



**DRAFT**

**SUMMARY JULY 25, 2024  
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For review and adoption by the Council at the August 22, 2024, meeting.

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

**MEETING SUMMARY**

---

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Julie Lee called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM on July 25, 2024, at the California Natural Resources Agency Building at 715 P Street, Room 221, Sacramento, CA 95814, and at the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District at 828 Seventh Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

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

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following councilmembers were present: Burgis, Damrell, Hueso, Zingale, and Lee.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

*Public Comment*

*Kelly Tabor, an attorney with Somach, Simmons, and Dunn representing Sacramento County, the City of Stockton, the Sacramento Sewer District, and other parties opposing the Delta Conveyance project in litigation concerning the Conveyance project in the Sacramento County Superior Court, commented on a recent motion served by the Department of Water Resources on Plaintiffs in the case, which included a declaration from a staff member at the Delta Stewardship Council.*

Chief Counsel Jorge Aguilar clarified that a declaration is a standard evidentiary document, and that this declaration only authenticated two Council documents and did not take a position regarding the litigation.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3Yr87ui>, minute 00:01:13.

#### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)**

##### **a. Adoption of June 27, 2024, Meeting Summary**

Chair Lee presented the agenda item for adopting the consent calendar.

Chair Lee asked for public comment

There was no public comment.

**Motion** (approve the consent calendar): offered by Councilmember Hueso, seconded by Councilmember Burgis.

**Vote:** 5/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Aye, Damrell: Aye, Hueso: Aye, Zingale: Aye, Lee: Aye)

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3Yr87ui>, minute 00:05:58.

#### **5. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Chair Lee provided an overview of past and future meet and greets with elected officials she attended with Legislative and Policy Advisor, Brandon Chapin. She closed with a highlight of the recent Science for Communities event in Stockton on July 12, 2024.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3Yr87ui>, minute 00:06:45.

## **6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson began with a budget update, and how that will impact the Council's work. Pearson provided an overview of the Science for Communities workshop. Pearson highlighted that there have been no new Covered Action Certifications in the last 30 days and provided an overview of a comment letter sent by Council staff to the Brannan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District (District). The comment letter addressed the District's Georgiana Slough Erosion Control and Habitat Enhancement Project. Pearson introduced new Council Staff Kim Luke, Dr. Ash Zemenick, and Annika Ragsdale.

Pearson closed by highlighting the Outreach Highlights Report and Active Projects List included in the Councilmember packets and online.

### **a. Legal Update**

There was no legal update.

### **b. Legislative Update**

Legislative and Policy Advisor Brandon Chapin presented an update on legislative briefings, and the 2024 Climate bond (SB 867), and thanked Executive Fellow Meenatchi Odaiyappan for her work as a fellow at the Council.

### **c. Executive Fellow Farewell**

Odaiyappan reflected on her time with the Council and provided insight into her project work in legislative affairs and the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee. Odaiyappan closed with her takeaways from the fellowship and thanked the Council, Chapin, and Bohl for their mentorship and guidance.

Chair Lee, Councilmember Zingale, Councilmember Burgis, and Executive Officer Pearson thanked her and acknowledged her reflections before closing the item.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

Before public comment, Councilmember Zingale requested that Chief Counsel Jorge Aguliar read into the record the declaration that was the subject of Kelly Tabor's comment to clarify the Council's position regarding the public comment given by Tabor.

Aguliar read the declaration into the record.

Chair Lee asked for public comment again, including related to the declaration.

*Public Comment*

*Kelly Tabor, an attorney representing plaintiffs in litigation in the Sacramento County Superior Court, commented on the need for the Council to remain neutral on matters that would eventually come before the Council.*

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3Yr87ui>, minute 00:08:10.

**7. LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Before sharing the monthly "By the Numbers" document, Delta Lead Scientist Lisamarie Windham-Myers gave a detailed overview of its purpose and content. She explained how data from various California sources, like reservoirs and weather stations, helps track water storage, temperature, and quality.

After the presentation, Windham-Myers invited suggestions for changes to the document.

Executive Officer Pearson and Councilmembers Hueso, and Burgis discussed precipitation, reservoirs, water supply and water releases, climate adaptations, flood-informed flood operations, water management, and restoration flow regulations.

Councilmember Burgis highlighted that Harmful Algal Blooms and wildfire impacts should be something added to tracking

Councilmember Hueso, Executive Officer Pearson, and Lead Scientist Windham-Myers discussed the Council's role in the Independent Science Board's selected studies, funding opportunities, science collaboration approach, and community contribution to Delta science.

Chair Lee, Lead Scientist Windham-Myers, Executive Officer Pearson, and Councilmember Burgis discussed the differentiation between the Delta Independent Science Board and the Lead Scientist roles.

Lead Scientist Windham-Myers closed with updates on DWR's planned actions to enhance the habitat for Delta Smelt, the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis final workshop, the wrap-up of the Delta Research Seminars, and the Bay Delta Science Conference.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3Yr87ui>, minute 00:33:30.

## **8. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Council meeting will take place on August 22. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

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