



DRAFT

**SUMMARY: MARCH 23, 2023
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For review and adoption by the Council at the April 27, 2023, 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 March 23, 2023.

2. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISH A QUORUM (WATER CODE §85210.5)

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following councilmembers were present: Burgis, Damrell, Lee, Smith, Zingale, and Madueño.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. There was no public comment. **CONSENT CALENDAR (Including Resolution No. 2023-03) (ACTION ITEM)**

a. **Adoption of February 23, 2023, Meeting Summary**

b. **Contract Amendment with AECOM to Extend the Performance Period and Add Budget to Master Contract (#8932)**

c. **Contract Amendment with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to Extend the Performance Period (#1461)**

Chair Madueño presented the agenda item for adopting the February 23, 2023, meeting summary (which includes Resolution 2023-03).

Motion: (approve the consent calendar) offered by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Burgis.

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

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/40HDNcJ>, minute 00:02:30.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Madueño provided comments on her legislative “meet and greets” with Assemblymembers Carlos Villapudua and Juan Alanise, Senator Josh Becker, Supervisor Pat Hume, and Metropolitan Water District’s board member Miguel Luna.

Chair Madueño provided comments on her attendance at the Women in Legislature Conference, the Legislative Reception at the CA Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Delta Independent Science Board tour before introducing Special Assistant for Planning and Science, Amanda Bohl to present on the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Update.

a. DPIIC Update

Special Assistant for Planning and Science, Amanda Bohl, and Executive Fellow Viet-Long Nguyen presented an update on DPIIC to the Council.

Councilmember Burgis commented on the data reaching the Committee and offered thanks to Bohl for presenting it.

Chair Madueño and Bohl spoke about public participation and stakeholder engagement and expanding efforts to meet the needs of the communities and the crosscut budget.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/40HDNcJ>, minute 00:03:47.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson thanked the hosts at the Belle Vie Vineyard before giving her report.

Pearson announced that the State Water Board named Jay Ziegler as the new Delta Watermaster who is tentatively scheduled to provide his first update to the Council at the April Council meeting.

Pearson reported that on February 13, the Department of Water Resources submitted a certification for the McCormack Williamson Tract Levee Modification and Habitat Restoration Project – Phase B. The project’s 30-day review period expired on March 15 without appeals.

Pearson noted Council staff submitted three comment letters this past month to:

1. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California regarding the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project.
2. The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services regarding the Public Review Draft of the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP).
3. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Delta Conveyance Project.

Pearson ended her announcements by welcoming Sarah Keck as the new Deputy Executive Officer for Administration and Dr. Denise Colombano for joining the Delta Science Program in the Science Communication, Synthesis, and Decision-Support unit before moving into the legislative update and the Delta Adapts update.

a. Legal Update (INFORMATION ITEM)

There was no Legal update.

b. Legislative Update (ACTION ITEM)

Legislative and Policy Advisor, Brandon Chapin provided a legislative and budget update.

Councilmember Burgis requested clarification on AB 1488 (California Environmental Quality Act). Chapin will provide an answer to Burgis’ question at the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Zingale offered a welcome to Jay Ziegler as the new Watermaster.

c. Delta Adapts Update

Environmental Program Manager, Planning and Performance, Dan Constable provided an update on the Delta Adapts project.

Chair Madueño and Constable discussed agriculture and community engagement with generational farmers and landowners.

Councilmember Burgis provided observational comments on adaptation in the wake of recent atmospheric rivers, flooding, and wildfires.

Pearson noted a change in the agenda and the removal of a presentation from the Delta ISB (which will be moved to April 27, 2023, Council meeting) before ending her report with a highlight on the Sherman Island panel later in the meeting.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/40HDNcJ>, minute 00:25:38.

7. LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Lead Scientist Dr. Laurel Larsen featured the article:

[An assessment of future tidal marsh resilience in the San Francisco Estuary through modeling and quantifiable metrics of sustainability](#)

James T. Morris, Judith Z. Drexler, Lydia J. S. Vaughn, and April H. Robinson. Frontiers in Environmental Science (2022) <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2022.1039143>

In the presented article, the research team uses a model to investigate the sustainability of Delta marshes under sea-level rise. They find that for marshes at average elevation, conditions at the end of 100 years will not be sustainable for their persistence, but that increased frequency of atmospheric rivers will deliver sediment and double the area of Delta marshes in a self-sustainable state.

Dr. Larson highlighted the Integrated Modeling Framework (IEP) Workshop. The Delta Science Program convened a 2-day Integrated Modeling Framework Workshop on February 28 and March 1 to initiate discussions regarding developing a modeling framework and collaborative modeling center.

Dr. Larsen similarly noted the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Workshop and the program's mission to provide and integrate relevant and timely ecological information for managing the Bay-Delta ecosystem and the water that flows

through it. The 2023 workshop will be held on March 21-24 in a hybrid format, with the in-person component at CNRA Headquarters.

Dr. Larsen provided comment on the Delta Science Program's legislative briefing on February 16, 2023, where she and Deputy Executive Officer for Science, Henry DeBey, joined Executive Officer Jessica Pearson in providing a legislative staff briefing for the Assembly's Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on the roles and activities of the Delta Stewardship Council and Delta Science Program.

Dr. Larsen closed with a summary of the UC Davis Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute and DSP Joint Symposium: Implications of Rising Temperatures for Coastal, Marine, and Estuarine Ecosystems and the "By the Numbers" report.

Councilmember Burgis provided a comment on turbidity, snowpack melting, and adaptive management.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/40HDNcJ>, minute 00:58:55.

8. SHERMAN ISLAND PANEL (INFORMATION ITEM)

Deputy Executive Officer for Planning and Performance, Jeff Henderson provided an introduction for the panel.

The panel included: Manager, Delta Levees and Habitat Restoration Branch, Division of Multi-benefit Initiatives, DWR Bryan Brock; Senior Environmental Scientist, Delta Ecosystem Enhancement Section, Division of Multi-benefit Initiatives, DWR Randy Mager; Deputy Field Supervisor; Conservation, Restoration and Contaminants Program - USFWS San Francisco Bay-Delta U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office, Dan Welsh; and Bay Area Seakayakers, Fran Sticha.

Councilmembers had a brief discussion with each of the presentations.

Bryan Brock's presentation:

Councilmember Burgis, Chair Madueño, and Brock discussed subsidence, carbon production, crops, and cattle.

Councilmember Lee and Brock discussed farmer lease agreements, water curtailment, and crop limitations.

Randy Mager's presentation:

Councilmember Burgis, Mager, Brock, and Henderson discussed the predatory natures of Silversides and Bass, the future engineering of levees, Nutria, degrading infrastructure, and the Delta Plan (setback levees).

Dan Welsh's presentation:

Pearson, Welsh, and Councilmember Burgis discussed Smelt release points, smelt size, tagging, and future funding.

Fran Sticha's presentation:

Councilmember Burgis, Chair Madueño, and Sticha discussed park accessibility, Delta recreation (equitable), organization/groups, public access points, and Delta signage.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/40HDNcJ>, minute 01:28:32.

9. PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will take place April 27-28, at CNRA building 715 P St, Sacramento. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM.

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