



**DRAFT**

***For Review and Adoption by the Council at the August 22, 2019 Meeting***

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL  
Thursday, July 25, 2019  
Park Tower Plaza  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Center  
980 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Tatayon called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, July 25, 2019. The webcast of the meeting was audio-only.

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

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following councilmembers were present: Ken Weinberg, Mike Gatto, Randy Fiorini, Maria Mehranian, and Susan Tatayon.

Councilmembers Ken Weinberg and Mike Gatto participated via teleconference from the following locations:

99 S Lake Ave, Suite 501, Pasadena, CA 91101 and;  
Padre Dam Municipal Water District, 9300 Fanita Pkwy, Santee, Ca 92071.

Councilmember Frank Damrell arrived during the Chair's Report.

Councilmember Oscar Villegas was absent.

**3. Adoption of June 27, 2019 Meeting Summary (Action Item)**

There were no changes to the meeting summary.

**Motion:** Offered by Weinberg, second by Mehranian - Approve the June 27, 2019 meeting summary.

**Vote:** 5/0 – Weinberg, Gatto, Fiorini, Mehranian, 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=2019-07-25> minute 00:04:14.

**4. Chair's Report (Information Item)**

Chair Tatayon reported on the July 15 Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) meeting. The meeting focused on the Governor's Executive Order, N1019, which directs the Secretaries of the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Natural Resources Agency, and the California Environmental Protection Agency to



create a water resiliency portfolio. The members discussed how the Delta Plan and water resiliency portfolio could leverage and support each other. Council Legislative and Policy Advisor Ryan Stanbra provided a presentation on the relationship at the DPIIC meeting.

Councilmember Fiorini observed how many DPIIC agencies appeared to be unaware of the activities of other agencies. He suggested that Council staff look into the creation of a quarterly report that lists each agencies plans, projects, and programs of importance.

The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-07-25> minute 00:05:00.

## **5. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)**

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson noted that she attended the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers change of command ceremony for outgoing Commander Colonel David Ray, and incoming Commander Colonel James Handura. She also participated in the Social Science Task Force Workshop. Ms. Pearson announced that the Council will open the recruitment process for the next Delta Lead Scientist and provided the June 2019 Outreach Highlights report to the councilmembers.

Ms. Pearson discussed the following comment letter:

- Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) regarding its Notice of Preparation of an EIR for the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. Council staff regularly meets with SACOG regarding the 2020 plan as the Reform Act requires SACOG to provide the Council a draft of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy 60 days before its adoption.

Ms. Pearson stated that there were no covered actions to report.

### **5a. Legal Update (Information Item)**

Chief Counsel Bethany Pane introduced Extern John David Wooten who provided the legal update. Mr. Wooten updated the Council on the State Water Board Cases. He first offered background on the cases and then provided an overview of the activities that had occurred since the Council's last legal update at the February 2019 Council meeting.

The State Water Board Cases are a group of cases primarily involving water districts, environmental NGOs, and the State Water Board. The cases revolve around the State Water Board's adoption of amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan, which set new unimpaired flow and salinity objectives for the southern Delta. The State Water Board petitioned for coordination of the cases due to the multitude of suits filed against them. During the process of this petition, three additional suits were filed by new parties. One of the new suits filed was by the Federal government. The State Water Board was granted coordination in Sacramento County Court for 11 of the 12 lawsuits. The twelfth party, the United States of America, was not added to the coordination agreement due to the dual State and federal cases.



In the meantime, the Office of Administrative Law approved the Bay-Delta Plan Amendment that is the subject of the lawsuits, and there have been some efforts to create voluntary agreements.

Councilmember Fiorini asked if any of the lawsuits were directly related to salinity standards. Mr. Callaway stated that he had not seen this in any of the cases.

**5b. Legislative Update (Action Item)**

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson stated that there was no Legislative Update.

**5c. Council 2019 Workplan Update (Information Item)**

Ms. Pearson provided a mid-year update on the Council's 2019 annual priorities. The Workplan and Meeting Memo is available on the Council's website at:

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>.

• **To date the Council has:**

- Completed a full appeals action for the Smith Canal Gate Project;
- Completed the rulemaking process for Delta Plan Conveyance, Storage, and Operation of Both Amendment;
- Conducted and reported out on findings from surveys for the Five-year Review;
- Finalized the update to Delta Science Plan;
- Developed a first full draft of the Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment;
- Executed 22 contracts for the science funding solicitation; and
- Supported the Delta Protection Commission efforts to gain Congressional recognition of the Delta as National Heritage Area.

• **Priorities that are On Track:**

- The Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment have had some delays, but work will continue in the years 2020 and 2021.

• **New Activities Since Workplan was Presented:**

- The Governor's Executive Order N1019 and the organizing of a DPIIC meeting to coordinate response;
- The September Council meeting in Orange County that will focus on efforts to reduce reliance on the Delta and increase regional self-sufficiency;
- Hiring a contractor to assist the Council with improving its overall Communications Strategy;
- Making changes to the Council meeting format; and



- Working on additional linkages between science and policy associations through the Lead Scientist's Report.
- **Next steps:** Council staff is preparing for the August 2019 rulemaking hearing on the Delta Levees Investment Strategy. In addition, Council staff has invited the Department of Water Resources and Central Valley Flood Protection Board to discuss Delta levees and related risks reduction efforts. Council staff will provide the Council with a full draft of the Delta Plan Five-Year Review Report in August. After the public review of the draft Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment, staff will initiate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. Lastly, staff will co-sponsor the State of the Estuary Conference in Oakland, and work with the Delta Protection Commission on their Economic Sustainability Plan and SACOG's Sustainable Conservation Strategy to ensure consistency with the Delta Plan.

Councilmember Weinberg acknowledged staff's efforts and asked if a multiyear workplan was being considered. Ms. Pearson stated that it was and that consideration must be made for adjusting priorities when unplanned opportunities arise that can advance the Council's objectives. Lastly, she stated that building in some adaptive capacity regarding covered actions would be beneficial.

Councilmember Mehranian asked to be included in the planning of the September meeting agenda. Staff responded that they would provide a meeting to discuss.

The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-07-25> minute 00:11:14.

## 6. Lead Scientist's Report (Information Item)

Lead Scientist Dr. John Callaway began his report by providing an update on the Social Science Task Force Workshop that occurred on July 23. Ms. Pearson added that it was beneficial to get perspectives from social science experts from across the country. Dr. Callaway then announced the upcoming Delta Invasive Species Symposium. This year's focus for the workshop is on remote sensing and registration is available on the Delta Conservancy's website at: <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov>. Dr. Callaway discussed an article from the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* on the characterization of the strength of atmospheric rivers, reviewed the Interagency Ecological Program's report on aquatic vegetation, and summarized the recent Brown Bag Seminar with Interagency Ecological Program Coordinator Chair Stephanie Fong. Dr. Callaway also provided a brief overview of the By the Numbers Report.

The Lead Scientist's Report is available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>.

Councilmembers discussed how climate change impacts atmospheric river intensity, the improved forecasting of atmospheric rivers, and the importance of enhanced communication and coordination with partner agencies and organizations.

For the first time, Dr. Callaway provided members with a visual representation of the project he was presenting (visual abstract) as part of the Lead Scientist's Report. Dr.



Callaway mentioned that he would occasionally provide the visual abstract for future Council meetings within the Lead Scientist's Report.

The Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-07-25> minute 00:31:39.

**7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment

**8. Preparation for Next Council Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.