

Delta Stewardship Council
Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee
July 15, 2019
Tsakopoulos Library Galleria
828 I St, Sacramento
Meeting Summary

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) established the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) after adopting the Delta Plan in 2013 and continues to oversee DPIIC activities as required by the Delta Reform Act. DPIIC serves as a forum to orchestrate the timely and orderly implementation of the Delta Plan and Delta Science Plan as well as a venue to coordinate priorities and best management practices to improve statewide water supply reliability and ecosystem conditions in the Delta. The twelfth DPIIC meeting took place on Monday, July 15, 2019 and was called to order by Chair Susan Tatayon.

The recording of the meeting can be found on the Cal-Span website: <http://cal-span.org/static/meetings-DSC.php>. Meeting materials and presentations can also be found on the Council's website: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov>.

Attendees

The following committee members were in attendance (listed alphabetically):

Chuck Bonham	Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Carl Wilcox	Policy Advisor on the Delta
John Callaway	Lead Scientist, Delta Science Program
Russell Callejo	Deputy Regional Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region (Reclamation)
Dan Castleberry	Assistant Regional Director, Fish and Aquatic Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Pacific Southwest (<i>for Paul Souza, Regional Director</i>)
Mike Chotkowski	Science Coordinator, Pacific Region, US Geological Survey (<i>for Mark Sogge, Regional Director for the Pacific Region</i>)
Wade Crowfoot	Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (Resources)
Nancy Vogel	Director of the Water Portfolio Program
E. Joaquin Esquivel	Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Michael George	Delta Watermaster
Campbell Ingram	Executive Officer, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy)
Clyde Macdonald	Board Member, Central Valley Flood Protection Board (<i>for Bill Edgar, President</i>)
Karla Nemeth	Director, California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Cindy Messer, Chief Deputy Director
Maria Rea	Assistant Regional Manager, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (<i>for Barry Thom, West Coast Administrator</i>)

Karen Ross	Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
David Smith	NPDES Permits and Storm Water Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (US EPA)
Susan Tatayon	Chair, Council
Cindy Tejada	Watershed & Floodplain Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division
Oscar Villegas	Chair, Delta Protection Commission

In addition to those listed above, Ryan Stanbra, the Council's legislative and policy advisor, presented to DPIIC.

Overview and Introductions

Chair Tatayon welcomed everyone in attendance and took a moment to highlight the meeting as DPIIC's first summer gathering, stemming from DPIIC-member recommendations in 2018. Chair Tatayon presented the completed and printed Delta Science Plan to the DPIIC members noting the role the Delta Science Plan and DPIIC play in focusing resources and energy in pursuit of *One Delta, One Science*. Chair Tatayon also noted that Kiel Weaver, U.S. Department of the Interior's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science, was participating in the DPIIC meeting by way of the live webcast from Washington, D.C.

Chair Tatayon provided a brief overview of the agenda and the meeting's focus on the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio.

The Delta Plan and California Water Resilience Portfolio Nexus

Mr. Stanbra provided an overview of the Delta Plan's approach to resilience and how the Delta Plan and the water resilience portfolio can leverage and support each other. Mr. Stanbra also highlighted how DPIIC provides an established forum for discussing resilience and comprises representatives from State and federal agencies involved in both Delta Plan and portfolio efforts.

Chair Tatayon spoke to the dynamic nature of water management in California. Californians have the authorities and major policy mechanisms to combine water management assets in a way that optimizes multiple benefits. Chair Tatayon charged everyone with using these authorities to better integrate water management actions and creatively address institutional hurdles, other major factors affecting water resilience, climate change, and to sustain the functionality of California's water systems and ecosystems.

California Water Resilience Portfolio – Committee Discussion

Secretary Crowfoot provided context for the effort to develop the portfolio. Much of the portfolio's energies were driven by Governor Newsom's vision to "think long" on water, and in particular, the challenges California faces: climate change, population growth,

and ecosystem stabilization. The water resilience portfolio will integrate efforts to address these challenges. A draft of the Portfolio is expected in October 2019 with a final in November 2019.

Secretary Ross stated support for continued integrated resources management. She spoke of the recent drought and the lessons learned from it, specifically highlighting the strong level of involvement at the local level. The building of relationships and a move toward an emerging regional approach is important. Secretary Ross highlighted the need for integration, having shared goals, and a growing understanding that every drop of water is important.

Chair Esquivel echoed Secretary Ross' comments on drought synthesis and lessons learned and praised the State's leadership and their shift toward efficiency and conservation. He reaffirmed the notion of interconnectivity in California; it is not agriculture vs. urban, but how can everyone work together.

Secretary Crowfoot added that the State and the water resilience portfolio are "not reinventing the wheel," but building upon the existing California Water Action Plan with an increased commitment to interagency collaboration and work.

Director Bonham applauded the Governor's early focus on water, which is an indication of the importance of water to the Administration. Mr. Bonham stated that, "time is fleeting and progress is necessary," especially since water matters to all. There is hope in the Administration's leadership to develop a water resilience portfolio through interagency collaboration.

Director Nemeth echoed earlier comments on the Administration's leading a collective and collaborative approach to addressing water issues. Ms. Nemeth highlighted open data, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, water use efficiency legislation, and flood protection as critical to an integrated future among participating agencies. DWR has re-organized to be more integrated as well, forming a new section dedicated to multi-benefit projects, essentially connecting historically "siloed" divisions and bridging the gap to foster interconnectivity.

Assistant Regional Director Castleberry shared that he felt encouraged with everyone's focus on the coequal goals. The current perspective of balance and integration has not been expressed in many projects historically, but is something that the USFWS values and wants to provide assistance on in the future.

Assistant Regional Manager Rea was encouraged by the State's leadership and the emphasis on integration and offered forecasting and water management resources to the effort.

Deputy Regional Director Callejo echoed support for integration and the continued role of Reclamation in conveyance and storage.

Ms. Tejada stated support for the State's efforts on the water resilience portfolio and highlighted three issues for the committee: engineering with nature, leveraging water resource management, and watershed solutions.

Mr. Smith expressed enthusiasm regarding integration and a willingness to assist the State in their efforts. Mr. Smith noted that the DPIIC structure could be used as a model for interagency collaboration on actions and programs for water resilience. The US EPA and other federal agencies are part of a sub-cabinet-level group charged with creating a national water reuse action plan to foster commitment on integrated water management; this effort could be consistent with California's water resilience portfolio efforts.

Mr. Chotkowski expressed his appreciation of the dialogue and how it was not only Delta, but also State-focused; it could be helpful to consider how all of the science happening in the state fits together. Mr. Chotkowski offered his assistance and the technical expertise of his agency.

Board member Macdonald explained the Flood Board's purview and the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, illustrating three primary areas of focus: improve urban flood protection, develop multi-purpose projects, and improve levee maintenance. Improving levee maintenance and flood control in the San Joaquin watershed have been the most challenging.

Executive Officer Ingram stated that the Conservancy stands at the ready as an implementation entity to work with the agencies and to provide a platform for them to engage with local communities. Mr. Campbell encouraged focus on Delta subsidence, which is one of the challenges in the Delta and a key component of resilience.

Supervisor Villegas noted that he represents Delta communities and stakeholders and called for "checkpoints" to gauge local buy-in for the draft water resilience portfolio. He identified that this moment is an opportunity for everyone to re-engage with key stakeholders and local entities and to establish awareness and understanding of resilience moving forward.

Dr. Callaway echoed previous comments about incorporating science, especially the need for open data, new technologies, identification of critical uncertainties about impacts and management issues, and improving our forecast modeling. Mr. Callaway also noted his appreciation of the watershed approach that the water resilience portfolio seems to be taking.

Secretary Crowfoot thanked the federal partners for their comments and offers of assistance and partnership. Mr. Crowfoot agreed that the DPIIC model is very powerful and could be a model for broad statewide incorporation.

Public Comment

Ms. Deidre Des Jardins, California Water Research, provided comments on sea-level rise discrepancies; tunnel simulations/modeling inconsistencies; flooding frequency, capacity, and infrastructure; and drought.

Mr. Kanwarjit Dua, Flood Board legal counsel, spoke on the cost of maintenance for levees, and how there is a huge gap between funds needed and what the Flood Board has. Mr. Dua also advocated for interagency collaboration, clear legal authorities, and permitting education.

Ms. Jennifer Nevills, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Met), addressed Met's efforts around conservation, water efficiency, integrated resource planning, and conveyance. Ms. Nevills also acknowledged the interagency collaboration and the need to further the concepts discussed during the meeting, including: restoration, science, clean and safe drinking water, technology, and human infrastructure.

Ms. Osha Meserve, Local Agencies of the North Delta and Friends of Stone Lakes National Wildlife, called for goals, metrics, direction, and objective outcomes for the upcoming draft of the portfolio. She also called for a clear explanation of resilience, and endorsed the watershed approach mentioned previously in the meeting.

Mr. Mark Pruner, Delta resident, advocated for residents living in the Delta, encouraging meeting locations and times that work for Delta residents, and an innovative outreach effort that provides a "win" for agencies and residents alike.

Closing Remarks and Committee Business

Chair Tatayon provided a closing statement on the roles of the Delta Reform Act, Delta National Heritage Area, conveyance, and green as well as gray infrastructure in water resilience.

Mr. Wilcox supported Chair Tatayon's comments and highlighted the Delta Conservation Framework, which provides a blueprint for conducting outreach in the Delta.

Chair Tatayon thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.