



DRAFT

SUMMARY JANUARY 22, 2026

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

For review and adoption by the Council at the March 26, 2026, meeting.

All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>

MEETING SUMMARY

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM on January 22, 2025, at the California Natural Resources Agency at 715 P Street, Room 2-302, Sacramento, California 95814.

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, Hueso, Lee, Miller, Patterson, and Zingale. (Government Code § 11123)

Councilmember Mehranian was absent.

3. 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://rebrand.ly/snnwj85>, minute 00:01:23.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)

4a. Adoption of December 18, Meeting Summary

4b. Consideration and Possible Approval of a Contract Amendment to Contract No. DSC23011-A3 with the Regents of the University of California San Diego, California Sea Grant for the 2025 Class of Delta Science Fellows and 2024/2025/2026 Classes of State Policy Fellows (Resolution No. 2026-01)

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 Burgis.

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

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/snnwj85>, minute 00:01:47.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Lee congratulated Councilmember Burgis on her recent appointment as Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

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://rebrand.ly/snnwj85>, minute 00:02:03.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson began by congratulating Rachel Wigginton on her recent appointment to the Council as the Special Assistant to Planning and Science and welcoming her to the Council. Pearson next reported that one new certification of consistency with the Delta Plan has been filed by Reclamation District 1601 for the Twitchell Island Levee Improvement Project – San Joaquin River Reach. The 30-day appeal window closed on January 20 with no appeals filed.

Pearson highlighted the upcoming appeal hearing that will be held on Thursday February 26th and Friday February 27th, including a reminder that the Council is still under ex parte communication restrictions.

Pearson closed highlighting the Outreach Highlights Report and the Active Projects List.

a. Legal Update

There was no legal update.

b. Legislative Update

Audrey Cho, legislative and policy advisor, provided an update on the 2026/2027 state budget, new Senate leadership assignments, and an overview of bills AB 35, AB 1551 and AB 1600, and closed with an update on Federal water policy.

Councilmember Burgis and Cho discussed Golden Mussel allocations in the budget,

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://rebrand.ly/snnwj85>, minute 00:03:40.

7. LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Delta Lead Scientist, Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers began with a video of the overtopping of the Fremont Weir from the beginning of the year, an example of water management in the Delta. Dr. Windham-Myers reviewed a paper on the Importance of Yolo Bypass flooding to Bay-Delta food webs, highlighting key takeaways and insights for water management.

Councilmember Burgis and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed the scope of microclimates in the Delta.

Dr. Windham-Myers reported on highlights from the American Geophysical Union Conference she attended late last year. Dr. Windham-Myers reviewed past Lead Scientist report topics from 2025 and previewed upcoming topics for 2026. She closed highlighting upcoming Delta Science Program events.

Councilmember Patterson commended the work of the Delta Science Program and the scope and hard work of the program. Chair Lee echoed Councilmember Patterson's comments and expanded on Dr. Windham-Myers' conference takeaways on the inclusion of art and the upcoming Bay-Delta Science conference in the fall. Councilmember Burgis shared her professional experience creating relevant materials to build community through learning. Councilmember Burgis and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed water monitoring and data in the Delta. Councilmember Zingale shared his appreciation for Dr. Windham-Myers' reflections on building trust with community.

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

Councilmember Burgis, Pearson and Dr. Winham-Myers discussed the absence of drought indicators in California. Councilmember Hueso, Dr. Windham-Myers, and Chair Lee discussed reservoir capacity and management.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda <https://rebrand.ly/snnwj85>, minute 00:15:06.

8. 2025 PERFORMANCE MEASURES YEAR IN REVIEW (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson introduced Program Manager Martina Koller, Environmental Scientist Hannah Chaney, and Environmental Scientist Scott Navarro, who delivered an annual update on the Delta Plan's performance measures.

The panel presentation began with a summary of the Delta Stewardship Council's Performance Measures and covered key featured performance measures (Delta Ecosystem Restoration, Salmon Doubling Goal, Nonnative Invasive Species, and Delta community participation in the National Flood Insurance Program), 2025 Conditions (Water Year 2025), Ecosystem Restoration Projects (Yolo Bypass Floodplain Inundation, Salmon Doubling Goal, invasive species (Nutria, Golden Mussel, Mute Swans), the Delta Communities and Flood Insurance Program), a 2025 Year in Review Summary, key takeaways, and next steps.

Councilmember Burgis, Councilmember Patterson, Koller, and Chaney discussed funding (NFIP – federally funded FEMA), consistency of funding, flood insurance pricing, community and infrastructure changes, and requirements for flood insurance barriers.

Chair Lee invited Koller's team to return and provide an update on the performance measures dashboard at a later date.

Councilmember Burgis emphasized that restoration is a distinctive process that necessitates adaptive learning and ongoing adjustments as it unfolds.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda <https://rebrand.ly/snnwj85>, minute 00:48:35.

9. DELTA WATERMASTER UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Julie Lee introduced Delta Watermaster Jay Ziegler, who reported on current water reporting and monitoring efforts in the Delta, an update on the Bay-Delta

Water Quality Control Plan, and other activities related to implementing the Delta Plan.

Ziegler's presentation covered an annual diversion and use reporting update (CalWATRS transition and WY 2025 Status of annual report submissions), implementing revised SB88 regulations, the Delta Measurement Experimental Consortium (DMEC), and an update on Delta science issues – Delta Monitoring Network (National Academies LTO Review, Status of Delta Water Quality Monitoring, Metropolitan WD of Southern California - Envisioning Delta Levee Improvements, South Delta Circulation & Channel Maintenance, OpenET).

Chair Lee and Ziegler discussed whether the \$700 million investment, referenced in the Metropolitan Water District presentation, will be disbursed gradually or fully allocated to levee concerns in the freshwater corridor. They also highlighted the need for holistic Delta management and the status of offline data resources, which are expected to come back online soon. Chair Lee proposed drafting an endorsed letter to the Bureau of Reclamation to advocate for restoring the data, while Councilmember Patterson also suggested including the contract duration and reiterating that the project should not be outsourced.

Councilmember Burgis and Ziegler discussed the percentage of data points offline (approximately 40 percent), data loss during critical events, the benefits of the Bureau of Reclamation retaining the data, including a shift in tone to mutual benefits in the aforementioned letter to the Bureau, and trust in data quality.

Chair Lee asked whether the Bureau could currently see the data, but Ziegler was unable to answer. However, Ziegler stated that other entities (USGS and separate monitoring (Patterson)) are conducting monitoring activities.

Executive Officer Pearson suggested that Chair Lee and she address the letter's drafting to ensure timely delivery ahead of an upcoming hearing.

Councilmember Hueso left the meeting during this agenda item.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda <https://rebrand.ly/snnwj85>, minute 01:38:49.

10. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will take place on February 26 and 27, 2026. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

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