



**Delta  
Stewardship  
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

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## **NEW FLOOD-RELATED REGULATION FOR PRIORITIZING LEVEE INVESTMENTS IN CALIFORNIA'S DELTA**

SACRAMENTO – The new year has brought new flood protections for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Delta Stewardship Council has successfully amended the Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS), a tool the state uses to prioritize investments in Delta levee operations, maintenance, and improvements, thus reducing the likelihood and consequences of levee failures.

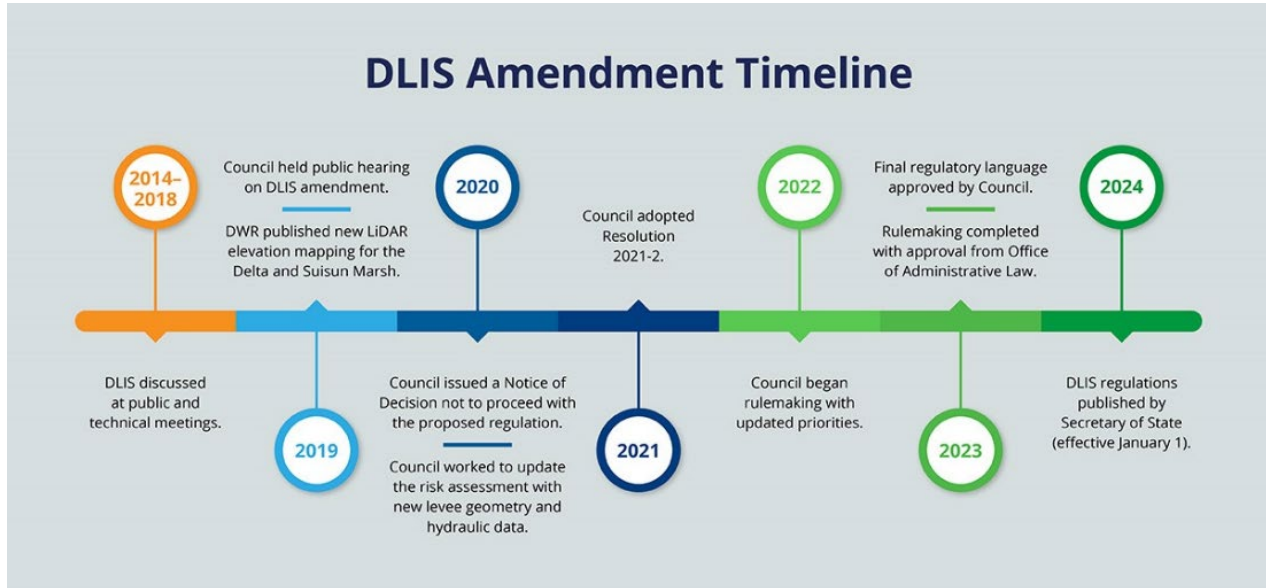
**“Delta flood risk is one of the most urgent threats to California and will continue to worsen in the future** with changes in sea levels and storm patterns,” says the Council’s Executive Officer Jessica R. Pearson. **“Limited funding to address that risk demands clear priorities.** The product of nearly a decade of public input and collaboration, the strategy represents one of the Council’s greatest milestone achievements.”

The amendment assigns *very high, high, or other* priority to islands or tracts within the Delta and Suisun Marsh and directs the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to fund levee improvement projects by order of priority. Additionally, it requires the DWR to submit an annual report to the Council describing Delta levee investments relative to the established priorities.

“Flood protection is a key piece of DWR’s work to increase water resilience as California moves toward a hotter, drier future,” says DWR Director Karla Nemeth. **“DWR stands in partnership with the Delta Stewardship Council across multiple initiatives, including the Delta Levees Investment Strategy.** These efforts will provide needed protections to the diverse communities that call the Delta home.”

The Delta’s 1,100 miles of levees provide protection for residences, agricultural lands, and infrastructure, which need deliberate and sustainable maintenance and funding. Many of the levees date back to when the Delta was reclaimed for agricultural purposes in the late 1800s.

The updated strategy prioritizes the protection of people, property, and state interests and advances statewide water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem resilience in a manner that protects and enhances the Delta as a place where people live, work, and recreate.



On September 21, 2023, the Office of Administrative Law approved the Council's Administrative Procedure Act process to amend the California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 5001 and 5012, to implement the Council's Delta Levees Investment Strategy. The amended regulation took effect on January 1, 2024, and is available at on the [Delta Levees Investment Strategy web page](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/DLIS) (deltacouncil.ca.gov/DLIS).

Visuals of the Delta can be found in [DWR's photo galleries](https://pixel-ca-dwr.photoshelter.com) (pixel-ca-dwr.photoshelter.com).

For more information, contact [media@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:media@deltacouncil.ca.gov).

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## ABOUT THE COUNCIL

*The Delta Stewardship Council was created by the California Legislature in 2009 to advance California's water supply reliability and the Delta's ecosystem resiliency in a manner that protects and enhances the region's unique characteristics. It is composed of seven members, advised by an independent 10-member science board, and supported by a dedicated staff. For more information, visit the [Council's website](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov) (deltacouncil.ca.gov).*