Chair Tatayon asked if there was any public comment; there was none.

Chair Tatayon adjourned the meeting.