



DRAFT

For Review and Adoption by the Council at the June 25, 2020 Meeting

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, April 30, 2020

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 12, 2020, and the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, the meeting's proceedings were conducted entirely remotely.

All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Tatayon called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM, April 30, 2020.

2. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum (Water Code §85210.5)

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following councilmembers were present: Frank Damrell, Randy Fiorini, Maria Mehranian, Oscar Villegas, Daniel Zingale, and Susan Tatayon.

Councilmember Gatto joined during closed session.

3. Closed Executive Session: Litigation (Not Open to the Public) (Action Item)

Chair Tatayon had nothing to report.

4. Reconvene Open Session

5. Roll Call – Re-establish a Quorum (Water Code §85210.5)

Roll call was re-taken, and a quorum was established. The following councilmembers were present: Frank Damrell, Randy Fiorini, Mike Gatto, Maria Mehranian, Oscar Villegas, Daniel Zingale, and Susan Tatayon.

Chair Tatayon provided instructions on the remote proceedings and how the public can participate as the Council prudently conducts business in response to COVID-19 physical distancing guidance. A full description is available on the Meeting Agenda.

6. Chair's Report (Information Item)

Chair Tatayon introduced new Councilmember, Daniel Zingale. Governor Newsom appointed Councilmember Zingale, and he was sworn in on April 10, 2020. Most recently, Councilmember Zingale served as the senior advisor for strategy and communications in the Governor's Office.

The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-04-30> minute 00:04:52.

7. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson reminded the public that the Council's office is closed, and that staff is working remotely to support physical distancing efforts. The public should contact hello@deltacouncil.ca.gov to be directed to the appropriate staff person for assistance. Additionally, the Council has changed its public meeting formats to be fully remote.

Executive Officer Pearson informed the public that the Public Participation Plan was released for an additional 30-day comment period to accommodate recent changes to the plan that came as a result of public input.

The Council sent one comment letter regarding active projects during the past month:

- Department of Water Resources regarding the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project. The Delta Independent Science Board submitted a letter regarding the project as well. The Delta ISB letter can be found in the attachments of Agenda Item 11, the Delta ISB Update.

The Council received one comment letter regarding active projects during the past month:

- Metropolitan Transportation Commission regarding the Council's comments on the Commission's Draft Blueprint for Plan Bay Area 2050.

The following certifications of consistency were submitted during the past month:

- Department of Water Resources submitted a certification of consistency for the Sherman Island Belly Wetland Restoration project. The public comment period opened April 7 and closes May 7.
- Westlands Water District submitted a certification of consistency for the Lower Yolo Ranch Restoration Project. The public comment period opened April 7 and closes May 7.

Staff recently completed an update to the Council's online covered actions website portal: <http://coveredactions.deltacouncil.ca.gov>. The update enhances the accessibility of the site to comply with recent State requirements. The new site went live on April 6.

In personnel matters, Executive Officer Pearson welcomed two new employees: Environmental Program Manager for the Collaborative Science and Peer Review Unit, Henry DeBey, and Sea Grant State Fellow, Cheryl Patel. In addition, External Affairs

and Communications Chief Keith Coolidge is retiring and his last day will be May 8. Councilmembers and staff acknowledged his work and wished him well in his retirement.

Lastly, Executive Officer Pearson stated that councilmembers would find the Highlights Report and Active Projects List in their meeting packet.

7a. Legal Update (Information Item)

Chief Counsel Bethany Pane provided a written legal update for this meeting. She also thanked Legal Intern Daniel Cacciatore for his service. His internship recently ended.

7b. Legislative Update (Action Item)

Legislative and Policy Advisor Ryan Stanbra provided a written bill summary for this meeting.

No action was taken during this agenda item.

7c. Quarterly Contract and Budget Update (Information Item)

The Council received the fourth-quarter report on the FY 2019 budget and contracts.

The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-04-30> minute 00:16:20.

8. Consent Calendar (Action Item)

8a. Adoption of March 26, 2020 Meeting Summary

8b. Contract with the University of California, Davis to Fund San Francisco Estuary & Watershed Science (SFEWS)

8c. Amendment of an Interagency Agreement with the California Department of Water Resources for Information Technology Services

8d. Amendment of an Agreement with Aquatic Science Center for Integrated Modeling Support

Motion: Offered by Fiorini, second by Mehranian – Approve the Consent Calendar items.

Vote: 7/0 – Damrell, Fiorini, Gatto, Mehranian, Villegas, Zingale, and Tatayon. The motion was adopted.

The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-04-30> minute 00:13:20.

9. Lead Scientist's Report (Information Item)

Delta Lead Scientist Dr. John Callaway provided a quick overview of an article from *Global Change Biology* on impacts to juvenile salmon, reviewed updates on the Delta

Science Tracker, provided an overview of the Delta Science Program's peer review services, reviewed upcoming events, and provided the By the Numbers Report.

Environmental Scientist Rachael Klopfenstein and Dr. Jim Sanchirico provided an overview of the final report of the Social Science Task Force (Task Force).

Councilmembers and staff discussed increasing the role of the social sciences in strategic efforts to address Delta as an Evolving Place. Councilmember Villegas encouraged Councilmembers and the Task Force to collaborate further with the Delta Protection Commission on this topic.

Councilmember Fiorini asked Dr. Callaway if he could provide him with a fact sheet on the Delta Science Program's review and advice services so that he could distribute the information.

The Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-04-30> minute 00:33:54.

10. Delta Independent Science Board Update (Information Item)

Chair Dr. Elizabeth Canuel provided an overview of the Delta Independent Science Board's (Delta ISB) activity since August 2019. The activities included 1) completion of the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Review in November 2019; 2) completion of the Initial Phase on the Monitoring Enterprise Review in March 2020; 3) presentation of panel discussions on *Delta Science on Rapid Change* in April 2020; and 4) submission of a letter to DWR on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Delta Conveyance Project in April 2020. Dr. Canuel also provided a list of upcoming events for the Delta ISB, which included completing current reviews on monitoring, non-native species, and water supply reliability. Lastly, Dr. Canuel discussed the upcoming Delta ISB membership changes as Dr. Joy Zedler leaves at the beginning of June 2020, and the original five Delta ISB members leave at the end of August 2020.

Councilmembers and Dr. Canuel discussed the letter to DWR on NOP for the Delta Conveyance Project.

The Delta ISB Update is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-04-30> minute 01:09:72.

11. Appointment of Delta Lead Scientist (Water Code §85280(b)) (Action Item)

Dr. Canuel presented the Delta ISB's recommendation to nominate Dr. Laurel Larsen as the new Delta Lead Scientist. Dr. Larsen then spoke about her expertise and qualifications for the position.

Councilmember Villegas asked how Dr. Larsen would address the Council's complex management of a finite resource. Dr. Larsen stated that the Lead Scientist's role is to present the Council with facts and unbiased opinions.

Councilmember Zingale asked if the position start date will overlap with Dr. Callaway's departure; Dr. Callaway replied that he would coordinate with Dr. Larsen prior to arrival.

Motion: Offered by Damrell, second by Fiorini – Approve the Delta ISB recommendation to appoint Dr. Laurel Larsen as the Lead Scientist for the Delta Science Program.

Vote: 7/0 – Damrell, Fiorini, Gatto, Mehranian, Villegas, Zingale, and Tatayon. The motion was adopted.

The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-04-30> minute 01:34:10.

12. Public Comment

There was one public comment from Lindsay Kammeier, Office of the Delta Watermaster, regarding the Lead Scientist's Report discussion of the science tracker project. Kammeier asked about details regarding what the science tracker will track. Dr. Callaway provided additional information on the science tracker.

13. Preparation for Next Council Meeting

The next Council meeting occurred May 1, 2020 and was also conducted remotely. (See Agenda Item 6b on the June 25, 2020 meeting agenda).

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM.

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