



DRAFT

**SUMMARY MAY 22, 2025
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For review and adoption by the Council at the June 26, 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 9:34 AM on May 22, 2025, at the California Natural Resources Building at 715 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

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

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established (Government Code § 11123). The following councilmembers were present: Damrell, Mehranian, Miller, Zingale, and Lee.

Councilmember Hueso joined the meeting after roll call.

Councilmember Burgis joined the meeting during agenda item 4B.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

Public Comment

Deirdre Des Jardin requested to comment on the consent calendar agenda item and stated that it is a requirement to allow public comment on each agenda item.

Chair Lee explained that the Council follows the Bagley-Keene Act and that there would be an opportunity to comment on the consent calendar; she also added that the possible adoption of meeting procedures (item 4B) would be considered as a separate agenda item.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <http://bit.ly/4lhjatCL>, minute 00:01:41.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)

(The possible adoption of meeting procedures (item 4B) was considered separately from the remainder of the consent calendar pursuant to the Chair's request)

4A. Adoption of April 24, 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 Miller, seconded by Councilmember Mehranian.

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

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <http://bit.ly/4lhjatC>, minute 00:03:41.

4B. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL'S MEETING PROCEDURES (RESOLUTION 2025-06) (ACTION ITEM)

Abbott Dutton, Deputy Executive Officer for External Affairs, outlined the purpose of the regulations, a review of the proposed regulations, and objectives and benefits of the regulations. Dutton closed with a review of the public review process of the regulations.

Councilmember Burgis joined the meeting during this agenda item and commended the setting of reasonable expectations for participation in meetings.

Councilmember Zingale, Councilmember Burgis, Chair Lee, and Chief Counsel Aguilar discussed time limits of public comment, Bagley-Keene requirements and Councilmember discussion time.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

Public Comment

Deidre Des Jardin commented on proposed section 5000.15C and the use of the word "preclude" in the regulations.

Chief Counsel Aguilar, Councilmember Zingale, and Councilmember Burgis discussed the inclusion of the word preclude and confirmed the Council's compliance with all state laws.

There was no public comment in Eureka.

Motion (approve Resolution 2025-06): offered by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Mehranian.

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 <http://bit.ly/4lhJatC>, minute 00:05:53.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Lee shared that she and Vice Chair Miller met with Delta County Coalition members earlier this month. Vice Chair Miller expressed gratitude for the meeting and excitement for future meetings and opportunities. Chair Lee reported on her attendance at the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference with Executive Officer Pearson.

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 <http://bit.ly/4lhjatC>, minute 00:23:07.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson began highlighting the events held at the Clarksburg Schoolhouse in early Spring. Next, Pearson highlighted events she attended in the community, including at the Jean Harvie Center as part of the Bay-Delta tour, the ACWA conference, and an Early Career Leadership workshop for Delta Science fellows. Pearson shared there have been no new covered actions but highlighted the West False River Drought Salinity Barrier public review and appeal period is open through May 28th.

Pearson provided a summary of the Council's comment letter sent to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board on May 15 regarding the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership Draft Master Plan, and a letter sent on May 19th to the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) on their Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the 2026 SJCOG Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Pearson introduced a new student volunteer from the University of San Francisco, Jayden Joeckel.

Pearson also provided an overview of the Outreach Highlights Report and the Active Project List.

a. Legal Update

There was no legal update.

b. Legislative Update

Executive Fellow Audrey Cho provided an update on SB 650 and the Governor's May Revision and associated trailer bills.

Councilmember Burgis thanked Cho for her work.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <http://bit.ly/4lhjatC>, minute 00:25:14.

7. LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Dr. Windham Myers provided an overview of the highlighted article for this month.

Black, G. P., De Parsia, M., Uychutin, M., Lane, R., Orlando, J. L., & Hladik, M. L. (2025). 6PPD-quinone in water from the San Francisco-San Joaquin Delta, California, 2018–2024. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, 197(4), 369.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-025-13757-5>

Among many new chemicals that scientists are able to detect in water samples with improved laboratory techniques, some have been highlighted by toxicologists as Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC's). One of these is 6PPD-Quinone, a byproduct of a ubiquitous rubber additive used in tires to prevent oxidative cracking of tire treads. 6PPD-Q is a toxic chemical produced as vehicle tires wear out on the roads. Its impact on human health is difficult to assess amidst other liver and lung toxins, but biota in aquatic ecosystems are known to be impacted as the toxin is flushed into waterways often in concentrations documented to cause harm to many species. In a recent publication entitled 6PPD-quinone in water from the San Francisco-San Joaquin Delta, California, 2018–2024, Black et al. (2025) analyzed 61 archived Delta water samples collected from 14 sites by the US Geological Survey between 2018 and 2024. The authors detected 6PPD-Q in a total of 17 samples across 7 sites. All but one of these samples was associated with a recent rain event, indicating that stormwater runoff contributed to the chemical entering waterways. The highest concentration was in a sample collected on the edge of the city of Stockton less than one kilometer downstream from a stormwater outlet. Overall, the study showed for the first time that the toxic chemical 6PPD-Q is present in the Delta, and possibly at concentrations that are causing harm to the ecosystem. The authors conclude that more research is needed into the ecological implications of 6PPD-Q in the Delta and how it may interact with other environmental stressors to contribute toward ecosystem degradation.

Councilmember Burgis discussed stormwater runoff and contaminants. Chair Lee and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed the half life of 6PPD-Q.

Dr. Windham-Myers shared Delta Science Program activities, including an early career workshop for the Delta Science Fellows.

There was a brief break in the meeting due to technical difficulties; the meeting was resumed without adjournment after technical difficulties were resolved.

Dr. Windham-Myers highlighted the Bay-Delta Water Tour, the Microplastics Symposium held at UC Davis and the California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum. Dr. Windham-Myers summarized the ongoing response to the Golden Mussels in the Delta, the 2025 Delta Synthesis working group, and the 2025 State of the Estuary Conference.

Dr. Windham-Myers closed with a review of 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 <http://bit.ly/4lhjatC>, minute 00:34:18.

8. DELTA INDEPENDENT SCIENCE BOARD UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Julie Lee introduced Dr. Inge Werner, Delta Independent Science Board (ISB) Chair, and Bob Naiman, Delta ISB Member, to provide an update on the current activities of the Delta ISB.

The presentation covered thematic reviews presented to the Council, current ISB work, new activities, outreach and communication of completed reviews, and an expanded section on advancing scientific understanding and management of the Delta through a food web perspective.

After the presentation, Dr. Naiman, Councilmember Mehranian, and Councilmember Hueso discussed bottom-up versus top-down food web studies, the role of non-native species (is it better or worse to have them), environmental change, and the challenges of working in the Delta (human-impacted systems versus non-human impacted). They explored when to act on concerns in the Delta, how individuals can get involved, the complications and success rates of invasive species removal, and the evolving nature of the Delta.

Councilmember Burgis commented on the youth's perspective on science, emphasizing the importance of integrating scientific insights with a practical "on the ground/water" viewpoint. She highlighted climate change, harmful algal blooms (HABs), Golden mussels, and emerging chemicals while acknowledging the changes occurring in the Delta. Dr. Naiman echoed her views on the significance of youth involvement in science.

Vice Chair Miller addressed the loss of expertise caused by retirements and budget cuts. She discussed options for preserving potentially lost knowledge, such as oral histories, recording interviews, or creating alternative venues for knowledge retention. Dr. Naiman, Vice Chair Miller, Pearson, ISB Chair Werner, and Lead Scientist Windham Myers deliberated on strategies for knowledge retention, synthesis, increasing publications, and the possibility of a data portal for information entry, in conjunction with NCEAS involvement.

Chair Lee concluded by acknowledging the topic and sharing her thoughts on the Delta ISB's contributions, the Delta Science Program's Collaboratory efforts, and an upcoming meeting report on their Collaboratory progress.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <http://bit.ly/4lhjatC>, minute 00:53:54.

9. DELTA LEVEES INVESTMENT STRATEGY RISK REDUCTION ANALYSIS
(INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Pearson provided a summary introduction and introduced Jeff Henderson, Deputy Executive Officer of Planning and Performance; Erin Mullin, Senior Supervising Engineer; and Ashok Bathulla, Senior Engineer, who presented the results of their risk reduction analysis, developed using data from the Department of Water Resources 2024 Delta Levees Investment Strategy report, which was previously presented at the April 2025 Council meeting.

The presentation began with a brief overview of the DLIS project, covering DWR's response to DLIS, a flood risk reduction analysis (Delta Levee Risk Reduction), a contextual report, lessons learned from the Bethel Island Project, and a follow-up to the Council's questions from DWR's April 26 Council meeting presentation.

Councilmember Burgis, Pearson, and Bathulla discussed investment returns (the disparity between initial investments and returns), the shortcomings of the DLIS methodology, improvements in water supply and quality due to reducing levee failures by enhancing levee stability, how current levee measurements do not capture all success criteria, the focus on fixing the "weakest link" in levee repairs, the lack of a stable funding source for subventions, and lessons learned from the DLIS project.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

Public Comment

Gilbert Cosio from Delta Consulting provided a public comment on risk analysis, stating that data refinement and the multi-benefit standard do not align well with the "weakest link" strategy mentioned by Mullin. He also addressed concerns regarding reclamation district naming and numbering, suggesting that these issues could be resolved through research.

Cosio closed with a question about total risk reduction.

Bathulla noted that this type of analysis has not yet been conducted, but it can be performed, and they will follow up with him with an answer. Bathulla also agreed with Cosio's approximate \$1 billion estimate of the project cost needed to bring the levees up to standard.

Chair Lee asked for additional public comment.

There was no further public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <http://bit.ly/4lhjatC>, minute 01:37:26.

10. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will take place on June 26, 2025. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

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