



**DRAFT**

**SUMMARY: NOVEMBER 19, 2020  
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For Review and Adoption by the Council at the December 17, 2020 meeting.

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 12, 2020, and the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, the meeting's proceedings were conducted entirely remotely.

All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>.

MEETING SUMMARY

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**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Susan Tatayon called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, November 19, 2020.

**2. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISH A QUORUM (WATER CODE §85210.5)**

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. The following Councilmembers were present: Frank Damrell, Mike Gatto, Maria Mehranian, Oscar Villegas, and Susan Tatayon.

Councilmember Daniel Zingale arrived during the Consent Calendar.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)**

*3a. Adoption of October 22, 2020 Meeting Summary*

*3b. Amendment to an Agreement with AECOM for the Delta Adapts Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy*

**Motion:** Offered by Villegas, second by Mehranian – approve the Consent Calendar items.

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

The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-11-19> minute 00:02:06.

**4. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Special Assistant for Planning & Science Amanda Bohl provided highlights of the October 26, 2020 Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) meeting. During the DPIIC meeting, members were updated on the initial outcomes and next steps from the October 5-6, 2020 Science Needs Assessment Workshop. The DPIIC members also heard updates on climate change adaptation, including the initial findings from the Council's Delta Adapts vulnerability assessment, the status of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Bay Adapt initiative, and Governor Newsom's high priority efforts around climate change.

The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-11-19> minute 00:02:42.

**5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson reminded the public that the Council's physical office is closed. However, Council staff is working remotely to support physical distancing efforts. The public should contact [hello@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:hello@deltacouncil.ca.gov) to be directed to the appropriate staff person for assistance. Additionally, the Council has changed its public meeting format to be fully remote in the interest of public health safety standards, while in emergency status.

The Council sent two comment letters on active projects during the past month:

- Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Association of Bay Area Governments: Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report regarding Plan Bay Area 2050
- Brannan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District: Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Sacramento River Erosion Control and Habitat Enhancement Project

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board has filed a certification of consistency for the American River Watershed Common Features, Sacramento East Levee Contract 2 Project. The public review period runs through November 25, 2020.

Matthew Gaither joins the Council as Human Resources Manager. Executive Officer Pearson and the Council also thanked Lita Brydie for her service as Council Clerk as she transitions to a new position within the Council's Planning Division.

Executive Officer Pearson also noted that the Outreach Highlights report and Active Projects List were available in the Councilmember's packets and on the Council's website.

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### 5a. Legal Update (*Information Item*)

Chief Counsel Bethany Pane had nothing to report during the legal update.

The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-11-19> minute 00:05:50.

## 6. KEY DRAFT FINDINGS FROM THE DELTA ADAPTS VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Assistant Planning Director Harriet Ross, Supervising Engineer Andrew Schwarz, Senior Environmental Planner Avery Livengood, and Senior Environmental Scientist Dylan Chapple presented on key draft findings from the Council's climate change study – Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future (Delta Adapts). Staff discussed the methodology, outlined engagement opportunities, and highlighted findings from its analysis of the equity impacts and vulnerability risks related to flooding, water supply, and the Delta ecosystem due to climate change.

Councilmembers and panelists discussed opportunities for educational videos and the distribution of the Council's vulnerability assessment presentation, strategies to manage water supply, and how staff obtained the vulnerability data. After completion of the vulnerability assessment, Council staff will work with stakeholders and the Council members to scope out the adaptation phase.

### *Public Comment:*

Osha Meserve, representing Local Agencies of the North Delta, looks forward to engaging in the upcoming stakeholder meetings and expressed concern about how information on the maps are to be presented— in particular, the portrayal of flooding on land intended to be flooded for habitat restoration purposes, and levee investments.

Brett Milligan, U.C. Davis, a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for Delta Adapts, asked about the methods and next steps for the adaptation strategy portion of the study. Council staff responded with the timeframe and next steps.

This agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-11-19> minute 00:12:53.

## 7. DELTA LEVEES INVESTMENT STRATEGY UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)

Senior Water Resources Engineer Erin Mullin provided an update on the Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS), including the timeline and current status of incorporating new data within the Decision Support Tool. Council Legislative and Policy Advisor Ryan Stanbra, Department of Water Resources Policy Advisor Laura Hollander, and Central Valley Flood Protection Board Principal Engineer/Policy

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Advisor Darren Suen presented on the recent activities of the DLIS Memorandum of Understanding Workgroup.

Councilmembers and presenters discussed the impacts of DLIS on levee investments, funding availability, and management challenges.

*Public Comment:*

Gilbert Cosio expressed concern about the coordination and consistency among the Delta's various plans and strategies and how they influence DLIS priorities and actions. Cosio also recommended various strategies for securing funding (such as bond funding).

Osha Meserve, Local Agencies of the North Delta, stated a desire for DLIS to incorporate the complexities of the Delta into the priorities of DLIS and for the Council to have a role in bond accountability related to Delta levee funding.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-11-19> minute 01:15:05.

### 8. LEAD SCIENTIST'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Delta Lead Scientist Dr. Laurel Larsen discussed an article from *Ecological Applications* (on resistance and resilience of fish to drought), an update on the current proposal solicitation and recent Zooplankton Symposium, reviewed upcoming events, and provided the By the Numbers Report.

Councilmember Mehranian and Dr. Larsen discussed the sources and levels of stress that contribute to fish population decline. Councilmember Zingale expressed a desire to refine communication surrounding Delta science and the relationship between humans and the environment.

The Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-11-19> minute 02:01:58.

### 9. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

### 10. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2020 and will be conducted remotely.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

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