



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PLANNING AND SCIENCE

SACRAMENTO – Governor Newsom has appointed Dr. Rachel Wigginton as special assistant for planning and science to the Delta Stewardship Council, effective February 3, 2026.

Wigginton has worked as a senior environmental scientist for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy since 2020 and as a coastal scientist at the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

In this role, Wigginton will serve as the staff lead for the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC). This will include developing meeting agendas; producing the annual Delta Crosscut Budget Report, which has been published since 2018 to summarize science and restoration investments made by DPIIC agencies; and coordinating other planning- and science-related initiatives led by the Council.

“This role is unique, providing dedicated leadership to our interagency coordination efforts,” said Executive Officer Jessica R. Pearson. “With her strong scientific background and experience working for two of our sister agencies, Rachel will play an essential role in coordinating and accelerating Delta Plan implementation efforts across the network of agencies that help us advance the state’s coequal goals for the Delta.”

Wigginton earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in ecology from the University of California, Davis, a Master of Science degree in biology from California State University, Long Beach, and a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Western Kentucky University.

“My work has always been driven by the intersection of science and planning,” says Wigginton. “I’m looking forward to collaborating with the Council’s staff and partners working in pursuit of the state’s coequal goals for the Delta – a reliable

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state water supply and a resilient ecosystem, achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the Delta as a place where people, like myself, live, work, and recreate.”

This position was most recently held by Amanda Bohl, who became the executive director for the Delta Protection Commission in October 2025.

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 – through the development and implementation of a long-term management plan, the [Delta Plan](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan) (deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan). 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).

About the DPIIC

The DPIIC strives to facilitate Delta Plan implementation through collaboration, supporting shared national, statewide, and local goals for the Delta. It explores opportunities to align agencies' actions in the Delta watershed, showcases DPIIC agencies' achievements, and guides actions to address pressing issues affecting Delta Plan implementation. For more information, visit the [DPIIC web page](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/dpiic) (deltacouncil.ca.gov/dpiic).