



Posted Date: April 17, 2026

Meeting Notice of the Delta Independent Science Board

Tour of the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility

Thursday, May 21, 2026
9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

The Delta Independent Science Board will also hold a meeting on Friday, May 22, 2026. The notice for the May 22 meeting will be released on May 11, 2026, and will be posted on the [Delta ISB's meetings web page](#).

Tour Start Location

Beach Lake Park

Turn into the driveway across the street from Cliff's Marina (8651 River Rd, Sacramento, CA 95832)

[See map for directions to the tour start location.](#)

Webcast

The tour will not be webcast and will not be recorded.

Tour/Meeting Materials

Materials referenced in this notice are available on the Delta Independent Science Board's (Delta ISB's) [meetings web page](#) at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-isb/meetings>. Members of the public are encouraged to visit the events web page to view the meeting materials.

Purpose

The Delta ISB will meet from May 21 to 22, 2026. On May 21, the Sacramento Area Sewer District will provide a tour to the Delta ISB and the public of the (1) Bufferlands, (2) EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility, and (3) historic Nicolaus Dairy located within the Bufferlands. This tour is intended to help inform the Delta ISB's contaminants monitoring review. On May 22, the Delta ISB will meet at the California Natural Resources Agency to discuss its reviews and activities, and debrief on the tour.

The EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility, located in Elk Grove, CA, provides tertiary treatment for 1.6 million customers throughout the Sacramento region. This facility includes a substantial buffer between facility operations and its nearest neighbors. This expanse of open space is called the Bufferlands, which provides wildlife habitat, farmland, and open space while reducing the potential for odor and other nuisances.

EARLY REGISTRATION NO LATER THAN MAY 8, 2026, IS REQUIRED to participate in the tour of the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility due to security and requirements of the Sacramento Area Sewer District. Spaces for registration are limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To reserve your space on this free tour, please e-mail disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov or call (916) 902-6571 by **Friday, May 8 at 4 PM**. Please indicate the full name of each guest. There is no space restriction for the tour of the Bufferlands.

Tour Requirements

As part of security measures for the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility, you will be asked to show photo identification, such as a driver's license or passport. The Sacramento Area Sewer District will be recording the identification number on the driver's license or passport for Homeland Security. The Delta ISB will not collect or retain identification information.

Health and Safety: All attendees **must wear closed-toed shoes. The Sacramento Area Sewer District will not permit sandals or high heels on this tour.** You should dress in comfortable clothing. A hat and sunglasses are recommended during the outdoor portion of the tour.

Walking Distance: Participants on the Bufferlands tour should be prepared to walk up to two miles over uneven ground. Participants on the EchoWater Facility tour should be prepared to stand for at least 50 minutes and be able to walk 1.5 miles through tunnels, stairs, and uneven surfaces. **Reasonable accommodations will be provided. If you need reasonable accommodations, please contact disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov.**

Transportation: All members of the public participating in the tour are responsible for their own transportation to and from the tour, including between spots.

Lunch and Beverages: Participants should bring their own lunch and beverages. Light refreshments will be available from the Sacramento Area Sewer District during the presentation portion of the tour. Only water can be brought for the remainder of the EchoWater Facility tour.

Timing: All times listed in the agenda are approximate. The Delta ISB will convene as a quorum at the stops listed on the agenda. There will not be a quorum of members during transportation between stops.

This Purpose section describes the highlights. For more information about the meeting, refer to the agenda below.

Agenda

The agenda items listed below may be considered in a different order pursuant to the determination of the Delta ISB chair. Times listed on the agenda are approximate only. At the discretion of the Delta ISB, all items appearing on this agenda, whether expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action.

~ 9:30 AM: Tour/Meeting Starts

The Delta ISB will meet at Beach Lake Park (turn into the driveway across the 8651 River Rd, Sacramento, CA 95832). [See map for directions to the tour start location.](#)

1. Welcome and Declarations

2. Public Comments

The Delta ISB will take public comments on topics within its jurisdiction that are not on the agenda.

3. Tour of the Bufferlands

The Delta ISB will tour a portion of the Sacramento Area Sewer District's Bufferlands. The EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility includes a substantial buffer between its facility operations and its nearest neighbors. This 2,150-acre expanse of thriving open space is called the Bufferlands. The land was designated to help reduce the potential for odor and other nuisances, while also providing hundreds of acres of wildlife habitat, farmland, and open space. Throughout the years, Bufferlands staff has spearheaded a number of projects and research efforts to help species and habitat thrive.

Participants on the Bufferlands tour should be prepared to walk up to two miles over uneven ground. **Reasonable accommodations will be provided. If you need reasonable accommodations, please contact disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov.**

~ 11:30 AM: Lunch Break & Depart Bufferlands to the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility (8521 Laguna Station Road, Elk Grove, CA 95758). Enter the EchoWater Facility from Sims Road off of Franklin Boulevard.

[See map for directions to the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility](#)

It takes about 15 minutes to travel from the Bufferlands to the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility. You can either bring your own lunch and eat at the EchoWater Facility's meeting room or head out during the lunch break, and reconvene at the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility.

~ 12:45 PM: Reconvene Meeting at the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility (8521 Laguna Station Road, Elk Grove, CA 95758).

Please arrive by 12:45 pm to allow time to enter the facility and check-in through the security gate. You will need to show government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license or passport. **Tour starts at 1:00 pm.**

4. EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility Tour

The Delta ISB will tour the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility, which provides tertiary treatment for 1.6 million customers throughout the Sacramento region. The EchoWater Project began in 2010 when the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board issued new treatment requirements in Sacramento Area Sewer District's wastewater discharge permit to improve water quality and help alleviate ecological problems in the Delta. Upgrades were completed in 2023, and the centerpiece of the upgrade was the Biological Nutrient Removal Project, which is responsible for removing 99 percent of ammonia and 89 percent of nitrogen, addressing concerns about possible impacts downstream.

The expanded tertiary treatment facility is now the second largest treatment plant of its kind in the nation, and the expansion project was among the largest public works projects in the Sacramento region's history.

For this portion of the tour, you should expect to stand for at least 50 minutes and be able to walk through tunnels, stairs, and uneven surfaces.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided. If you need reasonable accommodations, please contact disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov.

~ 4:00 PM: Depart EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility to the historic Nicolaus Dairy (on the right at 3432 Dwight Road, Elk Grove, CA 95758)

[See map for directions to the historic Nicolaus Dairy.](#) There is no set address to the dairy.

~ 4:10 PM: Reconvene Meeting at the historic Nicolaus Dairy (on the right at 3432 Dwight Road, Elk Grove, CA 95758)

5. Tour of the historical Nicolaus Dairy

The Delta ISB will tour the historic Nicolaus Dairy. The Sacramento Area Sewer District purchased the property in the 1980s from the Nicolaus family, as part of its Bufferlands. The Sacramento Area Sewer District, in partnership with Sacramento Splash (Splash), has opened the doors of the historic Nicolaus Dairy to students throughout the Sacramento region. It is the latest immersive educational experience offering hands-on field trip experiences in the areas of Agriculture, Water, Energy, and the Environment (AWE).

~ 4:30 PM: Tour adjourned. The Delta ISB will meet on Friday, May 22, 2026. A separate notice will be posted on May 11, 2026. Please visit the Delta ISB's meetings web page.

Additional Information

- If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (916) 902-6571 or disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov.
- If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Delta Stewardship Council's Human Resources Office at (916) 445-5511, TDD (800) 735-2929.
- Members of the public shall be provided an opportunity to address the Delta ISB on any agenda items except closed session items and those items for which the public has already been afforded such opportunity at an earlier meeting.
 - In addition, comments during the Public Comment period (Agenda Item 2) shall be limited to matters within the Delta ISB's jurisdiction and not on the agenda. Reasonable time limits may be established for public comments (Government Code Sections 11125.7).
- Note that the Delta Stewardship Council, which provides staff services to the Delta ISB, is under ex parte communication restrictions with regard to the [Delta Conveyance Project](#), and cannot discuss the project or issues related to the appeal of the Delta Conveyance Project, with anyone outside of the Council, which includes the Delta ISB. The Delta ISB is independent of the Council and is not under ex parte restrictions, except as the restriction is applicable to communications with Council staff or Council members.