



# Delta Stewardship Council

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

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DELTACOUNCIL.CA.GOV

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June 23, 2025

Will Nelson, Principal Planner  
Contra Costa County  
Department of Conservation and Development  
30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553

Delivered via email: [Will.Nelson@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:Will.Nelson@dcd.cccounty.us);  
[advanceplanning@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:advanceplanning@dcd.cccounty.us)

## **RE: Proposed Contra Costa County Urban Limit Line Renewal**

Dear Will Nelson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the adjustments to the Contra Costa County (County) Urban Limit Line (ULL) proposed by the Board of Supervisors (Board). The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) recognizes the Board's objective to renew the current ULL, which was last approved as Measure L by County voters on November 7, 2006, and will repeal December 31, 2026.

The Council is an independent state agency established by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009. (Wat. Code, § 85000 et seq.; Delta Reform Act) The Delta Reform Act charges the Council with furthering California's coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) ecosystem. (Wat. Code, § 85054.) The Council furthers California's coequal goals for the Delta through the adoption and implementation of the Delta Plan, a comprehensive long-term management plan for the Delta and Suisun Marsh. (Wat. Code, § 85300.)

The Council's attention to the outcome of the ballot measure stems from Delta Plan policy **DP P1** "Locate New Urban Development Wisely," (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5010.) which places certain limits on new urban development within the Delta. The policy states that new residential, commercial, or industrial development be limited to areas within the 2006 voter-approved ULL. This policy is intended to strengthen existing Delta communities while protecting farmland and open space, providing land for ecosystem restoration needs, and reducing flood risk. If County voters approve the proposed renewal of the ULL, the Council may consider updating the regulatory policy accordingly.

The potential ULL adjustments before the Board constitute a total of 10,787 acres of ULL contraction and 1,634 acres of ULL expansion, for a net contraction of 9,153 acres, 4832.5 acres of which are located within the Delta.<sup>1</sup> Based on information provided to Council staff by County staff, proposed adjustments to the ULL consist of both contractions and expansions within the Delta as follows:

- *Antioch*: Contraction of 273.5 acres to align with city limits or land owned by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). Expansion of 90.4 acres to align with city limits.
- *Bethel Island*: Contraction of 2,721.0 acres due to development constraints.
- *Discovery Bay*: Contraction of 858.4 acres within agricultural easements and subdivision buffers. Expansion of 5.4 acres to include an existing roadway within the ULL.
- *Oakley*: Contraction of 77.5 acres to align with the city sphere of influence or city limits. Expansion of 26.7 acres to include already existing development and align with city limits.
- *Pittsburg*: Contraction of 15 acres to align with city limits. Expansion of 29 acres to align with city limits and to include existing development.
- *Browns Island*: Contraction of 685.6 acres of the island on land owned by EBRPD.
- *Byron Airport*: Contraction of 201.5 acres within the Legal Delta on the western and northern edge of the airport on lands either owned by EBRPD or within conservation easements. Potential expansion of 500.0 acres involving land to the east located between the airport and Byron Highway, contemplated as a precursor to future aviation-related development.

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<sup>1</sup> These numbers do not include the approximately 500-acre Byron Airport Study Area.

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- *Cleanups:* Numerous other small acreages of contraction or expansion to align with various city limits, account for existing development, and simplify the mapping of the shoreline.

While Council staff has a continued interest in better understanding how future development may proceed near Byron Airport, the net contraction of developable areas within the ULL in the Delta is a positive outcome that supports Delta Plan strategies to locate new development wisely, reduce flood risks, protect lands for restoration, and safeguard against land loss.

We invite County staff to continue engaging with Council staff as this process continues. Please contact Jeff Henderson at (916) 842-9333 or [Jeff.Henderson@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:Jeff.Henderson@deltacouncil.ca.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Henderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Henderson

Deputy Executive Officer