



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A California State Agency

– AGENDA –

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) SCOPING MEETING FOR
DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR PROPOSED DELTA
PLAN CHAPTER 4 (PROTECT, RESTORE, AND ENHANCE THE DELTA
ECOSYSTEM) AMENDMENT**

Thursday, May 28, 2020

4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

To view the webcast, click the link:

<https://deltacouncil.webex.com/deltacouncil/onstage/g.php?MTID=e49ab085cfb30055ac6be63674a40de4a>

To provide comment, call the following teleconference number: 1-877-402-9757, Access Code 4450441. If calling in, please turn off your computer's audio to avoid interference. **In addition, please email engage@deltacouncil.ca.gov or text/call (916) 798-9817 with your name and phone number that you will be calling in from so that you can be unmuted when appropriate.**

Please contact the Council at engage@deltacouncil.ca.gov or (916) 798-9817 with questions, concerns, or issues with the webcast or public participation during this scoping meeting.

4:00 p.m. Welcome

4:05 p.m. Presentation on the proposed amendment to Chapter 4 (Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem) of the Delta Plan (Proposed Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment) and Potential Environmental Impacts

4:20 p.m. Oral Comment Period

Those who wish to provide oral scoping comments on the scope of the Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment may do so by calling the teleconference number above and turning off the WebEx audio. Please email engage@deltacouncil.ca.gov or call/text (916) 798-9817 to let Council staff know that you wish to share oral

comments and to provide the phone number that you will be calling in from so that you can be unmuted when called upon.

Those who wish to provide written comments may also provide their comment(s) to ecosystemamendment@deltacouncil.ca.gov by 5:00 p.m. July 10, 2020.¹

All comments received, including names, affiliations, and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be available to the public. Commenters may request the Council to withhold contact information from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable under California law. For the Council to consider withholding contact information, this request must be stated prominently at the beginning of the submitted written comments or when contacting the above for oral comments.

5:30 p.m.

Adjourn Scoping Meeting

¹ Send comments to: Harriet Ross, Assistant Planning Director, Delta Stewardship Council, 980 9th Street, Suite 1500, Sacramento, CA 95814; Phone: 916-445-5511; Email address: ecosystemamendment@deltacouncil.ca.gov

All comments should include "Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment NOP" as the subject and the name and email address of the contact person so that the contact information can be automatically added to the distribution list for future notices and information about the Proposed Project environmental review process.



Figure 1. Planning Area for Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment Program Environmental Impact Report

Figure 1 is a statewide map of California. The map identifies the Planning Area for Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment Program Environmental Impact Report. The primary planning area is the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and Suisun Marsh. The extended planning area is defined by the watersheds that contribute flows to the Delta (Delta Watershed Area) and areas outside the Delta watershed that receive water from or conveyed through the Delta.

Alternative formats of this map are available upon request.

Proposed Delta Plan Chapter 4 (Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem) Amendment Program Environmental Impact Report CEQA Scoping Meeting



May 28, 2020
Remote – WebEx and Teleconference



Today's Presentation

- Purpose of meeting
- Background
- Proposed Project - Proposed Delta Plan Chapter 4 (Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem) Amendment
- CEQA process
- Public comment
- Closing

Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Provide background on the Delta Plan and proposed Ecosystem Amendment
- Receive public and agency input on scope and content of the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

How to Comment Today

- In order to provide oral comments during the webcast, call the following teleconference number:
1-877-402-9757, Access Code 4450441
- Those who wish to provide oral comments on scope of the Draft PEIR are requested to ***email*** engage@deltacouncil.ca.gov or ***call/text (916) 798-9817*** to let Council staff know that you wish to share oral comments and to provide the phone number that you will be calling in from so that you may be unmuted when called upon.
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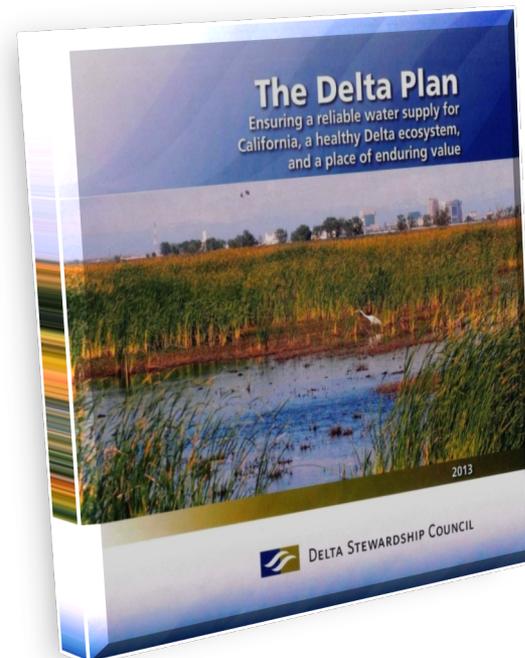
The Delta Stewardship Council

- The Council was formed by the **Delta Reform Act** in 2009
- Created to:
 - Achieve the state mandated **coequal goals for the Delta**: a more reliable water supply and a healthy and protected ecosystem
 - 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 Plan and Amendments

- The **Delta Plan** was adopted by the Council in 2013
- Proposed project would **amend** Delta Plan Chapter 4
- The Council is preparing a **Program Environmental Impact Report** for the proposed project



Ecosystem Amendment

2015 shift from BDCP to EcoRestore necessitated update of Delta Plan Chapter 4 to achieve Delta Reform Act goals



Photo courtesy of DWR

Vision for a Restored Delta Ecosystem



Vision for a Restored Delta Ecosystem (cont. - 1)

The Council envisions a future in which the Delta ecosystem has the following characteristics:

- *Native species, including algae and other plants, invertebrates, fish, birds, and other wildlife, are self-sustaining and persistent.*
- *The tidal channels and bays in the Delta and Suisun Marsh connect with freshwater creeks, upland grasslands, and woodlands.*
- *The Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and Delta tributaries include reaches where streams are free to meander and connect seasonally to floodplains...*
- *Habitats for resident and rearing migratory fish, birds, and upland wildlife are connected by migratory corridors...*

Vision for a Restored Delta Ecosystem (cont. - 2)

The Council envisions a future in which the Delta ecosystem has the following characteristics (cont'd):

- *More natural variations in water flows and conditions make aquatic habitats, tidal marshes, and floodplains more dynamic, encourage survival of native species, and resist invasions by weeds and animal pests.*
- *The ecosystem is resilient enough to absorb and adapt to current and future effects of multiple stressors...*
- *The Delta will provide more reliable water supplies...*
- *Californians recognize and celebrate the Delta's unique natural resource values...*

Proposed Project

1. Create more natural, functional flows
2. Restore ecosystem function
3. Protect land for restoration and safeguard against land loss
4. Protect native species and reduce the impact of nonnative invasive species
5. Improve institutional coordination to support implementation of ecosystem protection, restoration, and enhancement



Photo courtesy of DWR

CEQA Process Summary



Program EIR Planning Areas

- Primary Planning Area
- Extended Planning Area



Program EIR Impact Analysis

- Delta Plan is a comprehensive plan designed to guide the actions and projects of other federal, state, and local agencies that are related to the Delta
- Council does not propose to construct or operate facilities or undertake other specific physical actions following adoption of the proposed amendments
- PEIR analysis considers potential environmental impacts of general types of activities and potential projects that could be undertaken by other public agencies in response to the proposed Ecosystem Amendment

Covered Actions Impact Analysis

- A *covered action* is “a plan, program, or project as defined pursuant to section 21065 of the Public Resources Code that...[w]ill occur, in whole or in part, within the boundaries of the Delta or Suisun Marsh”(Wat. Code section 85057.5(a))
- For covered actions subject to the proposed amendment in the Delta and Delta Watershed Area, lead agencies would be required to implement all applicable feasible mitigation measures adopted and incorporated into the Delta Plan or equally effective measures
- Specific details of potential covered actions that will be subject to the proposed amendments, such as project size, configuration, location, and operation, are not known at this time
- The impacts of specific covered actions that will be subject to the proposed amendment will be fully evaluated in project-level documents under CEQA by the lead agency for the project

Types of Activities and Potential Projects That Could be Undertaken in Response to the Proposed Ecosystem Amendment

- Changes in water flows
- Restoration of natural communities, including but not limited to wetland, upland, or riparian habitat
- Subsidence reversal activities

Types of Activities and Potential Projects That Could be Undertaken in Response to the Proposed Ecosystem Amendment (cont.)

- Protection of native species and reduction of nonnative invasive species impacts
- Construction of new infrastructure and improvements to existing infrastructure, including screened diversions and improvements to fish passage, and modifications to improve hydrologic surface water connectivity and increase frequency of seasonal inundation

Resource Areas Considered

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Climate Change
- Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- Energy Resources
- Geology, Soils, Seismicity, and Mineral Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population, Employment, and Housing
- Recreation
- Transportation, Traffic, and Circulation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Public Services
- Wildfire

CEQA Process Next Steps

- Council will consider comments received on the NOP and during scoping in preparing the Draft PEIR
- Draft PEIR will be circulated for public and agency review
- Written responses to comment received on the Draft PEIR will be prepared
- Final PEIR
 - Responses to comments
 - Any text changes to Draft PEIR
 - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
- Council will consider certifying PEIR
- Council will consider approving the proposed Ecosystem Amendment

CEQA Anticipated Schedule

Notice of Preparation Scoping ★

- Notice of Preparation comment and scoping period
- *Schedule: May 11 to July 10, 2020*

Draft Program EIR Public Review ★

- Council releases Draft PEIR for public and agency review and comment
- *Schedule: Spring 2021*

Final Program EIR Response to Comments

- Council releases Final PEIR, which contains responses to comments on the Draft PEIR
- *Schedule: Summer/Fall 2021*

Delta Stewardship Council Decision ★

- Council decides whether to certify PEIR and adopt proposed Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment
- *Schedule: Summer/Fall 2021*

★ Opportunity for public review and comment under CEQA

Public Comment

A scenic landscape photograph of a pond. In the foreground, a large clump of tall, golden-brown reeds stands on the left side, their reflection clearly visible in the calm water. The water extends towards the right, reflecting the sky and the distant trees. In the background, a line of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange and yellow is visible against a clear, light blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and captures the beauty of a late autumn day.

Providing Oral Scoping Comments Today

- We are here to listen and record your input about the scope and content of the Program EIR
- We will call on you in the order that speaker requests are received
- Please state your name and organization
- All comments received will be taken into consideration in preparing the Draft PEIR

How to Submit Comments after Today

- Mail: Harriet Ross
Delta Stewardship Council
980 9th Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814
Postmarked by Friday, July 10, 2020
- Email:
ecosystemamendment@deltacouncil.ca.gov
Received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2020

For More Information

- For updated information on the progress of the Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment PEIR:
 - Website:
<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/amendments>
- Sign up for the Council's Delta Plan Amendments email list:
 - Email: ecosystemamendment@deltacouncil.ca.gov
 - Write: Harriet Ross
Delta Stewardship Council
980 9th Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Oral Comment Period Open - How to Comment Today

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Thank You!

We appreciate your time and thank you for your input!



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