



**DRAFT**

**SUMMARY: JANUARY 28, 2021  
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For Review and Adoption by the Council at the February 25-26, 2021 meeting.

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

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**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Susan Tatayon called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, January 28, 2021.

**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, Mike Gatto, Maria Mehranian, Don Nottoli, Susan Tatayon, and Daniel Zingale.

Following roll call, Chair Tatayon provided guidance for providing public comment.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)**

*3a. Adoption of January 28, 2021 Meeting Summary*

**Motion:** Offered by Damrell, second by Mehranian – Approve the Consent Calendar.

**Vote:** 5/0 – Damrell, Gatto, Mehranian, Tatayon, Zingale aye. Nottoli abstained. 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=2021-01-28> minute 01:54.

**4. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Chair Tatayon welcomed Supervisor Don Nottoli to the Council. Chair Tatayon also shared details about her recent attendance at the January 21, 2021 Delta Protection

Commission (Commission) meeting where she provided an overview of the Council's 2020 accomplishments. Assistant Planning Director Harriet Ross also gave a presentation on Delta Adapts at the Commission meeting that was well received.

The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-01-28> minute 3:20.

## **5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson welcomed Nottoli back to the Council and announced that the comment period for the Delta Adapts public draft Vulnerability Assessment is currently open and has been extended to March 16, 2021. Pearson also recognized Cory Copeland's graduation from the Water Education Foundation's Water Leaders program and announced that Rachael Klopfenstein would be joining the upcoming class.

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](mailto:hello@deltacouncil.ca.gov) to be directed to the appropriate staff person for assistance. Additionally, the Council has changed its public meeting format to be fully remote in the interest of public health safety standards.

The Council sent four letters during the past month:

- City of West Sacramento: Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan and Design Project
- Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Valley Link Project
- Delta Protection Commission: 2020 update to the Economic Sustainability Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Recreation and Tourism Chapter
- San Joaquin Council of Governments: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the 2022 San Joaquin Council of Governments Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) had filed a certification of consistency for the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project. The public review period ended on January 11, 2021. No appeals were received.

Veronica Wogec joined the Council as a retired annuitant in the Contracts, Procurement, and Business Services Unit.

Pearson noted that the Outreach Highlights Report, Active Projects List, and Quarterly Contract Report were available in the Councilmember's packets and on the Council's website.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the end dates of contracts described in the Quarterly Contract Report.

The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-01-28> minute 06:20.

*5a. Legal Update (Information Item)*

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

*5b. Legislative Update (Action Item)*

The Legislative Update was provided to the Council in writing.

*5c. 2020 Delta Stewardship Council Annual Report (Information Item)*

Pearson provided perspective on the Council's 2020 accomplishments, obstacles experienced during the pandemic, the Council's quick transition to telework and virtual meetings, and Council staff's resilience. Pearson also highlighted the Council's work over the past year implementing components of the Delta Plan and Delta Science Plan, as well as updating the Council's communication strategy and the development of a Public Participation Plan. Pearson introduced Deputy Executive Officer for Science, Dr. Louise Conrad, and Deputy Executive Officer for Planning and Performance, Jeff Henderson, to provide an update on their Division's 2020 activities.

Dr. Conrad spoke on the transition of the members of the Delta Independent Science Board, the numerous workshops held in 2020 by the Science Program, the release of *A Social Science Strategy for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta* and onboarding of a Social Science Extension Specialist, the development of further funding opportunities through the upcoming proposal solicitation, and the publication of articles by Council staff.

Henderson highlighted the development of the Delta Adapts Vulnerability Assessment and the public outreach conducted as part of the initiative, the

progress made on the development of the Ecosystem Amendment, improved understanding of the State's policy for reduced reliance on Delta water supply, the continued upgrade of the web-based dashboard for Delta Plan performance measures, ongoing early consultation of active projects in the Delta, and updates to the Delta Levees Investment Strategy.

Information Officer Brittany Young provided an overview of the Annual Report.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the level of public participation in Council events remotely during the pandemic compared to in-person. Chair Tatayon thanked staff for their work.

The 2020 Delta Stewardship Council Annual Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-01-28> minute 17:10.

#### **6. LEAD SCIENTIST'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Lead Scientist Dr. Laurel Larsen presented the findings from the article "A Complex Phenotype in Salmon Controlled by a Simple Change in Migratory Time" and introduced Dr. Jessica Rudnick as the newly appointed Social Science Extension Specialist through California SeaGrant. Dr. Rudnick provided an overview of her priorities for social science integration in the Delta over her term.

Dr. Larsen finished her report by updating the Council on the continuing proposal solicitation notice and the upcoming Adaptive Management Forum, Steelhead Salmon Workshop, and 11th Bi-Annual Bay-Delta Science Conference. Dr. Larsen also provided the By the Numbers Report.

Councilmembers expressed excitement on the onboarding of Dr. Rudnick and discussed the impacts of the article's findings on the management of Chinook salmon.

The Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-01-28> minute 41:15.

#### **7. DELTA CONVEYANCE UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Chair Tatayon recused herself from the remainder of the meeting due to the Council's regulatory and adjudicative roles over the proposed Delta Conveyance project. Councilmember Damrell was designated to lead the rest of the meeting.

Pearson provided context and an introduction for the project before introducing DWR Environmental Program Manager for Delta Conveyance, Carrie Buckman, and Executive Director of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Kathryn Mallon.

Mallon provided an overview of the project's deliverable status, the analysis performed on the Bethany alternative, and the recent agenda topics and future work of the Stakeholder Engagement Committee.

Councilmembers and the panel discussed the dissemination of project information to the Council and project components, including the stockpiles.

Buckman provided the Council with an update on the environmental planning and review process, regulatory mitigation, and the community benefits and ombudsman programs.

Councilmembers and the panelists discussed the project's complexity, impact on the community, and the environmental impact report. The Council also sought clarification on the source and size of funding for the community benefits program and Delta investment fund.

*Public Comment:*

On behalf of Local Agencies of the North Delta, Osha Meserve expressed concern regarding the Stakeholder Engagement Committee's role in providing input on the intakes' siting. Meserve also expressed concern with the Community Benefits Fund being used to satisfy Delta Plan policy DPP2 and whether the scope of mitigation efforts regarding water quality impacts will be enough to satisfy that policy. Lastly, Meserve expressed concern regarding the Bethany proposal and its bypassing of South Delta facilities.

On behalf of MBK Engineers, Gilbert Cosio provided comments regarding stockpile impact on regional hydrology and their potential use for levee building.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-01-28> minute 1:12:06.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment.

**9. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Council meeting is on February 25-26, 2021, via teleconference.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 AM.

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