



**DRAFT**

**SUMMARY: APRIL 27, 2023  
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For review and adoption by the Council at the May 25, 2023, meeting.

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 Virginia Madueño called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on April 27, 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, Hueso, Lee, Smith, Zingale, and Madueño.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

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

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

Chair Madueño presented the agenda item for adopting March 23, 2023, meeting summary.

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

**Vote:** 7/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Aye, Damrell: Aye, Hueso: Aye, Lee: Aye, Smith: Aye, Zingale: Aye, Madueño: Aye)

There was no public comment.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3pnON1u>, minute 00:02:02.

## **5. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Chair Madueño welcomed newly appointed councilmember Ben Hueso to the Council.

Chair Madueño commented on her Metropolitan Water District Tour with Legislative Director Brandon Chapin and her invitation to speak at the Modesto Junior College and Soroptimist International (Central Valley).

Chair Madueño followed with a highlight on the Central Valley Flood Forum, and her meetings with San Joaquin Supervisors Tom Patti and Steven Ding.

Chair Madueño closed with commentary on the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee's (DPIIC) Spring Gathering and tour of Dutch Slough before welcoming Special Assistant for Planning and Science Amanda Bohl to speak further on the DPIIC Spring Gathering.

### **a. DPIIC Update**

Special Assistant for Planning and Science Amanda Bohl presented an update on DPIIC to the Council.

Chair Madueño spoke on the need for projects like Dutch Slough and the multiple relationships built on projects of its type, and Councilmember Burgis commented on adaptive management, restoration, and climate change.

There was no public comment.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3pnON1u>, minute 00:02:42.

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

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson congratulated Ben Hueso on his appointment to the Council.

Pearson noted the state's Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced 100% water allocations to state water contractors given the abundance of water in the system due to record wet months and snowpack. On the federal side, the Central Valley Project, north and south of Delta is at 100% allocation as well, following two years of 0% allocation.

Pearson noted that in the Outreach Highlights Report, the March Council meeting saw a notable spike in live and archive viewers, reflective of the high interest in our panel highlighting the many uses of Sherman Island in the western Delta. In addition, news releases and public participation pages have been seeing increased traffic.

**a. Legal Update**

No legal update.

**b. Legislative Update (Action Item)**

Legislative and Policy Advisor Brandon Chapin provided a legislative update to the Council.

**c. New Delta Watermaster Jay Ziegler**

Pearson commented on the Watermaster's role in the Delta and how it was established before welcoming and introducing the new Delta Watermaster, Jay Ziegler, to the Council.

Ziegler presented on the Delta Alternative Compliance Plan, the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program, ongoing San Joaquin flood risk, how the Delta fits among proposed voluntary agreements, and science collaboration.

Chair Madueño and Councilmembers Zingale and Hueso thanked Ziegler for the presentation and offered welcoming remarks about his new position.

Chair Madueño commented on the significance of retaining and aiding environmental justice communities and doing so, in "the spirit of doing more in less time."

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3pnON1u>, minute 00:25:34.

#### **d. Delta Protection Commission and Delta Conservancy Update**

The Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission, Bruce Blodgett, and the Executive Officer of the Delta Conservancy, Campbell Ingram, provided updates to the Council.

Ingram presented on the Delta Conservancy's grants programs and the Delta Drought Response Program (report). Blodgett discussed personnel, the Delta leadership program, Junior Ranger Program, and various Delta Events,

Pearson closed the agenda item with a summary of the remaining agenda items.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3pnON1u>, minute 00:25:34.

#### **7. LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Lead Scientist Dr. Laurel Larsen opened with an announcement regarding the latest issuance of the Delta Breeze and the inaugural kick-off to the "Decision-making Under Deep Uncertainty" seminar series.

Dr. Larsen highlighted the upcoming May 4, 2023, Adaptive Management Forum and the May 19, 2023, jointly hosted workshop on the influence of extreme heat on organisms, communities, and social-ecological systems.

Dr. Larsen featured the article:

Relations between abiotic and biotic environmental variables and occupancy of Delta Smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*) in autumn

*A. Noble Hendrix, Erica Fleishman, Martha Wohlfeil Zillig, and Eva Dusek Jennings. Estuaries and Coasts (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-022-01100-x>.*

The research team that wrote the spotlighted article adopted an innovative, participatory approach to address the question of how different stressors interact to control the abundance of delta smelt system wide.

The research initiative was developed out of the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team, a technical team under the umbrella of the multi-agency Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program. The research leveraged 35 years of monitoring from the Fall Midwater Trawl dataset. To address the impracticality of testing how well every possible equation relating stressors to delta smelt presence or absence matched observations, the research team consulted with a wide range of delta smelt experts to develop a finite set of testable hypotheses.

Councilmembers Zingale, Smith, and Burgis discussed X2 (salinity) and water temperature impact on fish ecosystems, algae blooms, and oxygen levels with Dr. Larsen.

Dr. Larsen closed with a brief discussion on the “By the Numbers” information sheet.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3pnON1u>, minute 01:25:25.

## **8. CONVEYANCE UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)**

DWR Environmental Program Manager for Delta Conveyance Carrie Buckman presented an update on the Delta Conveyance Project and provided an overview of the public comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Councilmember Lee and Buckman discussed the received comments, the concerns for water quality, and the project’s description and objective(s).

Chair Madueño commented on various county supervisors’ concerns regarding DWR’s lack of explanation on the Delta conveyance and the question of what will happen to the water being transported.

Chair Madueño echoed Councilmember Lee’s comment and reiterated the need to know where the comments originated, including environmental justice communities, nonprofits, disadvantaged communities, and/or tribal communities.

Councilmembers Burgis and Damrell, Chair Madueño and Buckman discussed the inclusion of received comment origins in the next briefing, water quality concerns,

the importance of water conveyance, clarification of technical language, sharing more information, CEQA processes, and the culture of distrust for the project.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3pnON1u>, minute 01:40:24.

## **9. DELTA INDEPENDENT SCIENCE BOARD (ISB) UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Delta Lead Scientist Dr. Larsen opened with a brief introduction of the Delta ISB's set of comments on the draft scientific basis supplement for the voluntary agreements published by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Boards) before introducing the Chair of the Delta ISB, Dr. Lisa Wainger.

Dr. Wainger provided a presentation to the Council.

Chair Madueño, Dr. Wainger, and Councilmember Burgis discussed the Colorado River water supply concern (referencing modeling diagram in presentation) and changing our biases in response to rapid change (climate).

Councilmember Smith announced that the meeting was her last and addressed the attendance and Council, as a Californian, speaking on the importance of bureaucratic work and how being on the Council has been a phenomenal experience because of the Council's dedication and ability to work both independently and together to drive the work forward.

Smith closed with a notation that the Council, in her opinion, is one the highest functioning agencies in California and relayed that it was an honor and privilege to serve with the team, staff, and Council.

Chair Madueño and Councilmember Zingale thanked Councilmember Smith for her unwavering service.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3pnON1u>, minute 02:10:25.

## **10. CALIFORNIA TRIBAL LISTENING SESSION (INFORMATION ITEM)**

The Council hosted representatives from California Native American Tribes for a listening session to hear about their ties to the Delta, their sovereignty and relation to the State, and their perspectives surrounding Delta management.

This listening session was an opportunity to discuss the critical issues facing the Delta and Tribes and ask questions to facilitate a shared understanding that informs Council decision-making and tribal engagement.

Chair Madueño opened by welcoming the Tribes in attendance and acknowledged that the Delta watershed and Bay estuary are located within the traditional territory and homelands of the Bay Miwok, Coast Miwok, Plains Miwok, Maidu, Nisenan, Ohlone, Patwin, Pomo, Wappo, Wintun, and Yokuts peoples. Chair Madueño also noted that the Council recognizes that the Council, Delta ISB, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, Delta Protection Commission, and other organizations here today, have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of tribal traditional homelands, including the Bay-Delta.

Chair Madueño asked the panel to offer introductions:

### Tribal Representatives

**Rebecca Allen** – Tribal Historic Preservation Director for the United Auburn Indian Community of Maidu and Miwok of the Auburn Rancheria

**Krystal Moreno** – Traditional Ecological Knowledge Program Manager for the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

**Ivan Senock** – Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Cultural Resources Director for the Buena Vista Rancheria

**Laverne Bill** – Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Pashenka Band of Nomlaki Indians

### Moderator

**Brandon Chapin** – Tribal Liaison and Legislative and Policy Advisor for the Council

### Guests

**Dr. Wainger** – Chair of the Delta ISB

**Jay Ziegler** – Delta Watermaster

Highlighted Attendee(s)

**Campbell Ingram** – Executive Officer of the Delta Conservancy

**Bruce Blodgett** – Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission

Chapin provided a presentation on the State and Council's relationship with Tribes. Representatives Allen, Moreno, Senock, and Bill provided presentations and statements to the Council.

Tribal representatives and Councilmember Smith discussed the significance of cultural traditions, how to transition listening into action, what optimal participation looks like for Tribes, capacity limitations, how to be creative in outreach, the need for continual open communications, and how to ensure the Council is doing the due diligence to ensure all Tribes are reached.

Tribal representatives and Councilmembers Burgis and Zingale conversed about how the Council can set an example for future approaches to tribal discourse, what sincere efforts for outreach look like the term "Guardian" to describe Tribes' relationships to the Delta, how to navigate resource management (compensation) and funding, the differences between federally recognized and non-federally recognized Tribes, Tribes' concerns with water quality and healthy environments, and tribal representation on decision-making bodies.

Tribal representatives and Councilmembers Lee and Damrell talked about what the best design of an engagement experience would look like between Tribes and governing agencies, the difference between virtual and in-person engagement, the evolution of digital tools, the need to be personal with Tribes, the understanding of tribal areas and their importance, the need to meet in the Delta, traditional ecological knowledge, the difference between the view of the Delta as a landscape vs. specific tribal sites, tribal concerns with the Delta conveyance project, and the translation of beliefs and/or feelings to paper.

Tribal representatives and Delta Watermaster Ziegler discussed the Delta as a dynamic place, tribal recognition of government maps, the complicated nexus of tribal sovereignty, spiritual perspectives in project work, benefits to Delta resources, and connection to culture and ceremony.



Chair Madueño echoed Councilmember Burgis' comment on not just "checking the box," for tribal outreach and offered comments on engagement, genuine intent regarding outreach, meeting in the Delta, and the roles of guardians vs. stewards.

Chair Madueño closed with thanks to the tribal representatives for taking the time to meet with the Council.

There was no public comment.

Tribal representative Senock gave a closing statement on the role of Tribes as subject matter experts on tribal cultural resources and the importance of their inclusion in decision-making spaces.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3pnON1u>, minute 02:49:15.

#### **11. PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Council meeting will take place May 25-26, 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 was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

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