



October 2, 2023

Delta Stewardship Council
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RE: Lead Scientist Appointment Recommendation

Dear Chair Madueño and Members of the Delta Stewardship Council,

On behalf of the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB), I am writing in support of Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers for the position of Delta Lead Scientist while the recruitment for the position is in progress. As you know, Dr. Laurel Larsen, the current Delta Lead Scientist, has announced that she will leave her post on November 30, 2023 -- seven months sooner than originally expected. Dr. Larsen's early departure has created an urgent need to fill the position to ensure continuous science leadership for the Delta Stewardship Council and its Delta Science Program, while recruitment proceeds. The Delta Lead Scientist recruitment is expected to be completed in the summer 2024.

Dr. Windham-Myers meets the qualifications specified in the Delta Reform Act:

- a) Hold an advanced degree in a field related to water or ecosystem management.
- b) Have a strong record of scientific research and publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals in a field related to water or ecosystem management.
- c) Have experience advising high-level managers in science-based decision making in the areas of water management and ecosystem restoration.
- d) Have the capability to guide the application of an adaptive management process to resource management policy decisions in the Delta.

Lead Scientist Appointment Recommendation

Dr. Windham-Myers is a systems ecologist with the United States Geological Survey. She received her Ph.D. from Rutgers University in Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources and was a university professor before joining the United States Geological Survey. Her research examines processes at the interface of land and aquatic systems, including water flow, storage and quality at landscape scales. She also examines fine scale processes in sediment and in this biogeochemistry work she has studied extensively the conditions in wetlands and estuaries that sequester and release greenhouse gases, and control methylmercury dynamics. She has authored or coauthored over 100 peer reviewed papers, has represented the US on an international panel on blue carbon, and has led or served on many US workgroups developing and synthesizing evidence on effective carbon sequestration actions. Additional information on her qualifications can be found in Attachment 3.

We plan to present our support for appointing Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers as Delta Lead Scientist to the Delta Stewardship Council at your next meeting on October 26, 2023, and look forward to continue working with you and the United States Geological Survey to complete recruitment for the position.

Sincerely,



Lisa Wainger, Ph.D.
Chair, Delta Independent Science Board
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