

DRAFT

SUMMARY: DECEMBER 17, 2020
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

For Review and Adoption by the Council at the January 28, 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

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Tatayon called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM, December 17, 2020.

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

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following councilmembers were present: Mike Gatto, Susan Tatayon, Oscar Villegas, and Daniel Zingale.

Maria Mehranian arrived shortly after the roll call. Frank Damrell was absent.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)

3a. Adoption of November 19, 2020 Meeting Summary

Motion: Offered by Zingale, second by Gatto – Approve the Consent Calendar items.

Vote: 5/0 – Gatto, Mehranian, Tatayon, Villegas, and Zingale. 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=2020-12-17> minute 02:14.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Susan Tatayon announced the end of Councilmember Oscar Villegas' term as chair of the Delta Protection Commission, leading to the end of his term on the Council. The chair and councilmembers offered thanks for Villegas' time on the

Council. Councilmember Villegas thanked the Council and Executive Officer Jessica Pearson. The next Chair of the Delta Protection Commission will be Don Nottoli, who will join the Council in January.

The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-12-17> minute 03:05.

5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson noted the recent blog post she authored highlighting the Delta Adapts project. Pearson also 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 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, while in emergency status.

The Council sent one comment letter on active projects during the past month:

- City of Lathrop Department of Public Works: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Lathrop Consolidated Treatment Facility Surface Water Discharge Project

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board had filed a certification of consistency for the American River Watershed Common Features, Sacramento East Levee Contract 2 Project. The public review period ended on November 25, 2020. No appeals were received.

The Department of Water Resources has filed a certification of consistency for the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project. The public review period runs through January 11, 2021.

Kaylee Griffith has been appointed as an environmental scientist. Chief Deputy Executive Officer Jessica Law will be departing from the Council at the end of the year. Pearson thanked Law for her time and efforts at the Council.

Pearson also noted that the Outreach Highlights report and Active Projects List were available in the councilmember's packets and on the Council's website.

The Executive Officer's update is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-12-17> minute 07:58.

5a. *Legal Update (Information Item)*

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

5b. *Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy and Delta Protection Commission Updates (Information Item)*

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) Executive Officer Campbell Ingram provided an update on the Conservancy's Proposition 1 and 68 programs, Delta carbon efforts, the exploration of the Conservancy holding conservation easements in the Delta, and the finalization of *Identifying Suitable Rearing Habitat for Chinook Salmon in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta*, a report that was prepared by the San Francisco Estuary Institute, funded jointly by the Conservancy and the Council.

Delta Protection Commission (Commission) Executive Director Erik Vink updated the Council on the Commission's efforts to update the recreation and tourism section of the Economic Sustainability Plan, including recent economic and recreation trends, and the development of the management plan for the Delta National Heritage Area.

Councilmembers and the panelists discussed the impact of bass on the Delta ecosystem.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy and Delta Protection Commission update is viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-12-17> minute 16:34.

6. LEAD SCIENTIST'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Deputy Executive Officer for Science, Dr. Louise Conrad, provided December's update on Delta Science Program activities for Delta Lead Scientist Dr. Laurel Larson.

Dr. Conrad presented the findings from the article "Troubled Water: Preparing for Climate Threats to California's Water System" from *Climate Change*. Dr. Conrad also provided an update on the Delta Science Solicitation Proposal, the 2022 – 2026 Science Action Agenda (SAA), and upcoming events such as the Adaptive Management Forum (February 3-5, 2021), Steelhead Trout Workshop (February 16-18, 2021), and Bay-Delta Science Conference (April 6-9, 2021). Dr. Conrad also provided the By the Numbers Report.

Councilmembers and Dr. Conrad discussed the article's findings and whether the goals are achievable given financial and political constraints. The Council also

discussed whether the Council could serve as a forum to discuss the article's findings.

The Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-12-17> minute 45:40.

7. DELTA ADAPTS: DRAFT VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Harriet Ross, assistant planning director, continued the presentation and discussion from the November Council meeting on the results of the public draft Vulnerability Assessment for Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future. The presentation focused on the economic analysis and the impacts on people, places, agriculture, recreation, and infrastructure. The presentation also provided an overview of the outcomes from the recent stakeholder workgroup meeting.

Councilmembers and Ross discussed the role of future levee investments in the analysis and the development of the upcoming adaptation strategy. The Council also discussed communication tools for the analysis, Delta Independent Science Board involvement in the adaptation strategy, timeframes for addressing vulnerabilities, and the need to identify the stakeholders involved in the development of the analysis and adaptation strategy.

Public Comment:

Jennifer Nevills, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, recognized the effort, thanked the Council for engaging stakeholders, and expressed interest in future developments and continued participation.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-12-17> minute 1:09:26.

8. DELTA PLAN PERFORMANCE MEASURES: 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW (INFORMATION ITEM)

Jeff Henderson, deputy executive officer for planning and performance, and Martina Koller, program manager, provided an overview of the Delta Plan's performance measures, the performance measures dashboard, and the process for updating performance measure data. Cory Copeland, environmental scientist, provided an overview of the updates to the water supply and Delta as place performance measures; Chris Kwan, senior environmental scientist, provided an overview of the updates to the ecosystem performance measures; and Scott Navarro, environmental scientist, provided an overview of the updates to the invasive species and water quality performance measures.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the availability of dashboard user data, the use of videos to explain the system benefits being tracked in the dashboard, and the timeframes, target dates, and credibility of the dashboard data.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-12-17> minute 1:46:31

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

10. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting is on January 28, 2020, via teleconference.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

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