



DRAFT

For Review and Adoption by the Council at the November 21, 2019 Meeting

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
Thursday, October 24, 2019
Tsakopoulos Library Galleria
Meeting Room
828 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Tatayon called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM, October 24, 2019.

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

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following Councilmembers were present: Ken Weinberg, Randy Fiorini, Maria Mehranian, Susan Tatayon, and Oscar Villegas.

As a courtesy, Chair Tatayon invited Mr. Thomas Randall, Chairman of the Airport Land Use Commission, to comment on Agenda Item 5 prior to initiating the Closed Executive Session.

Councilmember Frank Damrell arrived during the public comment.

Public Comment: Thomas Randall, Airport Land Use Commission – Mr. Randall stated that the Airport Land Use Commission was concerned with aspects of the Delta Plan that require projects to implement ecosystem restoration close to public airports. If bird populations were to increase in these restored areas, it would increase the risk of “bird strikes”. To mitigate bird strikes, Mr. Randall is asking the Council to amend Delta Plan Figure 1-4 to exclude restoration within a five-mile radius around Travis Air Force Base and Rio Vista Airport.

After the public comment, Chair Tatayon reestablished the quorum to include member Damrell. The Council went into Closed Executive Session after the public comment.

The Roll Call and Public Comment are viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-10-24> minute 00:07:09.

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

Councilmember Mike Gatto arrived during Closed Executive Session.

No action was taken during the Closed Executive Session.

4. Reconvene Open Session

Open session reconvened at 1:07 PM.

5. Consideration of the Sacramento Area Council of Government's 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and its Consistency with the Delta Plan (Action Item)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson introduced the panel for the item: Deputy Executive Officer for Planning, Jeff Henderson; Assistant Planning Director, Harriet Ross; Executive Director, Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), James Corless; and SACOG Planning Manager, Clint Holtzen.

Ms. Ross provided a brief overview of the discussion topics before members of SACOG began their presentation. She also explained the importance of the Council's authority to review and provide guidance on regional planning documents such as sustainable communities' strategies and alternative planning strategies.

Mr. Corless presented the SACOG 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) and its effort to develop walkable places outside of the major cities, updating mall areas like the Sunrise Mall in Citrus Heights, improving how customers pay transportation fares, and providing alternate transportation such as the West Sacramento Shuttle. Mr. Corless concluded his presentation with details of SACOG's Economic Prosperity Strategy.

Councilmembers and the SACOG representatives discussed how the plan will address updating bridges in the Delta, the benefits of expanding light rail versus the benefits of expanding bus transit, and the details of transportation efforts that specifically support agriculture.

Ms. Ross thanked the SACOG representatives and provided details of the draft comment letter on the MTP/SCS and its recommendations to SACOG. In the letter, staff finds the MTP/SCS was not inconsistent with the Delta Plan.

Motion: Offered by Weinberg, second by Villegas - Approve staff's recommended draft comment letter on the Draft 2020 MTP/SCS and Draft EIR.

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

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

The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-10-24> minute 00:46:56.

6. Adoption of September 26, 2019 Meeting Summary (Action Item)

There were no changes to the meeting summary.

Motion: Offered by Gatto, second by Mehranian - Approve the September 26, 2019, meeting summary.

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

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The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-10-24> minute 00:50:45.

7. Chair's Report (Information Item)

Chair Tatayon described the upcoming Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) meeting that will occur November 4 from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. DPIIC will discuss the Delta Science Funding white paper and its recommended actions, the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2019 Biological Opinions, the California Water Resilience Portfolio, and the update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan.

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The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-10-24> minute 00:51:11.

8. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson reminded councilmembers and the public about the Council's Retreat at the Sierra Health Foundation that will occur the next day, October 25. She also mentioned staff participation at the Council sponsored State of the Estuary conference

Council staff sent out two comment letters this month:

- Central Valley Flood Protection Board for the supplemental EIR for the American River Watershed Common Features, Water Resource Development Act 2016 Project on the Sacramento East River Levee.
 - Ms. Pearson stated that the Central Valley Flood Protection Board had just submitted a certification for consistency with the Delta Plan for the American River Watershed Common Features project. The public review period began on October 24, 2019, and ends November 25, 2019.
- San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission regarding the Notice of Preparation of an EIR for the Valley Rail Sacramento Extension project.

In August 2019, the Council provided a comment letter to the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the 2019 Biological Opinions (BiOps) for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. Ms. Pearson provided details on the letter, the BiOps, and its relationship to the Council's work.

The 2019 BiOps factsheet is available at https://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/documents/Delta_Ops_10_21_2019.pdf

The State of the Estuary Executive Summary is available at <https://www.sfestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SOTER-2019-Executive-Summary.pdf>

8a. Legal Update (Information Item)

Ms. Pearson stated that there was no Legal Update.

8b, 8c, and 8d. Outreach and Highlights Report, Active Projects List, Contract and Budget Update (Information Item)

Ms. Pearson noted that September 2019 Outreach Highlights report, Active Projects List, and Contract and Budget Update were available in the Council binders and on the website.

Lastly, Ms. Pearson welcomed new Chief Information Officer, John Caampued, Pascale Goertler as the new Senior Environmental Scientist for the Delta Science Program, and Annie Merritt as the Council's new AmeriCorps CivicSpark Climate Fellow.

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The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-10-24> minute 00:54:27.

9. Lead Scientist's Report (Information Item)

Delta Lead Scientist Dr. John Callaway provided his report which included: an update on two recent journal publications from *Ecosphere* on salmon life-cycle modeling (abstract provided at the meeting), and from the *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* (SFEWS) on the effects of the 2015 drought barrier (one-pager provided at the meeting), a summary of the recent invasive species symposium, a review of the staff science communication training, the Delta Smelt Biology and Management 101 one-pager (per Councilmember request), and provided the By the Numbers Report.

Dr. Callaway briefly discussed activities at the State of the Estuary Conference. Staff presented or participated in panels at the Conference including Chief Deputy Executive Officer Jessica Law, Senior Environmental Scientist Yumi Henneberry, Supervising Engineer Andrew Schwarz, and Program Manager II, Ron Melcer. Some of the topics of discussion were climate change, the Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment, the benefits of forward-looking science, and estuary governance issues. Council staff also presented nine poster presentations.

Dr. Callaway informed the Council that last week staff attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Tule Red Restoration Project. The project will open more than 400 acres of wetlands to daily tides in the Southern Suisun Marsh to benefit native species such as the Delta Smelt.

Councilmember Weinberg and Dr. Callaway discussed monitoring efforts for the project.

Dr. Callaway invited Environmental Program Manager II Karen Kayfetz to present on the SFEWS article on the effects of the 2015 drought barrier. Ms. Kayfetz stated that the article concluded that the barrier achieved its intended outcome to block saltwater intrusion into the channel, but had an adverse impact of creating a beneficial environment for invasive aquatic weeds.

Councilmembers and Ms. Kayfetz discussed the lessons learned from the project. Ms. Kayfetz stated that one of the important lessons was to gather baseline data before the start of future drought barrier projects. Councilmember Villegas added that the State should consider solutions for long-term salinity protection, rather than relying on short-term projects.

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The Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-10-24> minute 01:03:55.

10. Council Consideration of Endorsement of the Delta Plan Five-Year Review Report (Action Item)

Ms. Pearson introduced Assistant Planning Director, Harriet Ross; Supervising Engineer, Andrew Schwarz; and Information Officer II, Brittany Young to present on the Delta Plan Five-Year Review Report and Highlights Report.

Ms. Ross provided a recap of the takeaways from the August 2019 meeting where the Council discussed the draft findings. Mr. Schwarz presented the details of the Five-Year Review Report and changes made to the report since that last Council meeting. Staff added new priority actions to address lessons learned with covered actions, added context to key planning sections, and provided more emphasis on the section covering disadvantaged communities and environmental justice. After the overview, Ms. Young walked through the contents of the accompanying Delta Plan Five-Year Review Highlights Report.

Councilmember Weinberg asked staff to confirm that the water reliability goal of the report ties directly to the Central Valley communities. He also asked what kind of stakeholder engagement efforts are available for topics such as "Delta as an evolving place". Councilmember Villegas echoed Councilmember Weinberg's sentiment and stated that there are opportunities to continue engagement with the Delta Protection Commission's Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC).

Motion: Offered by Weinberg, second by Gatto - Approve the Resolution 2019-3 endorsing the Five-Year Review Report and its recommendations. The Council also finds that the Five-Year Review is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

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

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The endorsement of the Delta Plan Five-Year Review is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-10-24> minute 02:03:25.

11. Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

12. Preparation for Next Council Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

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