



Delta
Independent
Science Board

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

September 1, 2026

Delta Stewardship Council
715 P Street, 15-300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Delivered via [email]: engage@deltacouncil.ca.gov

RE: Recommendation for Delta Lead Scientist Appointment

Dear Members of the Delta Stewardship Council,

On behalf of the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB), I am writing regarding the Delta ISB's recommendation for appointment of a Lead Scientist for the Delta Science Program (Delta Lead Scientist) for the upcoming term. The term of current Delta Lead Scientist Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers' concludes on November 30, 2026. This is Dr. Windham Myers's first term as Delta Lead Scientist. Pursuant to the Delta Reform Act, the Delta Lead Scientist can serve a total of two terms; Dr. Windham-Myers is interested in a second term.

The Delta ISB discussed the appointment of a Delta Lead Scientist for the upcoming term in closed session at the Delta ISB meeting on July 17, 2026. In that closed session, the Delta ISB voted to recommend that the Council appoint Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers as the Delta Lead Scientist for a second term of up to three years, the maximum term length allowed by the Delta Reform Act. A three-year term would be from December 1, 2026, through November 30, 2029. Dr. Windham-Myers has epitomized the leadership role of a lead scientist in this important and challenging position. We greatly respect her. Some of her accomplishments include her:

1. **Research track record and leadership in science across all factions of the science community.** Dr. Windham-Myers guided the Delta Science Program in developing the 2026 Delta Science Plan. In the Delta ISB's review of the draft plan, we found the plan to be bold, flexible and

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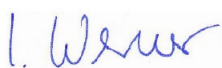
- forward-looking, and commended the inclusive planning process. In addition, Dr. Windham-Myers steered the development of the progress summary report of the Science Action Agenda, which helped to clarify achievements and highlight priorities for continued science investment.
2. **Clear and direct communication skills around contentious and controversial issues.** As an example, Dr. Windham-Myers highlighted major discoveries in recent years on blue carbon (i.e., the carbon captured by the ocean and coastal ecosystems) at a symposium, hosted by UC Davis and the Delta Science Program. She explained the complexities and confounding research findings and the likely reasons behind it.
 3. **Ability to carefully represent the consensus of the broad science community and highlight legitimate scientific disagreements and uncertainties.** During her tenure, she facilitated five Delta Science Program peer reviews, helping to ensure scientific rigor, transparency, and credibility in the process. She helped make sure diverse perspectives were considered in these peer reviews, which include the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Science Plan and the spring-run juvenile production estimate. She also participated in a variety of other activities, including supporting early career scientists, and bringing in tribal perspectives.

We plan to present the Delta ISB's recommendation to the Delta Stewardship Council at your next meeting on September 24, 2026. A second term would allow Dr. Windham-Myers to finish her work on the Collaboratory, a networked community of modelers and modeling resources to support integrated modeling, which is something that the Delta ISB has long-championed, including the most recent food-webs review.

Sincerely,



Diane McKnight, Ph.D.
Chair, Delta Independent Science Board



Inge Werner, Ph.D.
Past Chair, Delta Independent Science Board