



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A California State Agency

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Date: May 17, 2012
To: Delta Stewardship Council Members
From: Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer
Subject: May 24, 2012 Meeting

Chair
Phil Isenberg

Members
Randy Fiorini
Gloria Gray
Patrick Johnston
Felicia Marcus
Hank Nordhoff
Don Nottoli

Executive Officer
P. Joseph Grindstaff

The agenda and supporting materials for our May meeting are attached. Some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting. Unlike the majority of our two-day Council meetings, May's meeting will take place on only one day – Thursday, May 24, 2012.

Closed Session (not open to the public) (Agenda Item 2)

At our first board meeting on April 1, 2010, I indicated my intention to step down from state service. The Chair and Vice Chair requested I stay until the Delta Plan was completed, and the Council agreed. Now that the completion of the Delta Plan is in sight, I have formally notified the Council of my intent to resign and retire as Executive Officer of the Delta Stewardship Council, hopefully as of this September. The recruitment process for my replacement will be discussed during the closed session.

Also, congratulations are in order for Felicia Marcus who has been appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board. She will bring great knowledge, experience and commitment to the position and the state is very fortunate she is willing to take on the assignment. She will remain a member of the Council until she is sworn into that position, probably fairly soon.

Delta Independent Science Board Report (Agenda Item 8)

Chair Richard Norgaard will discuss the Delta ISB's two most recent meetings, the first on May 3-4, 2012 and the second on May 17, 2012. Included will be the Delta ISB's responses to questions posed by a State Water Resources Control Board Deputy Director regarding the San Joaquin River flow objectives phase of the SWRCB's Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update. Also, Chair Norgaard will present a memo written to state legislators explaining the need for stable funding for the Delta Science Program.

I expect the Council will complete discussion of these reports Thursday morning.

Delta Plan (Agenda Item 9)

The final staff draft of the Delta Plan was released on Monday, May 14, 2010. This is the sixth in an iterative series of drafts that reflect staff's recommendation for an enforceable Delta Plan that meets the requirements of the Delta Reform Act and direction provided by the Council. As

"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

– CA Water Code §85054

with prior drafts, we invite written public comments until June 13th and these comments will be considered in the final draft and posted on the web.

We expect to walk through this draft at this meeting where staff will brief the Council on what has changed between the fifth draft released last August and now. For instance, the final staff draft of the Delta Plan includes 14 proposed regulatory policies and 68 recommendations – a slight increase in number compared to the fifth staff draft for both policies (12) and recommendations (61). Numerous changes have also been made to the organization, chapter structure and graphics in this final staff draft compared to previous versions.

The Council will meet on June 14-15 to review the draft in greater detail, and then meet on June 28-29 where staff anticipate bringing a final draft Plan to the Council for its review. There will be significant time for public comment and discussion at the May meeting and in June. The second meeting in June is when we would expect the Council to give final direction on preparation of the final draft which becomes the basis for environmental review. When that direction has been received, we will proceed to complete and circulate an additional Environmental Impact Review volume that will supplement the already-circulated draft Programmatic EIR to address, as a separate and new alternative, the policies and recommendations in the final draft Delta Plan. These steps lead to a presentation in the fall of a final Delta Plan, its final PEIR, and implementing regulations to the Council for adoption by December 2012.

Public Comment (Agenda Item 10)

Time for public comment on all agenda items will be available.

The May 24th meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn and Suites, 1250 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691. If I can answer any questions or provide any information, please contact me at (916) 445-4500 or jgrindstaff@deltacouncil.ca.gov

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