



DRAFT

For Review and Adoption by the Council at the December 19, 2019 Meeting

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
Thursday, November 21, 2019
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Boardroom
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691**

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Tatayon called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM, November 21, 2019.

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, Maria Mehranian, Susan Tatayon, and Oscar Villegas.

Councilmember Ken Weinberg arrived during the Chair's Report.

Vice Chair Randy Fiorini arrived during the Executive Officer's Report.

3. Adoption of October 24, 2019 Meeting Summary (Action Item)

There were no changes to the meeting summary.

Motion: Offered by Damrell, second by Gatto - Approve the October 24, 2019 meeting summary.

Vote: 5/0 – Damrell, Gatto, Mehranian, Tatayon, and Villegas. The motion was adopted.

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

The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-11-21> minute 00:01:46.

4. Adoption of October 25, 2019 Retreat Summary (Action Item)

There were no changes to the retreat summary.

Motion: Offered by Gatto, second by Mehranian- Approve the October 25, 2019 retreat summary.

Vote: 5/0 – Damrell, Gatto, Mehranian, Tatayon, and Villegas. The motion was adopted.

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The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-11-21> minute 00:02:16.

5. Chair's Report (Information Item)

5a. Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee November Meeting Report Out

Chair Tatayon introduced Special Assistant for Planning and Science Amanda Bohl to provide an update on the recent Delta Plan Implementation Committee (DPIIC) meeting on November 4, 2019. Ms. Bohl stated that the DPIIC members discussed three main items: the water resilience portfolio, the Delta science funding initiative and the implementation of the recommendations identified in the Council's white paper, and lightning updates from Council staff and partner agencies on various projects and activities.

Councilmember Weinberg asked if DPIIC would focus on simplified permitting and other barriers to ecosystem restoration. Ms. Bohl replied that the committee would and has existing efforts to do so.

Chair Tatayon concluded her report by sharing details about her participation in the Clarksburg schoolhouse move with Vice Chair Randy Fiorini. The schoolhouse was moved four blocks to central Clarksburg to generate interest in Delta heritage and better serve future historical programming at the building. The Delta Stewardship Council, along with the Delta Protection Commission, helped fund the feasibility study for the schoolhouse's restoration.

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The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-11-21> minute 00:02:31.

6. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson invited Deputy Executive Officer for Planning Jeff Henderson and Assistant Planning Director Harriet Ross to provide an update on the Council's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA). Ms. Ross provided details on the process, project development, technical approach, priorities, and next steps.

Councilmembers and staff discussed governance concerns, how staff intends to undertake a comprehensive approach that can assist local agencies, and how the outcome of this report will affect the Delta Levee Investment Strategy (DLIS) tool.

Public Comment:

- Deirdre Des Jardins, California Water Research: Ms. Des Jardins expressed concern that the CCVA study would not include the effects on birds.
- David Fries, San Joaquin Audubon Society: Mr. Fries echoed Ms. Des Jardins' concern about the CCVA inclusion of the effects on birds.

After the public comments on CCVA, Ms. Pearson mentioned that the draft Delta Plan Ecosystem Chapter was posted that day and encouraged Ms. Des Jardins and Mr. Fries to look for the inclusion of bird conservation strategies in the draft chapter and to provide comments on the draft as well.

Ms. Pearson stated that Council staff sent out three comment letters during the past month and also received one:

- Letter to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments regarding its 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. The letter is the final version of the letter approved by the Council last month.
- Letter from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments responding to the Council's letter affirming the Council's conclusions and stating that they look forward to future collaboration.
- Letter to the City of Sacramento's Community Development Department regarding the Notice of Preparation for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the City's General Plan.
- Letter to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority regarding its Subbasin Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Ms. Pearson reminded the Council that the Central Valley Flood Protection Board had submitted a certification for consistency with the Delta Plan for the American River Watershed Common Features project last month and that the public review period began on October 24, 2019, and ends November 25, 2019.

6a. and 6b Outreach and Highlights Report and Active Projects List (Information Item)

Councilmembers received these reports in their binders.

6c. Delta Conservancy and Delta Protection Commission Update (Information Item)

Ms. Pearson invited Executive Officer Campbell Ingram and Executive Director Erik Vink to report on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) and Delta Protection Commission's (Commission) activities, respectively.

Mr. Ingram presented on the Conservancy's Delta Carbon and Proposition 68 Community Economic Enhancement Grant Programs. Councilmembers discussed commodity pricing in regards to the Delta Carbon Program.

Mr. Vink presented updates on the Delta National Heritage Area Management Plan and new Delta agricultural land cover data in relation to the Commission's work to update the Agricultural Chapter of the Economic Sustainability Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Councilmembers discussed the types of crops grown in the Delta, if farmers have the means to switch crop types, and how the Williamson Act Program applies to Delta agriculture.

Councilmembers also discussed land abandonment, tracking the success of the agency's programs, and balancing new initiatives and the values of the Delta with Mr. Vink and Mr. Ingram.

After the Conservancy and Commission update, Ms. Pearson mentioned that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the draft EIR for the long-term operations of the State Water Project. This EIR relates to the previously mentioned 2019 Biological Opinions for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.

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The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-11-21> minute 00:10:50.

7. Lead Scientist's Report (Information Item)

Delta Lead Scientist Dr. John Callaway provided his report which included: an article from the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface* on the modeling of future impacts on intertidal areas in San Pablo Bay, a recap of two recent conferences where Council staff presented, and a review of the California Sea Grant State Fellows Matching Workshop and upcoming events and announcements. Mr. Callaway also provided the By the Numbers Report.

Regarding the *Journal of Geophysical Research* article, Councilmembers discussed how San Pablo Bay's sediment issues were similar to the Delta's vegetation issue. Dr. Callaway stated that the model used would be useful for the Delta if it included vegetation.

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The Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-11-21> minute 01:19:48.

9. Delta Levees Investments Report (Information Item)

Do to logistical reasons, this item was moved up on the agenda. Item 8, the Watermaster Update, will be heard after this item. Chair Tatayon welcomed Deputy Executive Officer for Planning Jeff Henderson and Legislative and Policy Advisor Ryan Stanbra to facilitate the discussion on the Delta Levees Investments Report. Mr. Henderson introduced the guest panelists from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Flood Board):

- Darren Suen, Deputy Policy Advisor, Flood Board
- Kris Tjernell, Deputy Director, DWR
- Laura Hollender, Advisor/Attorney IV, DWR
- Chris Williams, Supervising Water Resource Engineer, DWR

Mr. Henderson began the presentation by providing on the Delta's levees and their use. Mr. Stanbra presented background on the Delta Reform Act's requirements and

authority, the Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and the MOU workgroup.

Mr. Suen provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Flood Board.

Mr. Tjernell discussed DWR's roles and responsibilities in regards to levees, specifically emphasizing that DWR makes funding decisions regarding levees beyond priorities such as population and state interest. After Mr. Tjernell concluded, Ms. Hollender and Mr. Williams presented DWR's Annual Report on *State Funds Awarded for Delta Levee Improvement and Rehabilitation Projects*. They provided an overview of the report's focus, DWR's responsibilities and Delta-related programs and efforts, fiscal year 18/19 funding decisions, DWR's considerations for funding decisions, and next steps. Upon their conclusion, Mr. Williams emphasized that this annual report is the first of its kind and therefore they have an opportunity to reflect on these first efforts and utilize the MOU workgroup to refine future reports.

Councilmembers asked a series of questions to the panel regarding efforts towards collecting data and developing a timeframe to update the DLIS tool, determining funding prioritization, and what influences DWR's decision-making. Councilmembers also provided suggestions on what to include in future reports such as explanations for why projects were not funded, if applicable.

Public Comment:

- Thomas Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency: Mr. Zuckerman shared concerns about the data in the prioritization program, stating that some of the charts were inaccurate. He suggested changes that DWR could make.
- Gilbert Cosio, MBK Engineers: Mr. Cosio shared concerns about the projects that were not awarded funding this past year and requested that DWR provide more history of the projects listed in the report. He suggested changes to the proposed regulation.
- Melinda Terry, California Central Valley Flood Control Association: Ms. Terry echoed Mr. Cosio's concerns. She added that she would like to see funding sources in the DLIS tool.
- Justin Fredrickson, California Farm Bureau Federation: Mr. Fredrickson shared concerns about the rulemaking process and DLIS priorities.
- Deirdre Des Jardins, California Water Research: Ms. Des Jardins shared concerns about the impact on small communities that are most vulnerable to sea-level rise and transportation impacts from major construction projects.

After public comment, Ms. Pearson provided her observations regarding the difficulty of the project and acknowledged the work of the MOU workgroup. Lastly, Councilmember Villegas and DWR discussed the amount of local participation in their decision-making process.

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The Delta Levees Investments Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-11-21> minute 01:38:50.

8. Delta Watermaster Update (Information Item)

Chair Tatayon introduced Delta Watermaster Michael Patrick George. Mr. George presented on new staff in his office, efforts to prepare for the next drought, implementing diversion measurement strategies in the Delta, improving Term 91 administration, and the deterioration of ecosystem services in the Southern Delta. He also discussed a new Holland Tract project to improve water rights administration in the Delta.

Councilmembers discussed the Holland Tract project. Councilmembers also asked about issues with overlapping water rights and the development of a protocol for responding to data requests.

Public Comment:

- Deirdre Des Jardins, California Water Research: Regarding the preparation for the next drought, Ms. Des Jardins shared concerns about inaccurate water data due to the lack of flow meters for the State Water Project.

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The Delta Watermaster Update is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-11-21> minute 03:17:04.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment

11. Preparation for Next Council Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

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