



DRAFT

**SUMMARY: AUGUST 25, 2022
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For review and adoption by the Council at the September 22, 2022, meeting.

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

MEETING SUMMARY

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Virginia Madueño called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on August 25, 2022.

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, Julie Lee, Virginia Madueño, Don Nottoli, Christy Smith, and Daniel Zingale.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)

Motion: (approve the consent calendar) Offered by Nottoli and seconded by Smith

Vote: 6/0 - The motion was adopted (Damrell: Aye, Lee: Aye, Madueño: Aye, Nottoli: Aye, Smith: Aye, and Zingale: Aye).

The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3wMNdHx> minute 02:30

4. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Madueño thanked the former Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission, Erik Vink, for his great work throughout his career and welcomed Bruce Blodgett, who has taken over that position. Madueño and Nottoli attended Vink's farewell party in Clarksburg, CA.

Madueño also noted her meeting with Contra Costa County Supervisor Diane Burgis in downtown Antioch. She connected with local business owners and

residents to learn from community members and share about the Council's role in the Delta.

Chair Madueño also met with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation staff and the vice chair for the State Water Resources Control Board, Dorene D'Adamo, this past month. She looks forward to further opportunities for collaboration with both agencies in the future.

Madueño announced that she was able to reconnect with the President and CEO of Univision and a segment will be produced highlighting the Council's role in the Delta.

Nottoli gave an overview of the progress of installing a public sewer to replace the aging septic tank system in the town of Hood, CA.

Lee gave an overview of her trip through Venice, Italy, and related the similar water issues the city faces to those faced in the Delta.

Zingale and Damrell thanked the chair for having the meeting in the city of Stockton. They noted that it shows follow through with equity and inclusion and encouraged further community connection.

Smith thanked the chair for her community outreach efforts.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3wMNdHx> minute 3:00

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dierdre Des Jardins noted her enthusiasm for the chair's community interactions. Des Jardins noted her concern with the current ten-year runoff average being below the historic norm and the effects of using outdated ten-year runoff averages to manage current water storage.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson noted that on August 11, Governor Newsom released his Water Supply Strategy. The actions outlined in the Strategy are identified broadly in the Water Resilience Portfolio that the Governor released in 2020, of which the Council is identified as a key agency on numerous strategies. Many of the proposed Strategy actions and sub-actions are in alignment with the

Delta Plan. The Strategy is available on the CA Natural Resources Agency's website, and the Council will monitor its implementation.

The review and appeal period closed on August 5 for Reclamation District 2028's certification of consistency for the Bacon Island Levee Rehabilitation Project - Connection Slough and Santa Fe Cut Corridor, with no appeal filed. The project may now proceed.

Reclamation District 348 submitted a certification of consistency for the South Mokelumne River Setback Levee Project on August 12. The project seeks to construct three setback levees and a setback levee crown to create an all-weather roadway along New Hope Tract. Waterside work includes excavating the existing levee to construct a riparian bench for habitat enhancement. The certification of consistency identifies that the project is consistent with eight Delta Plan policies, while the remaining ten are not applicable. The proposed project's review period closes on September 12.

On behalf of the Council, staff sent a comment letter to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army regarding their proposed modernization of the Army Civil Works Policy Priorities, which includes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This modernization of the Priorities is an effort to modernize Corps programs related to tribal consultation, implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act, and implementation of water resources projects, particularly regarding environmental justice. The Council's letter supports the Corps' efforts to include environmental and tribal justice in the priorities, outlines the Council's current work surrounding the EJ Issue Paper, and highlights Delta EJ concerns regarding flood risk, climate change, tribal and indigenous justice, and improved outreach and engagement.

Pearson announced new hire Ashok Bathulla, who joins the Planning Division as a senior engineer.

The Outreach Highlights Report and Active Projects List were provided to the Council in writing.

6a. Legal Update (Information Item)

There was no legal update.

6b. Legislative Update (Information Item)

The legislative bill report was provided in writing.

6c. Executive Fellow Debrief (Information Item)

Executive Fellow Chris Klier reflected on his time with the Council as his eleven-month fellowship closed. Klier noted that he was treated as a priority, and staff went above and beyond to ensure he benefited as much as possible during his time with the Council.

Chair Madueño and Councilmember Nottoli noted that Klier has a bright future in public service and offered congratulations. Chair Madueño highlighted the efforts of Special Assistant to Planning and Science Amanda Bohl in elevating the quality of Klier's internship experience.

6d. 2023 Delta Plan Five-Year Review Approach (Information Item)

Council staff provided an overview of their recommended approach for next year's Five-Year Review of the Delta Plan required by Water Code §85300 (c). The review will be based on the analysis of Delta Plan performance measures to inform the recommendations.

6e. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy and Delta Protection Commission Update (Information Item)

Campbell Ingram, executive officer of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, gave an overview of the agency's activities, including an update on the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program, which will receive funding from the Department of Water Resources again this year.

Councilmember Nottoli and Ingram discussed the benefits and challenges of growing rice in the Delta and the ongoing salinity management efforts for the region.

Delta Protection Commission Program Manager, Blake Roberts, gave an overview of the development of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Management Plan.

Chair Madueño noted her excitement for the project and discussed the potential partnerships that might be possible with the American Jazz cruise ship that is slated to come through the heritage area and other parts of the Delta starting in 2023. Nottoli echoed the opportunities that could arise from increased tourism and awareness throughout the Delta.

Bruce Blodgett, the new executive director of the Delta Protection Commission, provided an introduction and quick update on the agency's activities.

Public Comment

Dierdre Des Jardins, California Water Research, noted that the Department of Water Resources uses a runoff model that was calibrated for 2003 and 2004 for many of the current projects, which doesn't account for how the climate has changed. Des Jardins commented that she would follow up with more information in writing.

All materials mentioned in the Executive Officer's report can be found on the Council's website (<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>)

The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3wMNdHx> minute 17:15.

7. LEAD SCIENTIST'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Dr. Laurel Larsen highlighted a review titled *Climate Change Effects on San Francisco Estuary Aquatic Ecosystems: A Review*, Herbold Et Al., 2022, published in the latest edition of the San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science. The review features the Council's Eva Bush and Delta Science fellow Denise Colombano as authors and brings together decades of research from over 170 sources to anticipate the effects climate change will have on specific species and habitats of the San Francisco Estuary.

Dr. Larsen gave an overview of upcoming Delta Science Program activities. The Delta Residents Survey is a collaborative research effort led by California Sea Grant, Delta Science Program, Sacramento State University's Institute for Social Research, and Social Science Community of Practice collaborators. This summer, the research team is working to "beta-test" the survey with community members to get their feedback on "test" questions before fully launching the survey in fall 2022 to early 2023.

The Bay-Delta Social Science Community of Practice is hosting a two-part event, Advancing Interdisciplinary Science Training and Workshop. The training will take place on October 14 at 10:00 am. This virtual training will provide fundamental background on social science disciplines and case study approaches to social-ecological challenges. The training is encouraged, but not required to attend the workshop. The workshop will take place on October 20 at 1:00 pm. In this interactive virtual workshop, Community of Practice members will be paired with Delta collaborative science group members to co-develop mock proposals for interdisciplinary research projects that support the 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda.

The Delta Science Program is convening a Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) workshop on November 8-9, 2022, to facilitate discussions for creating a Delta-region HABs monitoring strategy. HABs and their associated toxins are increasingly a problem in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and are expected to become more prevalent with climate change impacts fueling the conditions (e.g., low water flow, increased water temperatures) that lead to blooms.

Dr. Larsen reviewed the By the Numbers report.

Public Comment

Dierdre Des Jardins, California Water Research, noted that the reservoir carryover storage targets and modeling are based on measurements from a particularly wet period, and this causes improper water supply management.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3wMNdHx> minute 1:48:11.

8. SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY BLUEPRINT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Caitlin Sweeney, executive director of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, provided the Council with details regarding the recently completed 2022-2026 Estuary Blueprint, a comprehensive conservation and management plan for the San Francisco Estuary. As part of furthering the coequal goals for the Delta, the Council provides input regarding the compatibility of the Estuary Blueprint with the Delta Plan, Delta Science Plan, and the Science Action Agenda. The Estuary Blueprint aims to be complementary to the Delta Plan but is not a regulatory document.

Chair Madueño noted her excitement to explore the Estuary Blueprint.

Public comment

Dierdre Des Jardins, California Water Research, commented that communities that are the most vulnerable to climate change don't always qualify as environmental justice communities and would like to see those communities represented and supported.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3wMNdHx> minute 2:03:28.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INTERVIEW RESPONSE OVERVIEW (INFORMATION ITEM)

The 2019 Five-Year Review of the Delta Plan (2019 Review) identified environmental justice (EJ) as a key issue for Council focus. The 2019 Review resulted in a recommendation that staff prepare an issue paper to inform potential future actions to address EJ and better serve disadvantaged communities in the Council's furtherance of the coequal goals. Bohl, along with Council staff (Senior Environmental Planner Morgan Chow, Sea Grant Social Science Extension Specialist Jess Rudnick, and Environmental Scientists Annie Merritt, Megan Thomson, and Chelsea Batavia), presented a sample of the EJ issues that surfaced during 23 community interviews conducted over the last six months and the approach that went into interview design, recruitment, and data analysis.

Members from EJ Expert Group Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla with Restore the Delta, Matt Holmes with Little Manila Rising, and Bob Erlenbusch with Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness also gave presentations on their experience advocating for change within EJ communities and collaborating with Council staff for this project.

Councilmembers congratulated staff on the work and progress made on these issues. Bohl and Councilmember Damrell discussed the possible steps forward and the timeline for responses from the Council. Bohl elaborated that she hoped to have recommendations to Councilmembers by the end of the year.

Councilmember Nottoli noted that collaboration and relationship building with other local agencies and representatives would be important to include in the framework for addressing EJ issues.

Chair Madueño expressed the importance of the entire community being the stewards of the Delta. She noted that EJ issues should have become a priority for the Council and community long ago and commends the work that the EJ Expert Group members have been carrying out.

Public Comment

Dierdre Des Jardins, California Water Research, thanked the Council for their enthusiasm in taking on EJ issues and encouraged the Council to diversify the voices being heard on panels and committees.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3wMNdHx> minute 2:21:59.

10. PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting is on September 22-23, 2022; the location will be announced in the meeting notice that will be published ten days before the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.

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