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GOVERNOR APPOINTS ANN PATTERSON AND AUDREY CHO TO THE DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom has appointed Ann Patterson and Audrey Cho to the Delta Stewardship Council.

“On behalf of the Council, I could not be more delighted to welcome Ann and Audrey to our agency,” says Chair Julie Lee. “Their commitments to and knowledge of public service are impressive and position them to excel in their roles.”

Patterson, of Sacramento, has been appointed as a member of the Council’s seven-member board, effective September 24, 2025. She has been a senior counselor at the Office of Governor Newsom since 2025, where she has served multiple roles since 2019, including as the Governor’s cabinet secretary and legal affairs secretary. Before that, Patterson was a Partner at Orrick, Herrington, and Sutcliffe from 2005 to 2018. Her position on the Council requires Senate confirmation and was last occupied by Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr. To learn more, visit the Council’s [members web page](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-members) (deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-members).

“I have had the great pleasure of working under the leadership of Judge Damrell since he was first appointed to the Council in 2013,” says Executive Officer Jessica R. Pearson. “Judge Damrell’s leadership and counsel resulted in the successful defense of the state’s first-ever Delta Plan, and his commitment to centering underserved communities shaped the Council’s recently adopted Tribal and Environmental Justice Issue Paper. His impact on the Council’s work will be lasting.”

Judge Damrell was appointed to the California Alcohol Beverage Control Appeals Board by Governor Newsom on September 15, 2025.

715 P Street, 15-300
Sacramento, CA 95814

916.445.5511
[DELTACOUNCIL.CA.GOV](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov)

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Julie Lee

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Maria Mehranian
Ann Patterson
Daniel Zingale

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Jessica R. Pearson

Cho, of Sacramento, has been appointed to the Council's executive team as legislative and policy advisor, effective October 2, 2025. She has been an executive fellow (Capital Fellows Program) at the Council since 2024. In 2022, she was a district intern for the Office of Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry in the California State Assembly and a National Science Foundation researcher at the University of Wisconsin, Stout. Her background also includes serving as a health materials researcher at Smith College and as an open innovation fellow at Conservation X Labs. Cho is currently a board member of the Udall Alumni Association. Her position at the Council does not require Senate confirmation and was last held by Brandon Chapin. To learn more, visit the Council's [executive team web page](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/executive-team) (deltacouncil.ca.gov/executive-team).

For more information, contact media@deltacouncil.ca.gov.

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About the Council

The Delta Stewardship Council was created by the California Legislature in 2009 to advance California's water supply reliability and the Delta's ecosystem resiliency in a manner that protects and enhances the region's unique characteristics. It is composed of seven members, advised by an independent 10-member science board, and supported by a dedicated staff. For more information, visit the [Council's website](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov) (deltacouncil.ca.gov).