



**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**  
A California State Agency

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Date: January 16, 2013  
To: Delta Stewardship Council Members  
From: Christopher Knopp, Executive Officer  
Subject: Council Meeting on January 24, 2013

**Chair**  
Phil Isenberg

**Members**  
Randy Fiorini  
Gloria Gray  
Patrick Johnston  
Hank Nordhoff  
Don Nottoli

**Executive Officer**  
Christopher M. Knopp

The January 24, 2013 Council meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn and Suites, 1250 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691. The agenda and supporting materials for the meeting are attached. Some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting.

**Hearing to Receive Public Comments on the Proposed Rulemaking Package**

(Agenda Items 3a and 3b)

A 45-day public review and comment period on the 14 draft regulatory policies in the Final Draft Delta Plan began when a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on November 30, 2012. That comment period concluded on January 14, 2013. The Council, however, decided to hold an additional comment period at the beginning of its January 24, 2013 Council meeting. An explanation of the hearing process will be held first, followed by the public comment period starting at 9:30 a.m. The comment period will close when it is apparent that there are no further commenters. A certified shorthand reporter will record the comments for inclusion and response in the Rulemaking record.

**Report from the Delta Watermaster** (Agenda Item 6)

Craig Wilson, the Delta Watermaster, will brief the Council on his recent report entitled: *Term 91: Stored Water Bypass Requirements*. The California Water Code directs the Delta Watermaster to submit regular reports to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and to the Council on water issues. Mr. Wilson recently drafted the report, which explores the enhanced use and more vigorous enforcement of diversion curtailments as a means to achieve flow standards. The report will also focus on 1) better enforcement of existing curtailment requirements and 2) the types of proceedings and other measures that can be taken to ensure that stored flows are not diverted, but rather are bypassed when they are needed to meet Delta flow standards. He presented it to the SWRCB on December 4, 2012. He will brief the Council on this report and engage in a discussion with Council members.

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*"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

**Presentation from the 2011 and 2012 Class of Science Fellows for the Delta Science Program** (Agenda Item 7)

The Delta Science Fellows Program funds postdoctoral and graduate researchers to work with community and scientific mentors on Delta research priorities. Current Fellows from the 2011 Class and incoming Fellows from the 2012 Class will provide short presentations about their projects. Delta Science Fellows and their research projects are selected through a rigorous external peer-review process. The goal of funding this research is to invest in knowledge that will advance understanding of the complex Delta system that will aid policymakers and managers, be relevant to the Delta Stewardship Council's coequal goals, and to develop the next generation of research scientists.

**Lead Scientist Report** (Agenda Item 8)

Lead Scientist, Dr. Peter Goodwin, will discuss five items before the Council. They are: 1) the fall delta smelt index and its effect on water operations; 2) an overview of the latest issue of the *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science Journal*; 3) the recent special issue of *Environmental Biology of Fishes* summarizing findings from electronic tagging study in the Sacramento and San Joaquin watersheds; 4) highlights from the recent Delta Science Program and UC Davis Center for Aquatic Biology & Aquaculture (CABA) Seminar titled, "What is a Natural Hydrograph in Regulated Rivers?"; and 5) the ongoing planning and development of the Delta Science Plan.

**Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) Report** (Agenda Item 9)

Delta ISB Chair Dr. Richard Norgaard will brief the Council on the Delta ISB's recent public teleconference held on January 9, 2013 and its public meeting held on January 16-17, 2013. Discussion items at the January 9 teleconference included a potential draft format for the Delta ISB's report on the habitat restoration/climate change program review theme. At the January 16-17 meeting, the Delta ISB continued its review of habitat restoration efforts in the Delta receiving information from consultants working in the field as well as a presentation from staff from the San Francisco Estuary Institute on using historical ecology to inform the development of habitat restoration projects.

As always, time for public comment on these agenda items, as well as any item of relevance to the Council, will be available. If I can answer any questions or provide any information, please contact me at (916) 445-4500 or [chris.knopp@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:chris.knopp@deltacouncil.ca.gov)