



May 3, 2023

Delta Stewardship Council
715 P Street, 15-300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Delivered via: engage@deltacouncil.ca.gov

715 P Street, 15-300
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.445.5511
DELTACOUNCIL.CA.GOV

CHAIR

Lisa Wainger, Ph.D.

CHAIR-ELECT

Inge Werner, Ph.D.

PAST CHAIR

Stephen Brandt, Ph.D.

MEMBERS

Thomas Holzer, Ph.D.

Virginia Dale, Ph.D.

Tanya Heikkila, Ph.D.

Diane McKnight, Ph.D.

Jayantha Obeysekera, Ph.D.

Anna Michalak, Ph.D.

Robert Naiman, Ph.D.

RE: Recommendation for the Reappointment of the Lead Scientist for the Delta Science Program

Dear Chair Madueño and Members of the Delta Stewardship Council,

On behalf of the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB), I am writing to inform you of the outcome from the closed session portion of the Delta ISB's meeting on April 26, 2023, where we discussed the reappointment of the Lead Scientist for the Delta Science Program (Delta Lead Scientist). As you may know, the first term of the current Delta Lead Scientist, Dr. Laurel Larsen, will end in August 2023. She cannot complete a full second term but can serve until June 2024.

At our April 2023 meeting, we agreed to recommend to the Delta Stewardship Council to reappoint Dr. Laurel Larsen to a second term by unanimous vote of the eight members of the Delta ISB who participated in the decision. As Lead Scientist, Dr. Larsen has galvanized a range of new Delta science, developed resources to move ideas forward, and has been a wonderful communicator of science. She is particularly adept at seeing the application of new findings across research topics and to inform management actions. Among her accomplishments, she has (1) overseen the development of the 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda, which prioritizes science actions to help fill knowledge gaps, (2) helped build a shared understanding of the range of issues associated with salt water intrusion in the Delta and the different salinity management tools and strategies via a workshop, and (3) facilitated the development a modeling framework and virtual collaborative

center to integrate science, data, and models to better tackle environmental management challenges in region, and led or participated in many other initiatives. We have great respect for her intellect and accomplishments and appreciate the collaborative spirit that she brings to the lead scientist position.

We plan to present the Delta ISB's recommendation to the Delta Stewardship Council at your next meeting on May 25, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Wainger", is written over a white rectangular background. Below the signature is a solid black horizontal line.

Lisa Wainger, Ph.D.
Chair, Delta Independent Science Board
disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov