



Delta Stewardship Council

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

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DELTACOUNCIL.CA.GOV

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July 10, 2025

Carolyn Bragg
Bureau of Reclamation
801 I Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Delivered via [email]: cbragg@usbr.gov

RE: Delta Cross Channel Gate Improvements Project

Dear Carolyn Bragg,

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Delta Cross Channel Gate Improvements Project proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Council staff understands that the objective of this project is to update aging infrastructure to automate and streamline operations of the Delta Cross Channel gates (DCC gates). The DCC gates protect migrating salmonids and allow Reclamation to manage water quality and water supply.

The Council is an independent State of California agency established by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009. (Wat. Code, § 85000 et seq.; Delta Reform Act) The Delta Reform Act charges the Council with furthering the California's coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) ecosystem. (Wat. Code, § 85054.) The Delta Reform Act further states that the coequal goals are to be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving

place. The Delta Cross Channel Gate Improvements Project is not a covered action pursuant to Water Code section 85057.5 because it is not going to be carried out, approved, or funded by a state or local public agency.

Council staff is interested in the Delta Cross Channel Gate Improvements Project because improving water quality in the Delta is a component of the coequal goals as defined in the Delta Reform Act (Wat. Code, §§ 85020, subd. (e), 85054.) and is necessary to provide a reliable water supply. The continued operation of the DCC gates can improve water quality in the central and south Delta, reduce salinity intrusion into the west Delta, and protect the water supply in these regions.

Also, protecting and enhancing recreational opportunities in the Delta is inherent in the coequal goals. (Wat. Code, § 85020, subd. (b).) Council staff appreciates the inclusion of a new public access ramp that supports recreation and Reclamation's willingness to provide additional recreational opportunities.

Council staff believes the DCC gates are a piece of critical infrastructure and supports their continued maintenance and operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. Should you have any questions, please contact Erin Mullin at Erin.Mullin@deltacouncil.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff Henderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Henderson
Deputy Executive Officer
Delta Stewardship Council