



DRAFT

SUMMARY FEBRUARY 26 AND 27, 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

Day 1

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM on February 26, 2026, at the California Natural Resources Agency 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. The following Councilmembers were present in person: Burgis, Eggman, Mehranian, Miller, Patterson, Zingale, and Lee.

Chair Lee welcomed Councilmember Eggman to the Council, thanked Councilmember Hueso for his service and announced the re-appointment of Councilmembers Mehranian, Patterson, and herself.

**3. HEARING ON APPEALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY NUMBER C20257 FOR THE DELTA
CONVEYANCE PROJECT**

The Council held a public hearing regarding 10 appeals of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) certification of consistency number C20257 (Certification) for the Delta Conveyance Project. A link to the hearing notice can be found here: https://coveredactions.deltacouncil.ca.gov/profile_summary.aspx?c=3952a97c-8d85-49d6-842a-8926ceec71a8.

The hearing was recorded by a certified court reporter. Final transcripts could be purchased directly from Regal Court Reporting. Their telephone number is (866) 228-2685. The video recording is available on the Council's YouTube channel. (www.youtube.com/@DeltaCouncil), along with an archive of meetings and workshops hosted by the Council.

Documents related to the Certification and appeals are available here: <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/covered-actions/delta-conveyance-project>. An email address for all covered actions and questions is: coveredactions@deltacouncil.ca.gov.

Chair Julie Lee, Vice-Chair Gayle Miller, Diane Burgis, Dr. Susan Eggman, Maria Mehranian, Ann Patterson, and Daniel Zingale were present.

The order of the presentations went as follows:

- i. Opening of the hearing and explanation of the process by the chair*
- ii. Delta Protection Commission (DPC)*
 - a. Pat Hume, Tom Slater, and Amanda Bohl*
- iii. Courtland Pear Fair*
 - a. Anna Swenson, Emily Pappalardo, and Johnny Pappalardo*
- iv. County of Sacramento, Sacramento County Water Agency*
 - a. Kelley Taber, Pat Hume, Kerry Schmitz, Amer (?) Veselka*
- v. Steamboat Resort*
 - a. Emily Pappalardo, Phil Vermeulen, Johnny Pappalardo, and Kyle Vermeulen*
- vi. SF Baykeeper et al.*
 - a. Eric Buescher, Christie Ralston*
- vii. Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer)*
 - a. Kelly Taber, Christopher Dobson, and Bryan Young*
- viii. City of Stockton*
 - a. Kelley Taber and C. Mel Lytle*

- ix. *South Delta Water Agency (SDWA)*
 - a. *Dante J. Nomellini, Jr.*
- x. *San Joaquin County Et Al.*
 - a. *Osha Meserve, Thomas Keeling, Ryan Elliot, and Duane Martin*
- xi. *DCC Engineering Co.*
 - a. *Emily Pappalardo, Daniel Wilson, and Ron Galindo*
- xii. *Closing presentation from the Department of Water Resources (DWR)*
 - a. *Karla Nemeth, Carrie Buckman, Chris Butcher, and Katherine Marquez*

Councilmembers were given the opportunity to submit questions or ask for clarifications following each presentation.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at 00:10:06: <https://rebrand.ly/dj6oy0d>.

All of the parties concluded their presentations on Day 1. The meeting was recessed at 6:03 until Day 2.

DAY 2

4. HEARING ON APPEALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY NUMBER C20257 FOR THE DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM on February 27, 2026, at the California Natural Resources Agency at 715 P Street, Room 2-221, Sacramento, California 95814.

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following Councilmembers were present in person: Burgis, Eggman, Mehranian, Miller, Patterson, Zingale, and Lee.

Continuing the hearing from Day 1, Chair Lee invited a lead representative from each of the Appellants and the Department of Water Resources to the presentation table for Councilmember questions.

Vice Chair Miller asked the Department of Water Resources (DWR) questions about best available science, adaptive management, and mitigation measures. Councilmember Eggman asked DWR about mitigation measures, Councilmember Mehranian asked DWR about Delta as Place, and the Delta flow objectives.

Councilmember Burgis asked DWR about data modeling, adaptive management, invasive species mitigation, and permitting requirements. Councilmember Burgis next gave each Appellant time to address claims made in DWR's presentation from the day before. Councilmember Burgis closed, asking additional questions from DWR about project waste management, temporary mitigation vs. long-term mitigation, and gave DWR an opportunity to respond to any of the comments made by the Appellants. Councilmember Zingale asked DWR about project modifications made due to input from Environmental Justice communities and mitigation measures. He then asked the City of Stockton and the DWR about modeling and the best available science on weather extremes. Councilmember Patterson asked DWR about invasive species and the project's Incidental Take Permit. She then asked the City of Stockton about the project's siting. Councilmember Patterson next asked DWR about Delta Plan Policy 2, Reduced Reliance, which included comments from the City of Stockton and SF Baykeeper et al, and Delta flow objectives.

Chair Lee, DWR, Sacramento County, and SacSewer discussed the concept of "Delta as a Place" and documents in the record, specifically whether the locations currently identified to receive harvest water in the record before DWR filed for certification. They also discussed and the Chair sought clarification on the Delta flow records previously mentioned and whether the State Water Resources Control Board's administrative hearing officer's letter, related to climate change modeling, indicates a finding of compliance or non-compliance with D-1641. Chair Lee, San Joaquin County, and DWR discussed if the record shows consideration for how the Conveyance Project might improve habitat conditions for the Golden Mussel, the plan for preventing Zebra and Quagga Mussels, and how it would also avoid or mitigate the potential to improve habitat conditions for those invasive species. Chair Lee and DWR discussed whether DWR might use the Conveyance Project to remove water during low-flow years and divert it away from the Delta, leading to a net loss. Chair Lee and DWR discussed "saved water" in their presentation, highlighting missed opportunities—specifically, how much water could have been saved if the Conveyance Project had been available, where that water would have gone, where it would have been stored, and where all the excess water would go.

Councilmember Eggman and DWR discussed the City of Stockton, the degradation and mitigation of water flow changes caused by the Project, and the impact of

degradation on native people and EJ communities. Councilmember Mehranian and DWR discussed clarifying the need for more water due to climate change, the impact on Delta water quality, DWR's reduction model for water reliance, and the consideration of proven concepts such as conservation, recycling, desalination, and stored water capture.

Councilmember Burgis and the DPC discussed "Delta as a place," regarding recreation; boating, fishing, water skiing, etc., DWR's consideration of the recreational impacts, how "Delta as a place," is a Delta Plan consideration (not CEQA), DPC's role as being an appellant, and DPC's recommendation that the Council figure out another way forward for solutions in the Delta.

Vice Chair Miller and DWR discussed the administrative record, specifically the evidence showing that the Conveyance Project reduces reliance on the Delta rather than enhancing Delta export reliability, and the statement in the Council's WR P1 regulation about increasing reliability. Council member Zingale, the Courtland Pear Fair, and DWR discussed the decision to install fencing around the completed project (rather than other materials such as vegetation or berms) and the rejection criteria for securing a booth at the fair. Council member Patterson and DWR discussed a question about mitigation measures appropriate for a particular location, and how they decide based on the specifics (geology, etc.).

Chair Lee concluded with a discussion on the concept of "Delta as a Place," covering impacted households from the construction, outreach efforts for those households, the process of land acquisition (eminent domain vs. purchases), mitigation compensation (EIR 14-2), impacted businesses, and employment opportunities for the communities (addressed in the community benefits program section of the EIR).

Chair Lee concluded the hearing and provided guidance and clarification on the public comment process.

The hearing was recorded by a certified court reporter.

Public comments were received from the following individuals:

Vice Chair of the Shingle Springs Rancheria, Malissa Tayaba, representative with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Krystal Morena, California District 8, 118th-

119th, Congressman John Garamendi; board member of Zone 7 Water Agency, Sarah Palmer; Yolo County Supervisor, Oscar Villegas; Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Patrick Hume; San Joaquin County Supervisor, Steve Ding; Mayor of Stockton, Christina Fugazi; Restore the Delta, Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla; SCV Water, Kevin Strauss; Alameda County Water District, Ava Lazor; Valley Water, Joshua Golka; Jennifer Pierre; Desert Water Agency, Victoria Llort; North Delta Water Agency, Adam Borchard; Thomas Keeling; Restore the Delta, Morgen Snyder; West Valley Water District, Charles Watson; Restore the Delta, Spencer Fern; Restore the Delta, Artie Valencia; Western Water, Tim Barr; Restore the Delta, Michelle Mendoza; Restore the Delta, Vanessa Buenrostro; Kyle Griffith; Amber McDowell; Beth Olhasso; Adrian Covert; Gabriela Cervantes; Roger Thibault; Emily Pappalardo; Tom Slater; Morris Lum; Coachella Valley Water District; Robert Cheng; Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; Maureen Martin; Mojave Water Agency; Wesley Massoll; 3V (Three Valleys) Kirk Howie; San Geronio Pass Water Agency; Lance Eckhart; Emmett Campbell; Kern County Water Agency; Craig Wallace; Calleguas Municipal Water District; Kristine McCaffrey; Michael Frost; Cindy Clark; Charles Wilson; Judith Kirk; Taneicia Herring; Richard Lambros; Gabriela Cervantes; Kirstopher Anderson; Dan Bacher; Jazmine Advincola; 350 Bay Area; Claire Broome; Layne Fajeau; Mark Goble; Peter Drekmeier; Michelle Rivera, and Karen Jaques.

Chair Lee directed the staff to prepare a draft determination for the Council's review. The Council will consider the draft determination and make a final decision within 60 days of today's hearing.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at 00:04:06: <https://rebrand.ly/g7ch4bl>.

5. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Chair Lee expressed gratitude to everyone who participated and recognized the importance, quantity, and complexity of the information received. She also directed the staff to prepare a draft determination for the Council's review. The Council will consider the draft and make a final decision within 60 days of today's hearing. A notice confirming the date and time will be sent out in advance of the meeting, as required by law.

The Council remains subject to ex parte communications restrictions in the Delta Conveyance Project appeal.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m..

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