

***DRAFT 6/30/14 – SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
For Review and Adoption by the DSC at the July 25, 2014 Meeting***

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL  
June 26, 2014  
Park Tower Plaza  
980 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

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***June 26, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.***

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m., June 26, 2014, by Chair Randy Fiorini.

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

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. The following members were present: Patrick Johnston, Randy Fiorini, Phil Isenberg, Frank Damrell, Larry Ruhstaller, Susan Tatayon and Gloria Gray.

**3. Chair's Report**

Chair Fiorini began the Chair's Report by formally introducing new Council member Susan Tatayon. Ms. Tatayon stated she was honored to serve on the Council. Next, Chair Fiorini gave a brief overview of the agenda. Chair Fiorini stated the day's theme was on flood management issues and in-Delta transportation which would both provide useful information for the levees investment strategy.

**4. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)**

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson began with an overview of the agenda items scheduled for the day. Ms. Pearson made brief comments on the statewide drought conditions, noting that 33% of California was in an exceptional drought. Ms. Pearson discussed statistics of the drought and surveys conducted by the water agencies. She described water conservation efforts as well as issues related to water diversion curtailment notices. Ms. Pearson updated the Council on activities in which she has been involved since the May meeting such as finalizing the contract between the Council and ARCADIS for the Levee Prioritization project. Ms. Pearson stated that the Council could expect its first product to be a White Paper on flood risk and Delta levees. Ms. Pearson also reported the comment letter on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), approved by the Council at the May meeting, had been sent, noting however, the BDCP implementation agreement would likely generate additional comments. The comment period ends July 29.

In wrapping up, Ms. Pearson made brief comments on the Governor's budget, stating it further supported the Council's move from a planning agency to an implementation agency that includes the capacity to administer regulations. She said the Council was allocated 12 new positions and still had four existing vacancies to fill. Finally, Ms. Pearson introduced Dustin Jones, a newly hired Supervising Engineer who would serve as the lead engineer the Planning Division. Mr. Jones comes from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and prior to DWR was with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Bureau of Reclamation. At the Council, Mr. Jones will assist the levee investment strategy, covered actions, performance measures.

Throughout the Executive Officer's Report, Ms. Pearson heard Council members' comments answered questions and provided clarification.

#### **4a. Legislative Update**

Jessica Pearson made brief remarks on the various water bond proposals and brought key dates to the Council members' attention. Next, Ms. Pearson asked Elizabeth Marsolais, the Council's Executive Fellow to provide the Council with a brief Legislative Update. Ms. Marsolais' update is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Leg\\_Update.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Leg_Update.pdf).

#### **4b. Legal Update**

Chris Stevens introduced the Council's summer intern, Adam Silva, a second year student of McGeorge School of Law. Mr. Silva presented the Legal Update that is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Legal\\_Update.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Legal_Update.pdf).

#### **4c. Mid-Year Status Update on 2014 Priorities**

Ms. Pearson provided the Council with an update on the status of staff priorities for 2014. The report was a mid-year update of the staff priorities that were presented to the Council at its December 2013 Council meeting. Ms. Pearson drew the Council members' attention to the spreadsheet included as Attachment 1 and stated it included dates and timelines and would be a tool used to develop Council agendas for the next year and would end with an annual report. Ms. Pearson was joined by Dr. Goodwin, Cindy Messer and Dan Ray as she discussed the identified priorities and the activities to support them. Ms. Pearson emphasized five key projects and seven core functions. The key projects are: Delta Levees Investment Strategy, Interim Science Action Agenda, Habitat Restoration, Flows, and Land Use. The core functions to support the Delta Plan implementation are: the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee, Covered Actions, Delta Science Plan Implementation, Maintenance of the State of the Bay-Delta Science, Performance Reporting, BDCP, and Federal Approval. Dr. Goodwin described how the Science Plan fit into the activities Ms. Pearson described including the development of the Interim Science Action Agenda. Dr. Goodwin also explained how the State of the Bay-Delta Science was to be updated. Ms. Pearson also briefed the Council on other activities that advance the Delta Plan such as adaptive management including a description of the tasks identified for a scientist or engineer serving as an Adaptive Management Liaison. The Council members also offered suggestions for the spreadsheet Ms. Pearson discussed.

Throughout the discussions of the 2014 Priorities, Ms. Pearson, Dr. Goodwin, Mr. Ray and Ms. Messer heard Council members' comments, provided clarification and answered questions.

## 5. Lead Scientist's Report

The Lead Scientist's Report was presented by Dr. Goodwin. Dr. Goodwin briefed the Council on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT) reviews. CAMT is working with the Delta Science Program on plans for reviews of both research proposals and reports from research projects. The reviews are expected to start this summer. Dr. Goodwin also reported on the planning that has started for the annual review of the actions to implement the Biological Opinions. The review will take place in early November and drought-related impacts and actions will be a focus this year. Next, Dr. Goodwin was joined by George Isaac and Sam Harader, who briefed the Council on the Delta Science Program's data summit that was held on June 5-6. Mr. Isaac made brief remarks on the results of the summit.

Dr. Goodwin discussed the possibility of El Niño conditions occurring by next Fall-Winter. Dr. Goodwin explained what an El Niño was and its possible effect on the drought. Dr. Goodwin stated he would continue to update the Council as information becomes available.

Finally, Dr. Goodwin asked Jennifer Bigman, the Sea Grant Fellow to provide a summary of the current numbers related to Delta water and environmental management. *By the Numbers*, which was provided to the Council and is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item%205\\_Attach%201.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item%205_Attach%201.pdf).

Throughout the discussion of Lead Scientist's Report, Dr. Goodwin heard Council members' comments, answered questions and provided clarification. Following the discussion of Agenda Item 5 Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to comment. There were none.

## 6. Adoption of the May 29-30, 2014 Meeting Summary (Action Item)

Chair Fiorini asked if there were any questions, suggestions or comments from the Council or public regarding the May 29-30, 2014, Meeting Summary. There were none.

**Motion:** (Offered by Johnston; seconded by Ruhstaller) to approve the May 29-30, 2014, meeting summary.

**Vote:** (7/0: Johnston, Gray, Fiorini, Isenberg, Ruhstaller, Damrell, Tatayon) and the motion was adopted.

*The video showing this vote can be found at: <http://dsc.videoss.com/archives/062614/> Agenda Item 6. Archive Segment Number 10 of 24 at 00:53.*

## **7. Road and Rail Transportation in the Delta (Information Item)**

Deputy Executive Officer Cindy Messer and Jessica Davenport presented this Agenda Item. Ms. Messer gave an overview of the presentation and explained the intent of the information provided was for the Council to consider how best to integrate transportation issues into its ongoing levee investment prioritization study, provide additional consultation to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan agencies on mitigation of transportation impacts, and promote better coordination of the many transportation planning efforts in the Delta, including Caltrans' climate change vulnerability assessments. Following the overview provided by Ms. Messer, she was joined by Jessica Davenport and the following panel: Garth Hopkins, Chief of the Office of Regional Planning of the Division of Transportation Planning for Caltrans; Martin Engelmann, Deputy Director of Planning for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority; Michael Selling, Deputy Director of Engineering Services for San Joaquin County Public Works; and Sam Shelton, Associate Planner for the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG).

Mr. Hopkins presented a PowerPoint on work related to climate change adaptation planning and highways located in the Delta. Mr. Hopkins' presentation is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_7\\_Garth\\_Hopkins\\_Presentation.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_7_Garth_Hopkins_Presentation.pdf).

Mr. Engelmann presented a PowerPoint on transportation issues in the Delta portions of Contra Costa County. Mr. Engelmann's presentation is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Atenda\\_Item\\_7\\_Martin\\_Engelmann\\_Presentation.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Atenda_Item_7_Martin_Engelmann_Presentation.pdf).

Mr. Selling presented a PowerPoint on the current and future challenges to operations and maintenance of San Joaquin County roadways in the Delta. Mr. Selling's presentation is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_7\\_Michael\\_Selling\\_Presentation.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_7_Michael_Selling_Presentation.pdf).

Mr. Shelton presented a PowerPoint on the status of SACOG's Rural-Urban connections program. Mr. Shelton's presentation is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_7\\_Sam\\_Shelton\\_Presentation.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_7_Sam_Shelton_Presentation.pdf).

Following the panel presentations, Jessica Davenport made closing remarks. Ms. Davenport stated implementation of the Delta Plan's recommendations related to transportation support the state's efforts to protect and enhance the Delta as an evolving place and described recommendations DP R2, DP R5, and DP R6. Ms. Davenport reiterated two main challenges facing the Delta's transportation system – the poor condition of existing infrastructure and flood risk that is projected to increase because of climate change.

Throughout the discussions of Item 7, Ms. Messer, Ms. Davenport and the panel members heard Council members' comments, answered questions and provided clarification. Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to comment. There were none.

Following the presentations of Agenda Item 7, the Council recessed for lunch at 11:45 and reconvened the meeting at 1:30.

## **8. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Interim Policy for the Levee Rehabilitation Program (Information Item)**

Ms. Messer presented Agenda Item 8 and began by giving background information on the Delta Reform Act's requirement to reduce risk to people, property, and state interests in the Delta by promoting effective emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses, and strategic levee investments. Ms. Messer stated the update presented today was the fourth in a series of presentations regarding state and federal Delta levees and Delta emergency response programs.

Paige Caldwell, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District Emergency Manager, joined Ms. Messer to brief the Council on this item. Ms. Caldwell presented a PowerPoint on the Interim Policy for Determining Eligibility Status of Flood Risk Management Projects for the Rehabilitation Program, pursuant to Public Law 84-99 to brief the Council about the Interim Policy for the program and its potential impacts for the Delta. Ms. Caldwell's presentation is posted to the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_8\\_Paige\\_Caldwell\\_Presentation.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_8_Paige_Caldwell_Presentation.pdf).

Following Ms. Caldwell's presentation, Ms. Messer concluded by stating the Council staff will track the development of the USACE's policy revision and may invite them back to brief the Council as updates are needed.

Throughout the discussions of Agenda Item 8, Ms. Messer and Ms. Caldwell answered Council members' questions and provided clarification. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Fiorini asked if there were any member of the public who wished to comment on this item. There were none.

## **9. Delta Flood Emergency Response and Recovery (Information Item)**

Ms. Messer began by giving brief background information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study. Ms. Messer stated the USACE released its draft Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study Report and Environmental Impact Statement. Ms. Messer was joined by Brooke Schlenker and Mark Cowan, both with the Planning Division of the USACE Sacramento District and Dave Mraz, Chief of the Delta Levees and Environmental Engineering Branch of DWR. The panel briefed the Council on the feasibility study and the next steps needed for its implementation as well as the presentation of the Tentatively Selected Plan to the Council.

Ms. Schlenker presented a PowerPoint on the Delta Study. Ms. Schlenker's presentation is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_9\\_Brooke\\_Schlenker\\_Presentation.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_Brooke_Schlenker_Presentation.pdf).

Throughout the report, Ms. Messer and the panel members answered Council members' questions and provided clarification. At the conclusion of the Groundwater and the Delta Plan Report, Chair Fiorini asked if there were any member of the public who wished to comment on this item. There were none.

## **10. Public Comment**

Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to address the Council.

Erik Vink, Delta Protection Commission, requested to speak on Agenda Item 9, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study. Mr. Vink stated the Delta Protection Commission submitted a letter on the USACE's project and while they applaud the restoration project as it has all the right features for a restoration project they were disappointed in the analysis for levee improvement as the USACE does not give adequate consideration to water supply benefits in doing the cost benefit analysis. Mr. Vink stated the levees in the Delta are critical for ensuring the operations of the export system at the south end of the Delta and he felt if factored in, there would be a more favorable cost benefit ratio and maybe some feasible projects for levee improvements. Mr. Vink stated this concern will be discussed with the Commission and they would be expressing this concern to the USACE and the Congressional delegation.

**11. Preparation for Next Council Meeting – Discuss (a) expected agenda items; (b) new work assignments for staff; (c) requests from Council members; (d) other requests from Council members; and (e) confirm next meeting date – July 25, 2014, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at Park Tower Plaza, 980 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento.**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.**