



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A California State Agency

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Date: April 24, 2020

To: Delta Stewardship Councilmembers

From: Jessica R. Pearson, Executive Officer

Subject: Upcoming Council Meeting – April 30 and May 1, 2020

Chair
Susan Tatayon

Members
Frank C. Damrell, Jr.
Randy Fiorini
Michael Gatto
Maria Mehranian
Oscar Villegas
Daniel Zingale

Executive Officer
Jessica R. Pearson

Our meeting this month is a two-day meeting and will be conducted remotely in accordance with Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 issued on March 12, 2020, and N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020. The Council continues to prioritize opportunities for remote participation by the public while also enacting prudent measures to reduce community transmission of COVID-19. Please see the meeting notice for details.

First, I would like to welcome our new councilmember, Daniel Zingale, who was appointed by Governor Newsom and sworn in on April 10, 2020. Councilmember Zingale comes to us most recently as the senior advisor for strategy and communications in the Governor's Office. He replaces Councilmember Weinberg who has our gratitude for his four years of service to the Council.

On Thursday, April 30, the Council will consider acting on several items that progress the work of the Council as part of its consent calendar, including amendments to contracts and interagency agreements.

In addition, Dr. Elizabeth Canuel will present the Delta Independent Science Board's (Delta ISB) recommendation for the appointment of the next Delta Lead Scientist, for the Council's consideration and vote. The candidate will be joining the meeting to address the Council and be available for questions from Councilmembers.

On our second day, Friday May 1, staff will present the May 2020 Draft Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment. The Council has been advising staff and reviewing iterative drafts of the Ecosystem Amendment since 2017. This latest draft is based on comments received from councilmembers, the public, federal, state, and local stakeholders, and the Delta ISB, on the last draft released for public comment in November 2019. The presentation will summarize comments received and discuss how they were addressed in the revised draft.

Staff will seek Council authorization to initiate an environmental review process for the Ecosystem Amendment under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), using the May 2020 draft as the proposed project. The CEQA process represents an additional phase of public engagement regarding the Ecosystem Amendment that will last approximately one year,

"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

leading to Council consideration of the CEQA analysis and final Ecosystem Amendment document in Summer 2021.

I expect each day's meeting to last between two and three hours in length.

If I can answer any questions or provide any other information, please contact me at (916) 445-4500 or jessica.pearson@deltacouncil.ca.gov.