



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

715 P Street, 15-300
Sacramento, CA 95814

916.445.5511
DELTA.COUNCIL.CA.GOV

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MEMBERS
Diane Burgis
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COUNCIL APPOINTS A DELTA LEAD SCIENTIST FOR A LIMITED TERM AND A DELTA INDEPENDENT SCIENCE BOARD MEMBER

SACRAMENTO – At its October 26, 2023, meeting, the Delta Stewardship Council unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers as Delta lead scientist for a limited term and Dr. Kenneth Rose to the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB).

In August, Delta Lead Scientist Dr. Laurel Larsen announced that she would be leaving her position in November, prior to the expiration of her second term. The Council, in partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), is currently in the process of recruiting a lead scientist to succeed Dr. Larsen. That process is expected to conclude in the summer of 2024. In the interim, the Council has appointed Dr. Windham-Myers as the lead scientist for a limited term to help guide the Delta Science Program while the recruitment process is completed.

“We have immense gratitude for Dr. Larsen and her invaluable contributions to the Council, the Delta Science Program, and the broader Delta community as lead scientist since 2020,” said Council Chair Virginia Madueño. “We also feel incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Windham-Myers, whose qualifications are exceptional, stepping into this role, given the current priorities of the Council and its Delta Science Program.”

Dr. Windham-Myers is a systems ecologist with the USGS. She received her Ph.D. from Rutgers University in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources and was a university professor before joining the USGS. Her research examines processes at the interface of land and aquatic systems, including water flow, storage, and quality at landscape scales. She has extensively studied the conditions in wetlands and

estuaries that sequester and release greenhouse gases and control methylmercury dynamics.

“I look forward to working with this broad team – the Council, Delta Science Program staff, Delta ISB members, and the many Delta stakeholders – to keep momentum on current science directives and accelerate discovery through dialogue and data sharing,” said Dr. Windham-Myers. “My predecessor’s works have charted an inclusive path forward, and I plan to keep these initiatives going.”

The term of office for Dr. Windham-Myers will begin on December 1, 2023, and conclude on June 30, 2024, unless extended by the Council. This appointment will not preclude Dr. Windham-Myers from participating as an applicant in the recruitment process.

The Delta lead scientist is responsible for providing vision, leadership, and unbiased science expertise to the Council, the Delta Science Program, and the science community. One of the responsibilities of this role is to provide recommendations to the Council with respect to appointments to the Delta ISB.

At the October Council meeting, Dr. Larsen recommended the appointment of Dr. Kenneth Rose.

“Dr. Rose is an internationally recognized fish ecologist whose work has been applied to decision support in a wide range of ecosystems, including the Delta,” said Dr. Larsen. “He brings a wealth of experience on review boards and with collaborative leadership, and he previously served on the CALFED Independent Science Board.”

Dr. Rose is the France-Merrick Professor in Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration at the Horn Point Laboratory of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Prior to this position, Dr. Rose was a professor at Louisiana State University and a research staff member at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. His research centers on using mathematical and computer simulation modeling to predict and better understand fish population and food web dynamics in estuaries, lakes, reservoirs, and oceans.

Dr. Rose will begin his term on the Delta ISB on January 15, 2024, and will fill the position currently occupied by Dr. Stephen Brandt, whose term on the Delta ISB is ending.

For more information, contact 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](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov) (deltacouncil.ca.gov).

ABOUT THE DELTA ISB

Established in 2010, the Delta ISB is a board of 10 prominent scientists with expertise to evaluate the broad range of scientific programs that support adaptive management of the Delta region. The Delta ISB advises the Council and provides oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs in the Delta through periodic reviews.