



**DRAFT**

**SUMMARY: DECEMBER 16, 2021  
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

For review and adoption by the Council at the January 27, 2022, meeting.

In accordance with Assembly Bill 361 (Government Code §11133), 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 9:08 AM, December 16, 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: Virginia Madueño, Maria Mehranian, Don Nottoli, Christy Smith, Susan Tatayon, and Daniel Zingale.

Councilmember Damrell arrived during item 8, Draft 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Offered by Smith, second by Madueño – Approve the Consent Calendar.

**Vote:** 6/0 - 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=2021-12-16> minute 2:10

4. CHAIR'S REPORT (ACTION ITEM)

4a. *Vice-Chair Election*

**Motion:** Offered by Mehranian, second by Smith – Nominate Councilmember Virginia Madueño to serve as Vice Chair beginning January 1, 2022.

**Vote:** 5/1 - The motion was adopted, and Councilmember Madueño accepted the nomination (Mehranian, Nottoli, Smith, Tatayon, Zingale). Councilmember Madueño voted no.

Chair Tatayon shared a brief overview of a documentary about California's complex water infrastructure, *River's End, California's Latest Water War*. For additional information, visit <https://www.riversendfilm.com/>.

The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-12-16> minute 03:31.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-12-16> minute 7:12.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson announced that the Council posted proposed revisions to the Council's Appeals Procedures on December 10 for a 90-day public comment period, ending on March 7, 2022. The proposed amendments are on the Council's website, and comments can be submitted to [procedures@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:procedures@deltacouncil.ca.gov).

The Council received a letter from Solano County Supervisor John Vasquez regarding the Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project. The letter stated that Solano County, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate and identify opportunities to expand and enhance recreation within the Cache Slough region. This effort relates to recreational access, which was one of the issues before the Council in the appeal of the certification of consistency with the Delta Plan for the DWR's Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project in 2021.

The Council also sent a letter to the West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency regarding the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) for the Yolo Bypass East Levee Project. The letter outlines Delta Plan policies that may apply to the project and invites the project proponents to meet with Council staff in early consultation.

Pearson made one personnel announcement. Erin Mullin has been promoted to Supervising Water Resources Engineer in the Planning and Performance Division. The Outreach Highlights Report and the Active Projects List were provided to the Council in writing.

*6a. Legal Update (Information Item)*

There was no Legal Update.

*6b. Legislative Update (Information Item)*

There was no Legislative Update

*6c. Delta Adapts Adaptation Strategy Status Update (Information Item)*

Assistant Planning Director Harriet Ross gave an update on the ongoing process to develop the second phase of Delta Adapts, the climate adaptation strategy for the Delta region.

The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-12-16> minute 7:26.

**7. LEAD SCIENTIST'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Delta Lead Scientist Dr. Laurel Larsen discussed a recently published paper by Frantzich et al., which investigates whether the use of managed flow pulses throughout the north Delta's Cache Slough Complex could improve habitat and generate food for fish such as the Delta smelt. The results show that an experimental flow pulse in 2016 generated multiple benefits for downstream habitats. Still, more work is needed to understand better the underlying mechanisms or how generalizable the results are.

Dr. Larsen gave an overview of the previous Delta Lead Scientist Ask Me Anything (AMA) presentation. Archives of all sessions are available for viewing at the Council's Instagram page (@deltastewardshipcouncil). The next AMA is January 31, 2022.

Delta Science Program staff released the draft 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda (SAA). The Delta Science Program sought feedback on the draft SAA during the review period, which closed on January 21, 2022. Input from the review period will be considered when revising the final SAA, anticipated by Spring 2022. To learn more, please visit <https://scienceactionagenda.deltacouncil.ca.gov/> or email [SAA@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:SAA@deltacouncil.ca.gov)

The Delta Science Program, in partnership with the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), provided high-quality training in synthetic data

science and statistical techniques and an opportunity for collaboration between federal and state agencies and academic scientists. Products from this collaboration are expected to inform decision-making for restoration, protecting endangered species, and managing flow actions. For more information:

<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/science-synthesis-working-group>

Dr. Larsen gave an update on the interviews currently underway for the Environmental Justice Issue Paper. The Council's 2019 Five-Year Review Report identified environmental justice (EJ) as a priority issue and recommended the preparation of an issue paper to investigate the need for additional strategies or responses to address EJ within the Delta Plan. The interviews will inform the EJ issue paper and contribute to the body of peer-reviewed literature on EJ in the Delta. If you or someone you work with would be interested and willing to interview or have any feedback or questions on this approach, please contact [environmentaljustice@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:environmentaljustice@deltacouncil.ca.gov). For more information on this project, see <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/environmental-justice>.

As a reminder, the Delta Science Program will host a two-part workshop on Salinity Management Actions, with the first part in early 2022. The workshop will be held virtually, with free and open registration to the public. More information about the workshop dates and registration will follow in the coming months.

Dr. Larsen gave an overview of the December 15, 2021, Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team Symposium. To view the recording, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryxcdCX4Nuo>.

Dr. Larsen reviewed the By the Numbers report.

Councilmembers discussed how the By the Numbers reported rainfall averages are developed and the topics covered in the (DIISC) Symposium. Councilmembers requested that additional information on the EJ issue paper be provided at a future meeting.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-12-16> minute 27:23.

#### 8. DRAFT 2022-2026 SCIENCE ACTION AGENDA (INFORMATION ITEM)

Council staff gave an update on the Science Action Agenda (SAA). The SAA was released for public review on November 18, 2021 through January 21, 2022. The SAA is updated periodically (every four to five years) to re-examine priorities and is

a pivotal document developed by and for the Delta science community that prioritizes and aligns science actions to address management needs.

The draft 2022-2026 SAA prioritizes 25 top Science Actions responsive to six integrative Management Needs and 65 Top Delta Management Questions that reflect the complexity of social and environmental challenges and knowledge gaps in the Delta. These Science Actions focus on both (1) generating new information or tools, and/or (2) improving, or enhancing the use and reach of, existing scientific information, tools, or knowledge. Due to the SAA representing shared science priorities of the Delta scientific community, it provides a valuable framework to guide science planning and funding by the Council (e.g., PSNs and Delta Science Fellows) and its partners. The Delta Science Program will consider input from the review period when revising the final SAA, anticipated by Spring 2022.

*Public Comment*

Deirdre Des Jardins, California Water Research, commented that research by the Interagency Ecological Program on pelagic organism decline shows an abrupt and severe decline in populations. Des Jardins noted that there should be a follow-up on this report. Des Jardins also commented that there should be transparency regarding who is on the advisory board for the Science Funding and Governance Initiative and what guidance they provided for the development of the SAA.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-12-16> minute 59:42.

9. DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION GREAT CALIFORNIA DELTA TRAIL MASTER PLAN (INFORMATION ITEM)

Delta Protection Commission (DPC) Executive Director Erik Vink and Program Manager Virginia Gardiner presented the recently released draft of the Great California Delta Trail Master Plan (Master Plan). The Master Plan is not a covered action under the Delta Reform Act. However, it does advance the implementation of several recommendations outlined in Delta Plan Chapter 5, *Protect and Enhance the Unique Cultural, Recreational, Natural Resource, and Agricultural Values of the California Delta as an Evolving Place*. The Master Plan is intended to be a valuable and lasting tool for community partners involved in trail development. These include public works and park and recreation planners, local trail and outdoor education or environmental justice advocates, and those seeking to preserve and inspire appreciation for the Delta's unique cultural, recreational, natural resource,

and agricultural values. Council staff reviewed the Master Plan and submitted a comment letter.

Councilmembers discussed how the Master Plan influences city and county level planning processes, the funding mechanism for execution, and alternative transit opportunities incorporated into the planning process.

*Public Comment*

Deirdre Des Jardins, California Water Research, commented that research shows an emotional connection to nature is the main driver for protective factions and thanked the DPC for their work on the Master Plan.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-12-16> minute 1:16:46

10. PERFORMANCE MEASURES 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW (INFORMATION ITEM)

Council staff presented on the Delta Plan performance measures, including previewing a staff-produced video, highlighting key annual updates and progress, and reporting on the use of the online performance measures dashboard in 2021.

The Council deployed a web-based dashboard in 2019 to visually track the performance measures and provide open access for the public and interested parties to the associated data, methods, and information. The performance measures can be viewed on the dashboard at [www.viewperformance.deltacouncil.ca.gov](http://www.viewperformance.deltacouncil.ca.gov).

The informational video *Delta Plan Performance Measures: Using data to track the health of California's Delta* is available on the Council's YouTube channel [youtube.com/watch?v=oSrFNV1cGHQ&list=PLqTHCliW1Hhq4IMQsm2DsMZKjFAI4xaYs](https://youtube.com/watch?v=oSrFNV1cGHQ&list=PLqTHCliW1Hhq4IMQsm2DsMZKjFAI4xaYs).

Staff also provided updates to the Council regarding the revised administrative performance measures in 2022. The proposed revisions would require Council approval at a future date.

Councilmembers discussed the vast community reach and environmental importance of the Delta. Councilmembers also thanked the staff for all their hard work in creating the performance measures and presentation.

*Public Comment*

Deirdre Des Jardins, California Water Research, commented that the Council was created to solve some of the governance issues in the Delta. Des Jardins noted that adaptive management is necessary, and though some progress has been made, there is a need for a hard push to make some of the most significant changes.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-12-16> minute 1:40:40

11. PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting is on January 27, 2022, via webinar.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

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