



**DRAFT**

**SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 26, 2024  
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For review and adoption by the Council at the October 24, 2024, meeting.

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 Julie Lee called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM on September 26, 2024, at the Hilton Hotel at 2323 Grand Canal Boulevard, Stockton, CA 95207.

Chair Lee called for a motion to allow Councilmember Hueso to participate as a member of the in-person quorum in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Government Code 11123.2, subsection (j)(2),.

**Motion** (allow Councilmember Hueso to participate remotely and be counted toward a quorum): offered by Councilmember Burgis, seconded by Councilmember Zingale.

**Vote:** 7/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Aye, Damrell: Aye, Hueso: Aye, Mehranian: Aye, Miller: Aye, Zingale: Aye, Lee: Aye)

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

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

The following councilmembers were present and remote: Miller and Zingale

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

**4. TRIBAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUE PAPER PUBLIC REVIEW  
DRAFT RELEASE (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Amanda Bohl, Special Assistant for Planning and Science, provided an overview of the agenda item and introduced Council staff presenting on the panel: Morgan Chow, Environmental Program Manager, Megan Thomson, Environmental Scientist, Annie Merritt, Environmental Scientist, and Annika Ragsdale, Senior Environmental Scientist. Bohl outlined the objectives and scope of the Tribal and Environmental Justice (EJ) Issue Paper (paper), and the paper's development timeline. Chow reviewed the process staff underwent to gather information from EJ communities and tribes that informed the paper. Thomson reviewed the tribal history of the Delta, and the history and context of Tribal and EJ issues in the Delta. Merritt provided an overview of the key issues discussed in the paper, including Tribal justice, water, flood risk, climate change, pollution exposure, public health, and recreation/outdoor access, food security, housing and the unhoused. Chow reviewed the recommendations outlined in the paper. Bohl closed with an overview of next steps.

Councilmember Zingale commended staff on a thorough and well-done paper and asked for more detailed and specific policy recommendations. Councilmember Mehranian and Bohl discussed the proportion of data between Tribal and EJ regarding flooding, food security, and unhoused. Councilmember Burgis emphasized the purpose and importance of including tribes and EJ communities in future discussions, thanked Council staff for their work, recommended ensuring this work is fully incorporated into work going forward, and using experts to inform future work. Councilmembers Damrell, Burgis, Bohl, Executive Office Jessica Pearson, and Brandon Chapin, Legislative and Policy Advisor, discussed current legislation addressing this issue. Councilmember Hueso and Chapin discussed outreach to legislators regarding the paper. Vice-Chair Miller congratulated staff on the paper and its recommendations. Chair Lee reflected on the timeline of the paper, implicit bias training, and other Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts across the state government. Pearson, Chair Lee, and Bohl, discussed other state agency efforts that informed this effort.

Bohl thanked EJ issue expert group members and introduced Sherri Norris, Executive Director with California Indian Environmental Alliance, Gloria Alonso, Environmental Justice Advocacy Coordinator with Little Manila Rising, Bob Erlenbusch, Homeless Advocate with the Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness, and Barbara Barrigan Parrilla, Executive Director with Restore the Delta. Norris reflected on the process of the paper and provided recommendations and edits for the paper going forward. Alonso reflected on the complexity of the issues presented in the paper, the paper as an advocacy tool, and the Council's role going forward. Erlenbusch provided an overview of homelessness and EJ. Barrigan-Parrilla acknowledged Council staff, tribes in the Delta, and reflected on the process of the paper. Barrigan-Parrilla recommended including information shared at today's meeting in the report, commented on the contract process working with the Council, and reflected on EJ issues of the Delta watershed.

Councilmember Mehranian, and Barrigan-Parrilla discussed tribes who live in the Delta and those who come and use the Delta. Councilmember Zingale supported including the specific recommendations presented by the EJ expert members. Councilmember Burgis discussed consultation, mercury in the watershed, and thanked each presenter for their thoughts and contributions. Chair Lee thanked the presenters for their time and thoughts. Bohl outlined the deadlines for public comment and tribal consultation.

#### *Public Comment*

*Karen Buhr, Deputy Executive Officer for the Delta Conservancy, congratulated the Council on the paper, and appreciated the discussion of today's meeting. Buhr commented on the importance of this work for her agency.*

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4fpOCrx>, minute 00:04:57.

### **5. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE DELTA PLAN FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT (RESOLUTION 2024-08) (ACTION ITEM)**

Jeff Henderson, Deputy Executive Officer for Planning and Performance, introduced Martina Koller, Program Manager, and provided an overview of the requirement of the Five-Year Review in the Delta Reform Act, the previous Five-Year Review, and the performance measures included in the Five-Year Review. Koller reviewed the public review process of the report and comments received during the public

comment period, and recommendations drawn from performance assessment. Henderson reviewed recommendations drawn from regulatory review, and presented the staff recommendation to adopt the Five-Year Review Report.

Councilmember Zingale and Henderson discussed recommendations relating to the Tribal and EJ Issue Paper. Councilmember Burgis, Henderson, and Koller discussed the assessment measurement tools used in this process. Councilmember Mehranian and Koller discussed changes in the performance measurements related to climate change, and the variables included in performance measures.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

*Public Comment*

*Delta Watermaster Jay Ziegler commented on the Tribal and EJ Issue Paper and the outreach effort towards Tribes to include their input in the paper, and commended the Five-year Review and provided input on the Delta ecosystem restoration objective, support for an integrated levee program, and water quality values, and inclusion of tribal input in the Five-Year Review.*

**Motion** (Adopt Resolution 2024-08): offered by Councilmember Mehranian, seconded by Vice-Chair Miller.

**Vote:** 7/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Aye, Damrell: Aye, Hueso: Aye, Mehranian: Aye, Miller: Aye, Zingale: Aye, Lee: Aye)

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4fpOCrx>, minute 01:40:42.

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

### **a. Adoption of August 22, Meeting Summary**

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

Councilmember Burgis recused herself from the vote due to her absence the month prior.

Chair Lee asked for public comment

There was no public comment.

**Motion** (approve the consent calendar): offered by Councilmember Damrell, seconded by Councilmember Mehranian.

**Vote:** 6/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Recused, Damrell: Aye, Hueso: Aye, Mehranian: Aye, Miller: Aye, Zingale: Aye, Lee: Aye)

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4fpOCrx>, minute 02:02:24.

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

Chair Lee highlighted upcoming events for the Council in October including the Bay Delta Science Conference, and the upcoming Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee meeting.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4fpOCrx>, minute 02:04:35.

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

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson began by thanking everyone involved with the environmental justice panel, including tribal communities, community-based organizations, and staff. Pearson highlighted the Delta's largest tidal wetland restoration project (Lookout Slough) and provided input on her tour experience with the federal U. S. Geological Survey Water Science Center breaching ceremony,

and the upcoming Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee meeting at Bogle Family Vineyards on October 28, 2024.

Pearson conveyed that there are no new covered actions since the last Council meeting and, that one comment letter was sent to the Department of Water Resources regarding their notice of preparation for an environmental impact report for the Tides End Multi-Benefit Restoration Project.

Before introducing Legislative and Policy Advisor Brandon Chapin for an update, Pearson provided an overview on the Outreach Highlights Report, and thanked the Delta Stewardship Council's communications team for creating graphics for the Bay-Delta Science Conference.

**a. Legal Update**

There was no legal update.

**b. Legislative Update**

Chapin provided an update on AB 460, AB 1284, AB 1581, AB 1992 (Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers explained different types of carbon sources), AB 2875, SB 366, SB 1330 (which was supposed to be SB 1390), and AB 3017 to Councilmembers.

Chapin and Councilmember Burgis discussed SB 1330.

Chapin closed with a highlight about Assemblymember Lori Wilson speaking at the upcoming Bay-Delta Conference.

Pearson closed with a recap of the remaining agenda items for the meeting.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

*Public Comment*

*Osha Meserve, representing local agencies of the North Delta, provided clarification comments and thoughts on mitigation, monitoring, harmful algal blooms, invasive aquatic weeds, and early implementation on the Lookout Slough project.*

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4fpOCrx>, minute 02:05:30.

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

Delta Lead Scientist Lisamarie Windham-Myers opened with an article highlight: Assessing the accuracy of OpenET satellite-based evapotranspiration data to support water resource and land management applications

*Volk, J.M., Huntington, J.L., Melton, F.S. et al. Assessing the accuracy of OpenET satellite-based evapotranspiration data to support water resource and land management applications. Nat Water 2, 193–205 (2024).*  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44221-023-00181-7>

Councilmember Burgis and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed water consumption (ag vs restoration).

Dr. Windham-Myers provided updates on the 2025 Delta Research Awards, the 2025 Delta Science Fellowships, and the 2024 California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum (CWEMF) Annual Meeting.

Dr. Windham-Myers reviewed upcoming conferences and events including:

- The 2024 Bay-Delta Science Conference—to be held at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center (1401 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814) from September 30 to October 2, 2024.
- Delta Science Tracker webinar at 12:00-1:00 pm on October 8, 2024.

Dr. Windham-Myers closed with a review of the By the Numbers Report.

Councilmember Burgis and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed expected conditions for precipitation in the upcoming year.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4fpOCrx>, minute 02:23:20.

## **10. DELTA WATERMASTER UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Delta Watermaster Jay Ziegler presented on measuring water use in the legal Delta, Delta ACP.com (alternate compliance pathway), Delta water user reporting compliance (WY 2023), the newly released Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP) Water Year 2023 Report, and the continuing work of the Delta Measurement Experimental Consortium (DMEC).

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4fpOCrx>, minute 02:46:19.

## **11. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES DELTA CONVEYANCE UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Environmental Program Manager (Delta Conveyance Office), Carrie Buckman, provided a presentation on the Delta Conveyance Project. The presentation covered the creation of a Community Benefits Program, its components, and the implementation plan for the program.

The presentation also covered the Delta Conveyance Project permitting updates (California Endangered Species Act, Endangered Species Act, Water Rights, and Delta Plan Consistency) and the proposed geotechnical activities certification of consistency.

Councilmember Mehranian, Councilmember Zingale, Councilmember Burgis, and Buckman discussed, defining area criteria/process for choosing, the application process, geotechnical activities, water quality analysis *after boring*, cost estimate for the community benefits program, the community benefits agreement stipulations, funding (grant program vs benefit program), land re-distribution after project completion, usage of funding for the project deadlines, construction timeline (2029-



2032), changing requirements and the need for flexibility, and built-in awareness for adjustment.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4fpOCrx>, minute 02:58:04.

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

The next Council meeting will take place on October 24. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

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