



**DRAFT**

**SUMMARY AUGUST 27, 2026**

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For review and adoption by the Council at the September 24, 2026, 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 Lee called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on August 27, 2026, at the Hilton Hotel at 2323 Grand Canal Boulevard, Stockton, California 95207.

Chair Lee introduced the Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, Sonny Dhaliwal, to provide introductory remarks. Councilmember Eggman also welcomed Chair Dhaliwal. Chair Dhaliwal spoke to the councilmembers, highlighting collaboration and the importance of protecting the Delta.

**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, Eggman, Lee, Mehranian, and Zingale. (Government Code § 11123)

Councilmember Patterson was absent from the meeting. Councilmember Miller joined at the end of agenda item 4.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Stockton or Eureka.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/ik1ay1f> minute 00:05:05.

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

##### **4a. Adoption of June 25, 2026, Meeting Summary**

##### **4b. Consideration and Possible Approval of Contract No. DSC261188 with the Regents of the University of California San Diego, California Sea Grant for the 2028 Class of Delta Science Fellows and 2027/2028/2029 Classes of State Policy Fellows (Resolution No. 2026-06)**

Chair Lee presented the agenda item for adopting the consent calendar.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Stockton or Eureka.

Councilmember Burgis and Chief Counsel Jorge Aguilar discussed abstaining from the adoption of the July 23, 2026 meeting summary.

Each consent calendar item was voted on separately.

**Motion** (Adopt the July 23, 2026 Meeting Summary): offered by Councilmember Mehranian, seconded by Councilmember Eggman.

**Vote:** 4/1/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Abstain, Eggman: Aye, Lee: Aye, Mehranian: Aye, Miller: Absent, Patterson: Absent, Zingale: Aye)

**Motion** (Approve Resolution 2026-06): offered by Councilmember Mehranian, seconded by Councilmember Burgis.

**Vote:** 5/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Aye, Eggman: Aye, Lee: Aye, Mehranian: Aye, Miller: Absent, Patterson: Absent, Zingale: Aye)

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/ik1ay1f>, minute 00:05:38.

Councilmember Miller joined the meeting at the end of this agenda item.

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

### **5a. Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Meeting Preview**

Chair Lee introduced Rachel Wigginton, the Council's Special Assistant for Planning and Science, who provided a preview of the upcoming DPIIC meeting on September 29, 2026, at Safe Credit Union, highlighting key agenda items, including the newly published Delta Science Plan. Councilmember Burgis shared her excitement for the upcoming DPIIC meeting.

Chair Lee reported on her attendance at the advisory committee meeting of the Delta National Heritage Area on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Burgis and Chair Lee discussed the meeting and the design of the logo for the National Heritage Area.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Stockton or Eureka.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/ik1ay1f>, minute 00:09:50.

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

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson highlighted the final draft of the 2026 Delta Science Plan, now available online. Pearson reported on a comment letter sent by Council staff on August 3<sup>rd</sup> to Reclamation District 341 regarding the San Joaquin Multibenefit Project on Sherman Island. Pearson highlighted that Reclamation District 38 submitted a certification of consistency for the Mokelumne River Confluence Multibenefit Project. The certification is available for public review on the Council's Covered Actions Portal. The 30-day public review period concludes at 5:00 pm on September 11. Pearson announced that the Council received three appeals of the Department of Water Resources Delta Conveyance Project certification of

consistency and directed the public to the Covered Actions portal for access to the certification of consistency and appeal documents.

Pearson turned it over to Chief Counsel Jorge Aguilar to discuss ex parte communication restrictions.

**a. Legal Update**

Aguilar shared information about ex parte communication restrictions relating to the Council's appeals process as it relates to the Delta Conveyance Project.

Councilmember Burgis and Aguilar clarified elements of the restrictions.

The report closed with an overview of the Outreach Highlights Report and the Active Projects list, available in Councilmember packets.

Pearson then invited the Legislative and Policy Advisor, Audrey Cho to provide a legislative update.

**a. Legislative Update**

Audrey Cho, the Council's legislative and policy advisor, provided an update on the legislative session including an update on Proposition 4 and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund discussions.

Cho discussed bills of interest: SB 872 (McNerney), SB 599 (Caballero), AB 2218 (Kalra) and AB 2216 (Aguilar-Curry). Cho next provided updates on federal bills of interest including S. 3738 and S. 1412 by Senator Padilla, and federal appropriations.

Cho closed by highlighting the recent Council publication "15 years of Progress: Rising to the Challenge of the Delta Reform Act."

Pearson closed her report highlighting the rest of the agenda items at the meeting.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

Since there was no Lead Scientist Report, Vice Chair Miller asked questions about the By the Numbers Report for Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers to address in her next report.

*Public Comment*

*Adam Borchard with the Central Valley Flood Control Association provided a public comment on SB 872*

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/ik1ay1f>, minute 00:16:24.

**7. DELTA WATERMASTER UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Delta Watermaster, Jay Ziegler, began his report highlighting South Delta Water level and accessibility issues, including installation of temporary flow-controlled rock barriers, and future solutions. Ziegler next reported on the California Water Accounting, Tracking, and Reporting System (CALWATRS), OpenET (evapotranspiration), and annual water reporting metrics, and future measurement efforts.

Councilmember Miller and Ziegler discussed data consensus in the Delta. Councilmember Mehranian and Ziegler discussed temporary flow-controlled rock barriers and proposed permanent operable gates in the South Delta and channel maintenance. Councilmember Burgis discussed best available science, and permanent operable gates. Pearson shared perspective on the progress that has been made on data collection and science in the Delta. Councilmember Zingale and Ziegler discussed the importance of state investment in science and data in a changing and variable climate. Councilmember Eggman shared perspective on progress that has been made in California water.

Ziegler next provided a brief update on Golden Mussel response actions, Harmful Algal Blooms monitoring and current bloom status, and the “California Forever” development. Ziegler shared his thoughts on the 15 years of the Delta Reform Act report and shared updates on the Delta Alternative Compliance Plan (ACP) and the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program.

Councilmember Burgis and Ziegler discussed irrigation water usage data, future weather predictions, and how Colorado River management challenges may have implications for Delta water usage and conservation. Councilmember Miller asked for follow-up on Golden Mussel and how they may affect flow, Councilmember

Zingale and Ziegler discussed other possible factors affecting Delta farmers this season.

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/ik1ay1f>, minute 00:33:20.

## **8. DELTA CYANOBACTERIA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS MONITORING STRATEGY (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Delta Stewardship Council Environmental Scientist Nick Rowlands, USGS Research Biologist Dr. Keith Bouma-Gregson, State Water Resources Control Board Environmental Program Manager Dr. Laura Twardochleb, and Department of Water Resources Environmental Program Manager Dr. Ellen Preece presented on the Delta Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms Monitoring Strategy.

The presentations discussed the history and current instances of cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms (CHABs) in the Delta. They highlighted the importance of developing a Delta CHABs monitoring strategy and detailed the collaborative efforts involved. The presentation also covered the goals of the monitoring strategy, progress in implementation, the organizational structure of the CHABs Implementation Team (CHABs-IT), priorities for 2026-2027, ways to optimize Delta CHABs monitoring tools, the Microcystis Visual Index (MVI), project objectives, transforming strategy priorities into actions, the leveraged network, field sampling methods, MVI method comparison, the concept of "From Data to Decisions," and concluded with a brief summary.

Councilmember Eggman and Dr. Preece discussed the history of water treatments for addressing CHABs, their effectiveness, and their current use.

Following the presentation, Chair Lee offered encouragement and thanked the team for the work done so far before taking questions from the councilmembers.

Councilmembers Burgis, Dr. Preece, and Dr. Bouma-Gregson discussed the naming convention for “Harmful” blooms; historical concerns and safety issues associated with these blooms; approaches and tools for identifying blooms (satellite imagery, toolsets, and drones); prediction strategies to improve prevention and safety communications; monitoring, collaboration, and research; using archived organic materials for Golden Mussel detection; and empowering the community to help address CHABs and HABs.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There were two In-person public comments in Stockton.

*Public Comment*

*Spencer Fern from Restore the Delta emphasized the importance of community involvement in monitoring efforts. He highlighted the need for more groups to participate in Delta monitoring, improved public communication and awareness, and greater involvement of organizations like Restore the Delta in science communication and monitoring. He also noted that these efforts should aim to prevent harmful blooms altogether.*

*Daniel Carrillo from Restore the Delta commented on improved monitoring and prevention strategies, expressed support for the work of everyone present, and echoed Councilmember Burgis's concerns about water safety in the Delta.*

There was no further public comment in Stockton or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/ik1ay1f>, minute 01:43:06.

**9. REPORT ON THE 2026 INTERWEAVING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE SERIES  
(INFORMATION ITEM)**

Delta Stewardship Council Environmental Program Manager Dr. Dylan Chapple, presented a report on the 2026 Interweaving Traditional Knowledge Series.

The presentation covered the development of the Interweaving Traditional Knowledge Roundtable Series, explained what is meant by "Traditional Knowledge," clarified the concept of "interweaving," and provided details such as the number of participants, attendees, key takeaways, other council efforts related to traditional knowledge, and the next steps.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Miller, Councilmember Mehranian, and Councilmember Zingale thanked Dr. Chapple and his team for their dedicated work on the series. They emphasized the series' potential to inspire meaningful and effective change. Additionally, they highlighted that traditional knowledge is a valuable and primary source of scientific understanding.

Councilmember Zingale also asked Dr. Chapple to provide an example that most effectively exemplifies the technical work being carried out within the Delta. In response, Dr. Chapple described the culturally informed burn conducted on Twitchell Island.

Councilmember Burgis spoke about the significance of traditional knowledge to herself and the state. She thanked the Governor for prioritizing it and noted that the Delta Stewardship Council has served as an excellent model for the state in this effort. She emphasized that this is only the beginning and that we should continue advancing understanding and experience. Councilmember Burgis closed with a question about whether the demographic/attendance changed in the hybrid component of the series.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was one in-person comment in Stockton.

*Public Comment*

*Isabella Carvajal from Restore the Delta expressed her gratitude for the ongoing efforts, highlighted Don Hankins' work on Twitchell Island regarding indigenous fire management, reiterated that traditional knowledge represents the best form of science, and noted that AB 2218, the indigenous water bill, recognizes state-sanctioned actions and violence against indigenous peoples and their ongoing*

*impact on water rights. She also acknowledged indigenous people as the original stewards of the land.*

There was no further public comment in Stockton or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/ik1ay1f>, minute 02:36:33.

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

The next Council meeting will take place on September 24, 2026. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

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