



DRAFT

**SUMMARY: JULY 28, 2022
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For review and adoption by the Council at the August 25, 2022, meeting.
All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at
<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>

MEETING SUMMARY

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Virginia Madueño called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM on July 28, 2022.

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, Virginia Madueño, Maria Mehranian, Don Nottoli, and Christy Smith.

Councilmembers Julie Lee and Daniel Zingale were absent.

3. CLOSED SESSION

The Council may discuss litigation matters pursuant to Government Code §11126 (e)(2)(A), (e)(2)(B)(i), and/or (e)(2)(C)(i), including: (a) Delta Stewardship Council Cases, Coordinated Proceeding JCCP No. 4758; (b) North Coast Rivers Alliance, et al. v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Ct. No. 34-2018-80002898; and (c) Takahashi v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Ct. No. 34-2018-00232084.

(This closed session is authorized under Government Code section 11126, subdivision (e).)

The Council adjourned for closed session at 9:02 am.

4. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

Chair Madueño re-convened the meeting at 10:00 AM and announced that there was nothing to report from the closed session.

5. ROLL CALL- ESTABLISH A QUORUM (WATER CODE §85210.5)

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was re-established. The following councilmembers were present: Frank Damrell, Virginia Madueño, Maria Mehranian, Don Nottoli, and Christy Smith.

Chair Madueño announced that agenda item 11, 2022 Science Fellows Cohort Introduction, would be switched with agenda item 10, Lead Scientist Report, due to the time constraints of the presenters.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)

Motion: (approve the consent calendar) Offered by Mehranian, second by Smith.

Vote: 5/0 - The motion was adopted (Damrell: Aye, Madueño: Aye, Mehranian: Aye, Nottoli: Aye, Smith: Aye).

The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3Rbkx2P> minute 04:25

7. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Madueño congratulated and welcomed new Chief Counsel, Jorge Aguilar. Madueño also noted her opportunity to reflect on the efforts being made by various agencies, and the cohesive role of the Council, in those efforts during a boat tour in the Delta. The tour was hosted for visiting Department of the Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Gary Gold, as well as other staff from the Council, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, and the Delta Watermaster.

Chair Madueño commented on a productive meeting with California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot and California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross to discuss collaborative efforts that would advance sustainability in the Delta.

Executive Fellow, Chris Klier, gave a debrief on the July 18 Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) meeting. Klier thanked Dr. Laurel Larsen for filling in as chair for the meeting and facilitating the panel discussion on designing a successful monitoring framework in the Delta and the role the committee should fulfill in that process. DPIIC members also endorsed the 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda, and several members noted their strong support of the document. Lastly, the Delta Crosscut Budget Report was presented, and DPIIC members stressed the

importance of the information being compiled in the document. The next DPIIC meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2022.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3Rbkx2P> minute 5:11

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson announced that the upcoming Science for Communities Workshop would take place at the Big Break Center in Oakley on October 6, from 3-7 PM. The Council is hosting the workshop to boost the Delta community's awareness and access to the environmental data and technical tools available to them and to foster interaction between scientists and community members looking to get more engaged. Registration will be open in late summer.

The Department of Water Resources released the draft Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Conveyance Project. Council staff will begin reviewing the document during the next 90 days and will prepare a comment letter. The Council will also be informed by the Delta Independent Science Board's review of the document.

On July 6, Reclamation District 2028 submitted a certification of consistency for the Bacon Island Levee Rehabilitation Project - Connection Slough and Santa Fe Cut Corridor. The project seeks to rehabilitate the north and south sides of Bacon Island's levee system at Connection Slough and Santa Fe Cut, approximately 3.5 miles in length, to achieve minimum levee standards. The project's public review and appeal period closes on August 5.

On behalf of the Council, staff sent a letter to the City of Lathrop regarding the draft Environmental Impact Report for the City's General Plan Update. The Council's letter to the City states that the General Plan Update may be a covered action. The letter also states that Council staff has not identified any specific inconsistencies with the Delta Plan but invites the city to engage staff in early consultation.

Pearson noted that Governor Newsom announced the appointment of Jorge Aguilar as our new Chief Counsel and Brandon Chapin as Legislative and Policy Advisor. Pearson offered her congratulations to both.

The Quarterly Contract Report, Outreach Highlights Report, and Active Projects List were provided to the Council in writing.

6a. Legal Update (Information Item)

There was no legal update.

6b. Legislative Update (Information Item)

The legislative bill report was provided in writing.

All materials mentioned in the Executive Officer's report can be found on the Council's website (<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>)

The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3Rbkx2P> minute 13:31.

11. 2022 SCIENCE FELLOWS COHORT INTRODUCTION (INFORMATION ITEM)

Dr. Laurel Larsen and Dr. Jill Harris, senior environmental scientist, introduced the eight recipients of the 2022 Delta Science Fellowships. These fellowships fund the research of early-career scientists on high-priority issues in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This cohort will focus on research relevant to management needs identified in the 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda.

Elsie Carrillo, Garfield Kwan, Maiyah Matsumara, Megan Pagliaro, Nicol Parker, and Parsa Saffarinia joined the meeting to give an overview of their work.

Councilmember Mehranian and Dr. Larsen discussed the advertising process for these fellowships to ensure a diverse applicant pool.

Councilmembers congratulated the 2022 Delta Science Fellows.

Councilmember Nottoli and Parker discussed the selection of the watersheds for her study and utilizing local agricultural commissioner and environmental manager offices as a source of information for her research. Nottoli and Carillo discussed her selection of the species and accessing the locations where they live. Nottoli offered to connect Carillo with the Delta Protection Commission, agricultural commissioners' offices, and farm bureaus, where she is conducting her fieldwork to gain additional access to land and information.

Chair Madueño offered her congratulations and noted the importance of the Delta Science Fellows collaborating with other researchers doing work in their field.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3Rbkx2P> minute 19:23.

10. LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Dr. Larsen highlighted research conducted by Denise Colombano, a 2018 and 2020 Delta Science Fellow and currently a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Colombano's research advances the "One Estuary, One Science" concept by evaluating how marine and watershed drivers influence the abundance and stability of fish communities in the San Francisco Estuary. Leveraging a dataset that spans four decades, the work is relevant to understanding the extent to which Delta inflow and changing water temperatures impact the abundance of 18 fish species. It addresses Management Need 5 (Acquire new knowledge and synthesize existing knowledge of interacting stressors to support species recovery and ecosystem health) and Action 6A (Evaluate how climate change, sea level rise, and more frequent extremes will impact habitats, water supply, water quality, sediment supply, long-term species persistence, primary productivity, and food webs) of the 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda.

The 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda (SAA) was released in late April, and the Delta Science Program has distributed the document widely to develop a strategy to implement the SAA's priority Science Actions. To this end, Science Program staff have met with agency partners to identify opportunities for coordinated funding and collaboration on Science Actions.

On July 19-20, 2022, the Delta Science Program convened an Independent Review Panel to evaluate the US Bureau of Reclamation's Water Temperature Modeling Platform (WTMP) for the Shasta/Keswick/Sacramento River system. This review will be followed by another, tentatively scheduled for fall 2023, assessing the WTMP for the American River and Stanislaus River systems and the overall Central Valley Project. The panel's findings and recommendations will guide the Bureau of Reclamation to improve modeling tools that predict water temperatures over short time frames for real-time operations, seasonally for developing temperature management plans, and across more extended time frames for planning studies.

Dr. Larsen reviewed the By the Numbers report.

Chair Madueño and Dr. Larsen discussed the distribution of the warming water trends in the Delta. Dr. Larsen offered to follow up in more detail after the meeting. Dr. Larsen also noted that the Delta was a unique estuary because it has listed species currently at their thermal limit. The water temperature modeling platform

is unique to the Delta but could have cross applications in other estuaries as water temperature concerns grow in other regions.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3RbKx2P> minute 52:53.

12. SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 2022 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/ SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY COMMENT LETTER (ACTION ITEM)

Council staff provided an overview of the Council's comment letter on the San Joaquin Council of Governments' (SJCOG) 2022 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR). The overview described Delta Reform Act requirements for the Council to provide review and advice regarding regional transportation plans and sustainable communities strategies pursuant to Water Code section 85212, and provisions within the Delta Reform Act that would exempt actions consistent with 2022 RTP/SCS from the Council's covered action authority.

SJCOG's Deputy Director of Planning Kim Anderson and Senior Environmental Planner Timothy Kohaya then presented the 2022 RTP/SCS Plan and its relationship to the Delta. Because this represents a formal Council advisory function under Water Code section 85212, staff sought Council approval of the comment letter containing the preliminary findings and submittal of the letter to SJCOG.

Staff recommended that the Council approve the preliminary findings provided in the draft comment letter and authorize staff to finalize and submit the letter to SJCOG. Should the Council approve the findings, staff will transmit the letter to SJCOG inclusive of any revisions approved by councilmembers and attesting to the Council's action.

Councilmember Mehranian, Kohaya, and Anderson discussed efficient development strategy in Lodi, CA and the consistency of the general plans with the SCS. They also discussed the planning process for choosing the alternative projects being reviewed in the EIR.

Councilmember Nottoli and Anderson discussed the San Joaquin County strategy for protecting agricultural land from development impingement and the efforts being made by SJCOG for value-added agriculture programs.

Chair Madueño noted the correlations between the work of SCS and the efforts of the Council and thanked staff for their hard work.

Motion: (Approve Draft comment letter regarding Draft 2022 RTP/SCS and Draft EIR)

Offered by Damrell, second by Mehranian.

Vote: 5/0 - The motion was adopted (Damrell: Aye, Madueño: Aye, Mehranian: Aye, Nottoli: Aye, Smith: Aye).

The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3Rbkx2P> minute 1:49:29.

13. PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting is on August 25-26, 2022; the location will be announced in the meeting notice that will be published ten days before the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 am.

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