



DRAFT

**SUMMARY FEBRUARY 27, 2025
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For review and adoption by the Council at the March 27, 2025, 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 9:35 AM on February 27, 2025, at the West Sacramento VFW, 905 Drever St, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

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, Mehranian, Zingale and Lee.

Councilmembers Damrell and Hueso joined the meeting during agenda item 3.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

Councilmembers Damrell and Hueso joined the meeting during this agenda item.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)

a. Adoption of January 23, 2025, Meeting Summary

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

Chair Lee asked for public comment

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

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

Vote: 5/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Aye, Damrell: Aye, Hueso: Aye, Mehranian: Abstained, Miller: Absent, Zingale: Aye, Lee: Aye)

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4bHKQJl>, minute 00:02:38.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Lee provided an update on meet and greets with members of the legislature and her attendance at the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Burgis shared more information about the funding of the National Heritage Area.

Chair Lee shared information on a presentation heard at the Advisory committee meeting from Discover the Delta Foundation about fundraising efforts to build an education center in the Delta.

Councilmember Burgis announced Dan Ray as the interim director of the Delta Protection Commission.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4bHKQJl>, minute 00:03:38.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson provided an update on the impacts of Federal budget cuts and employee terminations to the Delta Stewardship Council. Pearson reported there were no new covered actions since the last meeting.

a. Legal Update

Chief Counsel Jorge Aguilar announced that the Council has been sued by the County of Sacramento, Sacramento County Water Agency, City of Stockton, Sacramento Area Sewer District, Central Delta Water Agency, and the County of San Joaquin. The case was filed in Sacramento Superior Court, case number 25WM000030.

b. Legislative Update

Brandon Chapin, Legislative and Policy Advisor, and Audrey Cho, Executive Fellow, provided updates on the following bills: AB 362, AB 900, SB 72, SB 224, SB 639, SB 697, and SB 795.

Councilmember Burgis, Mehranian, Chair Lee and Chapin discussed the bills relating to the 30x30 conservation goals of the state. Councilmember Mehranian, Cho and Chapin discussed SB 697 relating to water usage and State Water Board monitoring.

Pearson next reviewed two comment letters submitted by Council staff this month. On February 10th, Council staff sent a comment letter to the Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) regarding their Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Meadows Park Classification and General Plan Project. Pearson reported that a letter dated February 14th was sent by Council staff to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments (MTC/ABAG) regarding their Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Plan Bay Area 2050+, a regional transportation plan and sustainable communities strategy.

Pearson closed with an overview of the Outreach Highlights Report, including an audio clip that highlighted the Delta Dispatch, a podcast produced by California Sea Grant State Fellow Dane Whicker, in conjunction with staff.

Councilmember Mehranian, Councilmember Burgis and Chair Lee discussed the informative podcast. Councilmember Zingale and Pearson discussed social media engagement numbers.

Chair Lee announced that Councilmember Burgis was sworn in for her next term with the Council.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4bHKQJl>, minute 00:07:08.

7. LEAD SCIENTIST'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers began with a summary of this month's article on hydrogeodesy.

Jaramillo, F., Aminjafari, S., Castellazzi, P., Fleischmann, A., Fluet-Chouinard, E., Hashemi, H., et al. (2024). The potential of hydrogeodesy to address water-related and sustainability challenges. *Water Resources Research*, 60, e2023WR037020.
<https://doi.org/10.1029/2023WR037020>

Hydrogeodesy is the science of measuring physical attributes of the earth (such as solid and aquatic surfaces, gravity fields etc.), and how they change over time. This scientific approach utilizes a slew of satellite-based technologies to track the shape, position, and movement of Earth's surface, including waterbodies. These satellites help us measure water volumes and mass across time to understand how water is stored or moved. Unlike traditional satellite images that are optical (e.g. "photographs", that only capture surface conditions like snow presence or absence, green-ness of vegetation, etc), hydrogeodesy-relevant physical measurements from satellites provide real-time monitoring of water levels, storage, and movement across diverse waterbodies, including aquifers, reservoirs, lakes, rivers, soil moisture and wetlands. The paper outlines numerous ways in which using hydrogeodesy can help societies answer critical, unresolved water management problems. It categorizes these challenges into seven key areas: time variability and change, space variability and scaling, variability of extremes, interfaces in hydrology, measurements and data, modeling methods, and interfaces with society. The paper underscores the critical role of hydrogeodesy in tracking global

changes in freshwater resources, a necessity for ensuring water security in the face of climate change.

Councilmember Hueso and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed the effects of subsidence and aquifers in the Central Valley. Councilmember Burgis and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed funding for the data collecting satellites, subsidence, groundwater recharge, and data storage and retention from the satellites. Councilmember Zingale, Councilmember Burgis, Chair Lee and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed the effects of federally released water earlier this month. Chair Lee discussed the legislature's interest in the Councils unbiased scientific information.

Dr. Windham-Myers highlighted her attendance at the American Geophysical Union Fall meeting in Washington D.C. including topics of discussion relevant to the Delta. Dr. Windham-Myers next reported on Delta Science Program activities including the Delta Science Plan workshop which took place on February 20 and 21, and upcoming activities including the Delta Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Bloom Workshop on March 6th, and the Microplastic Pollution Symposium.

Dr. Windham-Myers reported on a new invasive species, the Golden Mussel, discovered in the Delta recently. Councilmember Burgis and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed what federal action and assistance would look like with this nationally invasive species.

Councilmember Mehranian and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed the origin of the species in the Delta, and the effects of removing the species.

Dr. Windham-Myers closed with an overview of the By the Numbers Report.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4bHKQJl>, minute 00:26:34.

8. DELTA PLAN PERFORMANCE MEASURES: 2024 YEAR IN RETROSPECT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Jeff Henderson, Deputy Executive Officer of Planning and Performance, Martina Koller, Program Manager, Planning and Performance, Scott Navarro, Planning and Performance, and Hannah Chaney, Planning and Performance presented an annual

update on the Delta Plan performance measures and preliminary work on implementation recommendations from the latest Delta Plan Five-Year Review.

Following the presentation, Councilmember Burgis, Henderson, Koller, and Navarro discussed the impacts on water due to high temperature (more or less evaporation), demand for water being higher because of temperature, performance measure goals vs. guidelines/aspirations delineation, funding for performance measure projects, and reporting out benefits (view performance website and podcast topics).

Councilmember Zingale, Lead Scientist Windham-Myers, Executive Officer Pearson, Councilmember Mehranian, Koller, and Chaney discussed using new information/data tools in the performance measures (for the future), Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) using InSAR to track subsidence (not water flow), certain measures (ecosystem restoration example provided by Zingale) not slated to make goals/how can we show “where it (goals) moved”, barriers to the measures (funding), pacing for restoration, and transparency in reporting the measures.

Chair Lee explored further discussion with Koller, Pearson, Councilmember Burgis, Navarro, and Chaney on SGMA, performance measures will reflecting new tools and data (shift from implementation to actual measurements), the consideration of new performance measures, gaps in performance measures, adaptive management in performance measures, animal agriculture impacts (future focus), Nutria movement, water requirements for project work (restoration offered as an example), target/goal aggressiveness for performance measures, subsidence reversal, and targeted performance measure messaging.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/4bHKQJL>, minute 02:03:41.

9. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will take place on March 27, 2025. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 p.m.

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