



DRAFT

For Review and Adoption by the Council at the October 22, 2020 Meeting

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, September 24, 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 9:00 AM, September 24, 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: Mike Gatto, Daniel Zingale, Maria Mehranian, Oscar Villegas, and Susan Tatayon.

Councilmember Frank Damrell arrived during the Closed Session.

**3. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION: LITIGATION (NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)
(ACTION ITEM)**

Chair Tatayon announced there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

4. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

5. ROLL CALL – RE-ESTABLISH A QUORUM (WATER CODE §85210.5)

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

6. CONSENT CALENDAR *(ACTION ITEM)*

6A. *ADOPTION OF AUGUST 27, 2020 MEETING SUMMARY*

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

Vote: 5/0 – Damrell, Gatto, Mehranian, 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=2020-09-24> minute 00:09:10.

**7. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND THE DELTA PLAN
(INFORMATION ITEM)**

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson highlighted the importance of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and its relation to the Delta Plan. Jeff Henderson, deputy executive officer for planning and performance, introduced the panel: Molly Williams, sea grant fellow; Taryn Ravazzini, deputy director of statewide groundwater management, Department of Water Resources (DWR); and Natalie Stork, chief of the groundwater management program, State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board).

Ravazzini provided details on DWR's SGMA milestones, its application to multiple groundwater basins, and DWR's coordination with county Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). Stork provided details on the Water Board's role as an intervening and regulating party for SGMA. Williams provided details on GSPs that impact the Delta and stressed the importance of managing critically over-drafted basins.

Councilmembers and the panel discussed county coordination and responsibilities, relationships with local communities, and concerns about reduced reliance on the Delta.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-09-24> minute 00:11:40.

8. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Tatayon noted that the next Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee meeting is October 26, 2020, from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM.

The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-09-24> minute 01:10:40.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Pearson reminded the public that the Council's physical office is closed. However, Council 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 for the public health emergency's duration.

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

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the Franks Tract Futures 2020 Reimagined Public Draft.

The following certification of consistency was submitted in the past month:

- DWR submitted a certification of consistency for the Wings Landing Tidal Habitat Restoration Project. The public comment period closed on September 19. No appeals were received.

Pearson announced three new Council personnel: Ted Flynn, a senior environmental scientist in the Delta Science Program's Collaborative Science and Peer Review Unit; Geneva Hutcheson, an information officer in the Communications Unit; and Graham Padayachee, an associate governmental program analyst in the Contracts, Procurement, and Business Services Unit.

The Outreach Highlights Report and Active Projects List were available in the Council binders and on the Council's website.

8a. LEGAL UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chief Counsel Bethany Pane had nothing to report during the legal update.

8b. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (ACTION ITEM)

Legislative and Policy Advisor Ryan Stanbra provided a written legislative report, summarizing legislative bills currently being tracked by the Council.

No action was taken during this agenda item.

The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-09-24> minute 01:11:11.

10. LEAD SCIENTIST'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Dr. Laurel Larsen discussed an article from *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Sciences* regarding a review of lessons learned from the 2012 - 2016 and other

droughts. Dr. Larsen also provided a recap of the Sacramento River Spring Run Chinook Salmon Workshop that occurred in early September, reviewed upcoming events, and provided the By the Numbers Report.

The Delta Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-09-24> minute 01:15:47.

11. DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL FELLOWS PRESENTATIONS (INFORMATION ITEM)

Current Council Fellows provided brief presentations on their work and its relation to the Delta Plan:

- Annie Merritt, CivicSpark climate fellow for the Council's Planning and Performance Division, presented her work supporting Delta Adapts and developing a synthesis from Delta Adapts' vulnerability assessment for the City of West Sacramento.
- Byron Riggins, California Sea Grant state fellow for the Delta Science Program's Collaborative Science and Peer Review Unit, presented several projects, including support for the development of the Science Action Agenda, establishing and coordinating the Council's Delta Diversity Team, creating a science communication video for National Estuaries Week, and a personal project looking at potential implications for the Delta of groundwater sustainability plans for non-critically over-drafted basins under SGMA.
- Cheryl Patel, California Sea Grant state fellow for the Delta Science Program's Science-Based Adaptive Management Unit, presented work organizing the upcoming public symposium on zooplankton ecology, supporting the Science Needs Assessment Workshop and discussion series, supporting the Delta Independent Science Board's Monitoring Enterprise Review, and developing a synthesis effort related to habitat restoration projects.
- Molly Williams, California Sea Grant state fellow for the Council's Planning and Performance Division, presented her contributions to Delta Adapts, including analyzing seasonal shifts in storm surge events, water-supply-system sensitivity, potential flood risk zones, and visualization of social vulnerability data.

The fellow's presentations are viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-09-24> minute 01:43:58.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

13. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2020, and will be conducted remotely.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM.

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