Delta Stewardship Council
A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

DRAFT

SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

For review and adoption by the Council at the November 19, 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 9:30 AM on September 24, 2026, at the West Sacramento Veterans of Foreign Wars, 905 Drever St., West Sacramento, CA 95691.

Chair Lee introduced John Frasier, District Superintendent for California State Parks' Capitol District, to provide introductory remarks. Superintendent Frasier spoke to the Councilmembers, highlighting the California Indian Heritage Center and the imminent completion of phase one of the project. Councilmember Mehranian and Fraiser discussed the center's website, where the public can find information on the project (https://caindianheritagecenter.org/).

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, Mehranian, Patterson, Chair Lee. (Government Code § 11123)

Vice Chair Miller and Councilmember Zingale were absent. Councilmember Eggman was present but stepped out during this agenda item and rejoined at the end of agenda item 3.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Councilmember Eggman re-joined the meeting at the conclusion of this agenda item.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at https://rebrand.ly/5o1wgj9, minute 00:08:42.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)

4a. Adoption of August 27, 2026, Meeting Summary

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

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Motion (Adopt the Consent Calendar): offered by Councilmember Mehranian, seconded by Councilmember Eggman.

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

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at https://rebrand.ly/5o1wgj9, minute 00:09:33.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Lee highlighted Delta Week and acknowledged Council staff's efforts in organizing three recent off-site meetings. She reported attending the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee meeting. Councilmember Burgis highlighted new reappointment/hires to the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee voted on and approved by the Delta Protection Commission. Chair Lee also listed several recent and upcoming events: the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee

meeting on September 29, 2026, at the Safe Convention Center; the Jean Harvie Community Center's 100th anniversary celebration on September 24, 2026; the past U.S. Geological Survey tour on September 22, 2026; and the Delta Independent Science Board's meeting October 1, 2026, including a tour of Locke.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at https://rebrand.ly/5o1wgj9, minute 00:10:16.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Pearson recognized Delta Week and highlighted preparations for the 2026 Bay-Delta Science Conference, which is expected to attract nearly 1,000 attendees. Executive Officer Pearson also discussed a recent tour of the USGS Bay-Delta facility in West Sacramento, emphasizing the importance of scientific research, monitoring, and interagency partnerships.

Additional updates included the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed amendments to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, ongoing efforts to reduce reliance on the Delta through desalination and water recycling, and the Council's participation in the California Tribal Leaders Forum and California Native American Day.

Executive Officer Pearson also reported on the Council's comment letter on the Morrison Creek and Beach Lake Levee Project, the certification of consistency filed for the San Joaquin River Multibenefit Project, and the upcoming appeal hearing for the Delta Conveyance Project. Personnel announcements included welcoming a new Executive Fellow, Sasha A'Hearn, and Information Technology staff member Tharane Buccella.

The report concluded with outreach and communications highlights, including public engagement for the 2026 Delta Science Plan, promotion of the Bay-Delta Science Conference, a new publication commemorating 15 years of Delta reform, and recent coverage of the Council's work on harmful algal blooms before handing off to Legislative and policy advisor, Audrey Cho, for her presentation.

a. Legal Update

There was no legal update.

b. Legislative Update

Audrey Cho, the Council's legislative and policy advisor, provided an update on the state budget, enrolled bills of interest, signs and vetoes of interest, the proclamation of the 2026-2027 Developing El Niño State of Emergency, Federal Appropriations, and highlighted two panels focused on policy communication and legislative engagement at the Bay Delta Science Conference. Councilmember Burgis highlighted the need for proactive community and individual preparedness as El Niño related seasonal changes approach, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding remains uncertain. Councilmember Mehranian clarified with Cho that the state of emergency was statewide and came from Governor Newsom's office.

Executive Officer Pearson concluded with an overview of the remaining agenda items, including consideration of the Delta Independent Science Board's recommendation to reappoint Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers as Delta Lead Scientist, the Lead Scientist Report, a staff demonstration of the Delta Plan Performance Measure Dashboard, and an update from the Department of Water Resources on the Tide's End Multibenefit Restoration Project in the Yolo Bypass.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at https://rebrand.ly/5o1wgj9, minute 00:15:13.

7. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF THE DELTA LEAD SCIENTIST (ACTION ITEM)

Chair Lee introduced the agenda item.

Past Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) Chair, Inge Werner, reported on the Delta ISB meeting's closed session held on July 17, 2026. The meeting discussed appointing a Delta Lead Scientist for the upcoming term.

At that meeting, 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 (beginning December 1st, 2026, and ending November 30th, 2029), reflected in Resolution 2026-07 presented to the Council for consideration and possible adoption. Werner concluded with praise and recognition of Dr. Windham-Myers work before passing to Chair Lee for comments.

Councilmember Mehranian, Councilmember Burgis, Councilmember Patterson, and Chair Lee expressed their views on the Delta ISB's recommendation.

Before a motion, Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Motion (Adopt resolution 2026-07): offered by Councilmember Burgis, seconded by Councilmember Mehranian.

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

Dr. Windam-Myers offered expressed gratitude and shared her thoughts on looking ahead.

Before closing, Chair Lee asked again for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda https://rebrand.ly/5o1wgj9, minute 00:37:43.

8. LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Lee introduced Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers to present the Lead Scientist Report.

Dr. Windham-Myers highlighted the upcoming Bay-Delta Science Conference and upcoming science-related events, including the Plenary Session, Art and Poster

Reception, Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Meeting, Delta Trivia Showdown, and the Poster Art Exhibit Hall.

She also highlighted relevant panels and sessions: Policy & Management Showcase; The 2026 Delta Science Plan: Advancing Social Science, Governance, and Traditional Knowledge to Tackle the Delta's Grand Challenge; and Science for Communities: Community-Driven Research Projects.

She also highlighted Lost in Translation: Connecting Water Policy and Science Through a Common Language; and Research to Results: Re-envisioning Scientists as Policy Partners.

She closed with Council's Delta Science Program activities (US Bureau of Reclamation Peer Review, Research Impact Assessment report release, and the Collaboratory for Equity in Water Allocation website launch), then reviewed the "By the Numbers" report and discussed the 2026 El Niño weather event.

Following the presentation, Councilmember Burgis, Councilmember Eggman, Councilmember Patterson, and Councilmember Mehranian held a discussion with Dr. Windham-Myers on historical rainfall amounts, rising water temperatures, climate change, wave heights, future preparedness, levee failure and readiness for weather events such as El Niño, future tracking and regular reports, the unprecedented or rare preemptive state of emergency, personal preparedness, the location of El Niño, and this year's snowpack.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There were two public comments.

Gilbert Cosio of River Delta Consulting commented on this year's potential rainfall, El Niño, historical flooding, preparedness, ways to manage increased water flow (such as reservoirs and storage), climate change, and inaccuracies in historical predictions.

Dylan Stern of the Delta Stewardship Council commented on the previous agenda item, endorsed the Delta Scientist recommendation, and thanked Dr. Windham-Myers for her work.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at https://rebrand.ly/5o1wgj9, minute 00:47:26.

9. A QUICK-START GUIDE TO THE COUNCIL'S DELTA PLAN PERFORMANCE MEASURE DASHBOARD (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson introduced Environmental Program Manager Martina Koller, who presented on the Council's Delta Plan Performance Measures Dashboard.

The presentation highlighted how performance measures track progress towards Delta Plan targets and address frequently asked questions regarding Delta Plan implementation. The presentation included a live dashboard demonstration outlining how partners and the public can access data through this transparent and accessible platform available here: https://viewperformance.deltacouncil.ca.gov/, fostering government accountability and a deeper understanding of the system responses while saving staff time by centralizing the information for a broad audience.

Chair Lee thanked staff for their work on the dashboard before asking for Council comments.

Councilmember Patterson and Councilmember Burgis both expressed their excitement and gratitude for the performance measures and the dashboard.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at https://rebrand.ly/5o1wgj9, minute 01:22:21.

10. TIDE'S END MULTIBENEFIT PROJECT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Lee introduced Chris Kwan and the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) environmental scientist Judah Grossman assistant deputy director Charlotte Biggs to provide an update on the Tide's End Multibenefit Restoration Project, a potential

covered action pursuant to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Wat. Code, § 85000 et seq.).

The update covered the Tide's End Multibenefit Restoration Project's location, goals, and connections to the Delta Plan's coequal goals (primarily habitat restoration), California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Share Hunting Program, and neighborhood efficiencies. It also covered the project's multiple benefits, including 710 acres of managed agriculture; irrigation, drainage, and conveyance improvements; water quality and roughness; 553 acres of managed wetlands; compatible waterfowl recreation; protection measures and project-specific mitigation measures; design; how the project advances the Delta Plan objectives; permits and environmental review; and the project timeline.

Before asking for comments from the Council, Chair Lee advised neutrality on the subject, as the project is a potential covered action that would be certified to the Council for consistency with the Delta Plan.

Chair Lee, Councilmember Eggman, Councilmember Burgis, Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers, Grossman, and Biggs discussed the project's secured funding, the possibility of the project qualifying for CDFW's Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (the project did not apply), pursuit of a restoration management permit (green tape), challenges along the way (constituent issues and concerns), land ownership (Ecosystem Investment Partners to transfer title to DWR), the potential addition of new monitoring stations (too early to decide), the science plan attached to the project as part of DWR's Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program, and floodplain habitat (flood conveyance plans).

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at https://rebrand.ly/5o1wgj9, minute 01:37:22.

11. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will take place on October 15, 2026. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

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

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