



**DRAFT**

**SUMMARY JUNE 26, 2025  
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For review and adoption by the Council at the July 24, 2025, 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 9:00 AM on June 26, 2025, at the California Natural Resources Building at 715 P Street Room 2-221, 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, Zingale, and Lee.

Councilmember Burgis joined the meeting after roll call.

Councilmember Hueso joined the meeting during agenda item 3.

Vice Chair Miller was absent for this meeting.

Chair Lee adjourned the open session in order to move the meeting into closed session.

**3. CLOSED SESSION**

The Council will meet with legal counsel to discuss pending litigation regarding: 1) *County of Sacramento, et al v. Delta Stewardship Council* (Sacramento Superior Court No. 25 WM000030); and 2) *Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District, et al. v. California Department of Water Resources* (Court of Appeal of the State of

California, Third Appellate District, Case No. C101878). (Government Code section 11126(e)(1).)

Chair Lee reconvened open session at 9:40 a.m. and reported that there was nothing to report out from closed session.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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/3TLIPni>, minute 00:01:41.

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

##### **5a. Adoption of May 22, 2025 Meeting Summary**

##### **5b. Amendment to Contract No. #19124 with the Regents of the University of California San Diego, California Sea Grant for the Position of Social Scientist Extension Specialist (Resolution 2025-07)**

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 Hueso, seconded by Councilmember Mehranian.

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

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3TLIPni>, minute 00:03:41.

**6. Consideration and Potential Adoption of the Delta Adapts Adaptation Plan (Resolution 2025-08) (Action Item)**

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson provided a brief introduction, reflecting on the timeline and importance of this work. Deputy Executive Officer for Planning and Performance, Jeff Henderson, introduced Council staff from the Climate Change and Environmental Justice unit Morgan Chow and Annika Ragsdale. The panel provided a timeline of the Adaptation Plan, an overview of the presentation, and recognized the many staff who contributed to working on this project. Henderson reviewed the findings from the Vulnerability Assessment, which influenced and informed the Adaptation Plan. Chow reviewed the process of the Adaptation Plan, partner and public engagement, and a summary of the comments received on the Draft Adaptation Plan.

Councilmember Burgis and Chow discussed the acronym for the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.

Chow provided an overview of the edits made in response to comments, and the Adaptation accelerators, actions that should be prioritized in the implementation of the Adaptation Plan. Ragsdale reviewed the next steps for the Adaptation Plan and implementation, including highlighting the Delta Adapts Adaptation Strategy Dashboard coming in late summer to the Council website.

Henderson recommended the Council approve Resolution 2025-08 to adopt the Adaptation Plan.

Councilmember Zingale and Chow discussed farmworker outreach for the Adaptation Plan. Chair Lee reflected on the importance of the Plan and this work.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

*Public Comment*

*Dr. Kathleen Schafer, thanked Council staff for their work and commended the Plan, highlighting the case study on the parametric insurance policy in Isleton, included in the Plan, and commented on the future of flooding in the Delta.*

*Jay Ziegler, Delta Watermaster, shared appreciation for Council staff and commented on the imperative nature of this Plan and the unique and complex environment that characterizes the Delta and commends the plan for capturing diverse inputs and best available science. Ziegler highlighted the importance of the flooding strategies section and urged the Council to adopt this Plan.*

*Mike Avina of Soluri Meserve, speaking on behalf of local agencies of the North Delta, commended staff and the work on this document and reiterated written comments opposing conveyance as an adaptation strategy.*

Councilmember Hueso moved to approve Resolution 2025-08, thanked staff and shared his thoughts on the document highlighting the importance of addressing subsidence, the influence of this document California wide, and nature-based solutions. Councilmember Mehranian and Henderson discussed examples of an implemented multi-benefit project.

Councilmember Zingale seconded the motion by Councilmember Hueso.

Councilmember Burgis shared her thoughts on the Plan. Councilmember Burgis and Henderson discussed the importance of planning for climate change and the associated uncertainty.

Chair Lee asked for public comment a second time.

There was no further public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

**Motion** (adopt Resolution 2025-08): offered by Councilmember Hueso, seconded by Councilmember Zingale.

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

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3TLIPni>, minute 00:04:25.

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

Chair Lee began highlighting pride month and the importance of celebrating this month. Chair Lee reported on her attendance at the National Heritage Area Advisory committee the previous day.

Councilmember Burgis shared that local agencies are preparing for different funding scenarios for the National Heritage Area.

Chair Lee shared her excitement for future National Heritage Area activities such as the passport program and American 250 celebrations.

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/3TLIPni>, minute 00:43:20.

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

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson expressed gratitude to the agencies and staff who participated in the annual Pride Month parade on June 15. She spoke about how diversity, equity, and inclusion are crucial to accomplishing our mission, and our participation in this annual tradition is a great way to demonstrate and celebrate our commitment to these values. Next, Pearson discussed her opportunity, along with several planning and science staff, to visit Webb Tract in the Delta, located in Contra Costa County, where the Metropolitan Water District led a tour and discussed their plans to carry out a multi-benefit restoration project funded by a \$20 million nature-based solutions grant from the Delta Conservancy.

Pearson also shared that two covered actions have been filed since the last Council meeting.

On May 28th, Contra Costa County submitted a certification of consistency for the newly adopted Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan, along with its supporting Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. The public review and appeal period was 5/28/2025 through 6/27/2025.

On June 20th, Solano County submitted a certification of consistency for the Cache Slough Mitigation Bank. The project involves developing a private commercial mitigation bank at the southernmost part of the Yolo Bypass in Solano County. The public review and appeal period began 6/19/2025 and ends on 7/21/2025.

Pearson provided a summary of the Council's comment letter sent to Contra Costa County on June 23, 2025, regarding adjustments to the Contra Costa County Urban Limit Line proposed by the Board of Supervisors. The Urban Limit Line (Line) is important to the Council because regulatory policies refer to future development within the Line as permitted under the Delta Plan and supports Delta Plan strategies to locate new development wisely, reduce flood risks, protect lands for restoration, and safeguard against land loss.

Pearson welcomed a new volunteer, Ioana Seritan, to the Collaborative Science Peer Review Unit.

Pearson encouraged everyone to take a moment to recognize Lauren Hastings, Program Manager with the Council's Delta Science Program supporting the Delta Independent Science Board, who will be retiring next week, after over 25 years of State service, all of it essentially with the Council's Science Program and its predecessor the CALFED Science Program.

Before the legislative update, Pearson highlighted growth in the Council's email listserv followers on our LinkedIn page, a new web page dedicated to our Science for Communities initiative, and the latest episode of The Delta Dispatch podcast.

**a. Legal Update**

There was no legal update.

**b. Legislative Update**

Audrey Cho, an Executive Fellow, and Jayden Joeckel, a McCarthy Fellow, presented updates on legislation relevant to the Council. Their presentation included SB 650, a briefing recap ("Get to know the Delta Science Program," Staff of the Delta Caucus members and relevant committees, and the an Orientation to the Delta and the Science Program), a Senate leadership update, information on the H.R. 3717 Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2025, and AB 274 - Inventory of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels.

Councilmember Burgis and Cho discussed past inventories of vessels and the dangers and costs associated with fuel removal from the vessels.

Councilmember Zingale thanked Cho and Joeckel for their 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 <https://bit.ly/3TLIPni>, minute 00:45:50.

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

Dr. Windham-Myers delivered a presentation on this month's article highlight, "How to Continue Long-Term Datasets When Switching from Established to Emerging Monitoring Methods," covering best practices in method switching (Figure 3 from Jones et al. 2025, *Limnology and Oceanography Letters*). She also discussed Delta Science Program activities, including the Delta Research Awards Seminar Series, which is now being completed, and the Delta Collaboratory kick-off meeting held on June 12. Additionally, she highlighted key items to keep on your radar, including the final report released for reservoir simulation and water temperature peer review, the inaugural Delta Carbon Team meeting held on May 27, and the new Delta topographic data being collected by plane.

Pearson offered comments on trawl surveys and their costs, potential alternative replacements for older survey techniques, and a debate about the trustworthiness of new data collection methods.

Chair Lee and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed the availability of data.

Dr. Windham Myers continued her presentation with an update on the Delta Collaboratory Kick-Off, which began in Spring/summer 2025 and launched three projects to explore how modeling and synthesis can address management priorities. The goal is to develop decision-support tools that provide actionable outcomes for managing resources related to each of these topics.

Dr. Windham-Myers closed with a review 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 <https://bit.ly/3TLIPni>, minute 01:03:52.

**10. DELTA SYNTHESIS WORKING GROUPS: A COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ECOLOGICAL ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS (NCEAS) (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Henry DeBey, Deputy Executive Officer for Science, and Program Manager Maggie Christman presented on the Delta Synthesis Working Groups, a partnership between the Council’s Delta Science Program and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS).

The presentation provided a summary of synthesis, explained how monitoring survey data is used, and offered a rough overview of the monitoring extent in the Delta. It highlighted synthesis successes, emphasized its importance to the Delta Science Program’s core functions, and discussed why adopting “open” principles for synthesis is vital.

Additionally, the presentation covered the Delta synthesis working group's goals and timelines, discussed the 2021 drivers of the estuarine food supply, outlined 2023 efforts to manage the Delta as a social-ecological system, and shared information on participant involvement, key takeaways, and next steps.

Dr. Windham Myers encouraged people to apply due to the perspective gained from the program, especially for early-career professionals.

Councilmember Burgis discussed the motivations behind scientific curiosity, issues with the manipulation of science, limited access to data in the past, and the increasing restrictions currently faced.



Councilmember Mehranian shared personal remarks about the challenges caused by unreliable data and highlighted the importance of having access to open source datasets to facilitate scientific debate.

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/3TLIPni>, minute 01:24:15.

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

The next Council meeting will take place on July 24, 2025. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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