



**DRAFT**

***For Review and Adoption by the Council at the January 23, 2020 Meeting***

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL  
Thursday, December 19, 2019  
Park Tower  
Conference Center  
980 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Tatayon called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM, December 19, 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: Maria Mehranian, Randy Fiorini, Susan Tatayon, Mike Gatto, and Oscar Villegas.

Councilmember Mike Gatto attended via teleconference.

Councilmember Ken Weinberg arrived during the adoption of the Meeting Summary.

Councilmember Frank Damrell was absent.

**3. and 4. Closed Executive Session: Litigation (Not Open to the Public) (Action Item)**

The Closed Executive Session was canceled. Chair Tatayon moved to Agenda Item 5, the November 21, 2019 Meeting Summary.

**5. Adoption of November 21, 2019 Meeting Summary REVISED (Action Item)**

The meeting summary was revised prior to the meeting. There were no changes to the revised meeting summary during the meeting.

**Motion:** Offered by Mehranian, second by Fiorini - Approve the November 21, 2019 revised meeting summary.

**Vote:** 6/0 – Gatto, Weinberg, Mehranian, Fiorini, Tatayon, and Villegas. The motion was adopted.

*All Council-developed 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/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-12-19> minute 00:01:57.

## 6. Chair's Report (Information Item)

Chair Tatayon participated in a panel at the Association of California Water Agencies Conference on December 4, 2019. During the panel discussion, Chair Tatayon spoke on the Council's science initiatives, how the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) relates to the Delta, and the Council's policy on reduced reliance (WRP1). She also attended the Public Policy Institute of California's (PPIC) luncheon titled, *A Path Forward for California's Freshwater Ecosystems*, on December 5, 2019. During the event, the Delta Plan was highlighted as an example of an ecosystem-based management plan. Chair Tatayon encouraged the public to view the video recording of this event at: <https://www.ppic.org/event/a-path-forward-for-californias-freshwater-ecosystems/>.

On December 18, 2019 Chair Tatayon attended the kickoff meeting for Resources Secretary Crowfoot's Green Tape Initiative roundtable discussion, charged with increasing permitting efficiencies for restoration. The goal of this effort is to have recommendations for increasing permitting and funding efficiencies by the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2020.

Vice Chair Fiorini shared that he attended the second half of Secretary Crowfoot's Delta roundtable on December 16, 2019. During this session, the attendees received an update on the Natural Resources Agency's Delta conveyance project, the State Water Project's Environmental Impact Report, and the voluntary agreement. He stated that there was some misunderstanding of the Council's role at the meeting. He asked that the Council return to the next roundtable in March 2020 as a presenter.

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The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-12-19> minute 00:02:40.

## 7. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson stated that the public review draft Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment was released last month for a 60-day public comment period. The draft is available on the Council's website at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/amendments> or by emailing the Council at [ecosystemamendment@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:ecosystemamendment@deltacouncil.ca.gov) for a copy. The public is invited to submit comments by January 21, 2020, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Pearson stated that Council staff sent out two comment letters during the past month:

- San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority for their Long-Term Water Transfers Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report.
- City of Lathrop for their Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Lathrop Consolidated Treatment Facility Surface Water Discharge Project.

The public review period for the Central Valley Flood Protection Board's submitted certification for consistency for the American River Watershed Common Features project closed on November 25, 2019, with no appeals.

The Council received a certification of consistency from Contra Costa County for the Lower Marsh Creek Stream Corridor Restoration Program. The public review period began on November 29, 2019 and ends December 30, 2019.

#### **7a. Legal Update**

There was no legal update.

#### **7b. and 7c. Outreach and Highlights Report and Active Projects List (Information Item)**

Councilmembers received these reports in their binders.

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The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-12-19> minute 00:08:29.

#### **8. Lead Scientist's Report (Information Item)**

Delta Lead Scientist Dr. John Callaway invited the Director of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership Caitlin Sweeney and Resilient Landscapes Program Director for the San Francisco Estuary Institute Dr. Letitia Grenier (attended by phone) to present on the 2019 State of the Estuary Report. Ms. Sweeney provided an overview of the Partnership's background, the estuary's landscape resilience, and the updated indicators findings from the report. She also emphasized the report's focus on urban green space, racial equity, underserved communities, and environmental justice.

Councilmembers discussed comparing the complexities of the Bay and Delta and how the Council can further the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's initiatives.

Public Comment:

- Osha Meserve, Local Agencies of the North Delta: Ms. Meserve shared concerns about the process for the determination of functional flows and the amount of public engagement in the voluntary agreements.
- Alf Brandt, California Assembly Speaker: Mr. Brandt acknowledged and was complimentary of the Council's work. Mr. Brandt suggested the Council further coordinate science, land use, and assistance for counties with other agencies.

Following the presentation, Dr. Callaway provided his report that included: an article from *Science* on river dynamics and restoration, a summarization of recent conferences, workshops, and symposia, and provided the *By the Numbers Report*.

Regarding the *Science* article, Councilmembers and Dr. Callaway discussed the article's findings that emphasize connectivity between flow and habitat.

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The Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-12-19> minute 00:15:12.

## **9. Delta Conveyance Update**

Chair Tatayon introduced the Department of Water Resource's (DWR) Environmental Program Manager Carrie Buckman to provide an update on DWR's Delta Conveyance Program. Ms. Buckman first highlighted changes to the program. Some of the changes include a new approach from two tunnels to a single tunnel conveyance system. She also provided the next steps for the project, stating that the agency is preparing to submit a Notice of Preparation (NOP), which initiates the California Environmental Quality Act review. The NOP will include the proposed project description, objectives, and the range of reasonable alternatives. Ms. Buckman stated that DWR intends to enter into early consultation with the Council as soon as the project description is developed. Lastly, Ms. Buckman announced that the program recently released a soil investigation initial study and a proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. The public review for those documents will end on January 15, 2020.

Ms. Buckman concluded her presentation by reviewing project highlights and the roles and responsibilities of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA).

Councilmembers and Ms. Buckman discussed modernizing Delta conveyance, the members of the Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC), the planned public outreach for the project, how the program will incorporate the Delta Plan at the beginning of the development process, and how the program will apply lessons learned from WaterFix.

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The Delta Conveyance Update is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-12-19> minute 01:06:58.

## **10. Delta Plan Performance Measures: 2019 Year in Review (Information Item)**

Chair Tatayon introduced Deputy Executive Officer for Planning Jeff Henderson and Program Manager Martina Koller. Mr. Henderson provided an overview of the project's background, the addition of the administrative performance measures to the Performance Measures Dashboard, and the next steps for the upcoming year. Ms. Koller walked the Council through the dashboard interface, user analytics, outreach efforts with partner agencies, and the feedback received during outreach.

Councilmembers discussed simple ways to use the dashboard and the type of feedback received from stakeholders. Councilmember Villegas asked staff to add the date of the next data update so viewers know when to expect an update.

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The Delta Plan Performance Measures: 2019 Year in Review is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-12-19> minute 01:27:03.

**11. Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment

**12. Preparation for Next Council Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

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