



DRAFT

SUMMARY APRIL 24, 2025
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

For review and adoption by the Council at the May 22, 2025, meeting.

All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at
<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>

MEETING SUMMARY

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Julie Lee called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM on April 24, 2025, at the Clarksburg Schoolhouse at 36397 N Center Street, Clarksburg, CA 95612.

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

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established (Government Code § 11123.2). The following councilmembers were present and in person: Burgis, Damrell, Hueso, Mehranian, and Lee.

The following councilmembers were present and remote: Zingale

Councilmember Miller joined the meeting remotely during agenda item 6.

Mike Campbell, a representative of the Clarksburg Schoolhouse, shared history about the building, the process of restoration, and future projects planned for the space.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)

a. Adoption of March 27, 2025 Meeting Summary

Chair Lee presented the agenda item for adopting the consent calendar.

Chair Lee asked for public comment

There was no public comment.

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

Vote: 6/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Aye, Damrell: Aye, Hueso: Aye, Mehranian: Aye, Miller: Absent, Zingale: Aye, Lee: Aye)

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3S4q0uL>, minute 00:09:19.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Lee reported on the legislative meet and greets she has attended and shared about her attendance at the Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) Advisory Committee meeting hosted by the Delta Protection Commission. Councilmember Burgis shared updates from the Delta Protection Commission relating to the NHA. Chair Lee and Councilmember Burgis discussed potential initiatives of the NHA to encourage tourism and address funding concerns.

a. Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee Meeting Re-Cap (Information Item)

Amanda Bohl, Special Assistant for Science and Planning, and Audrey Cho, Executive Fellow, shared an overview of the April 3, 2025, Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) meeting and a preview of upcoming events and projects.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3S4q0uL>, minute 00:10:19.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson began acknowledging Mike Campbell and the Clarksburg Schoolhouse. Pearson shared that the Council has completed the Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking process to amend the California Code of Regulations to implement policies established in the Ecosystem Amendment to the Delta Plan. The Ecosystem Amendment includes new and revised policies, recommendations, and mitigation measures. The amended and added regulations took effect on April 1, 2025. There have been no new covered actions and the 30-day public review period for the Sacramento County Zacharias Mitigation Bank certification of consistency closed on April 21 and no appeals were filed.

Pearson provided a summary of the Council's comment letter sent to the Delta Independent Science Board on April 11, 2025, in response to public comments offered to the Delta ISB regarding the Council's Delta Levees Investment Strategy. The letter clarifies how, in keeping with a Council directive to rank risk to loss of life in the Delta as the most important consideration, the DLIS prioritizes the islands and tracts that represent the greatest risk to life across the Delta.

Pearson introduced one new California Sea Grant Fellow Iris-Anly Suarez.

Pearson also provided an overview of the Outreach Highlights Report and the Active Project List.

a. Legal Update

There was no legal update.

b. Legislative Update

Legislative and Policy Advisor, Brandon Chapin, reviewed changes to SB 650 which was amended on April 9th.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Motion (Authorize the Executive Officer and Legislative and Policy Advisor, or their designee, to convey a support position on SB 650 (as amended April 9) on behalf of the Council and to undertake the activities necessary, in consultation with the Chair, to ensure its successful passage through the legislative process.): offered by Councilmember Burgis, seconded by Councilmember Hueso.

Vote: 6/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Aye, Damrell: Aye, Hueso: Aye, Mehranian: Aye, Miller: Absent, Zingale: Aye, Lee: Aye)

Chapin shared his appreciation and reflected on his time with the Council.

Chair Lee, Councilmember Burgis, Councilmember Mehranian, Councilmember Hueso, Councilmember Zingale, and Councilmember Damrell shared appreciation for his work and well wishes for his future work.

c. Delta Conservancy and Delta Protection Commission Update

Dan Ray, interim director of the Delta Protection Commission, provided an update on the 30x 30 climate initiative, an update on the National Heritage Area, and an update on the hiring process for the next executive director for the Delta Protection Commission.

Councilmember Burgis thanked Ray for his work and Councilmember Burgis and Miller sent well wishes to Tom Slater of the Delta Protections Commission.

Karen Buhr, Deputy Director of the Delta Conservancy, provided updates on the Clean Vessel Act program, nature-based solution program including the rice conversion program, and highlighted the DPIIC meeting discussions, announced a survey about Proposition 4 for parties interested in receiving funding, and their upcoming Delta Conservancy meeting.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Councilmember Miller joined the meeting during this agenda item.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3S4q0uL>, minute 00:19:10.

7. TRIBAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUE PAPER (RESOLUTION 2025-05) (ACTION ITEM)

Amanda Bohl, Special Assistant for Science and Planning, and Deputy Executive Officer of Planning and Performance, Jeff Henderson, presented the Tribal and Environmental Justice Issue paper for Council adoption. Bohl began acknowledging staff work on the document, provided an overview of the paper objectives, the drafting process, and a summary of the comments received during the comment period and the corresponding edits made in response to comments.

Henderson provided a review of next steps and current work being implemented in response to the paper and presented Resolution 2025-05 for adoption.

Chair Lee thanked staff for their work on the paper.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

Public Comment

Artie Valencia, Flood and Land Restoration manager with Restore the Delta, shared comments about the writing process of the paper, thanked staff for their work and provided comments on additional changes that could be included in the paper including more integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, the safe drinking water program, and updates to the redlining and environmental hazards section.

Motion (Adopt Resolution 2025-05.): offered by Councilmember Zingale, seconded by Councilmember Mehranian.

Vote: 7/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Aye, Damrell: Aye, Hueso: Aye, Mehranian: Aye, Miller: Aye, Zingale: Aye, Lee: Aye)

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3S4q0uL>, minute 00:49:58.

8. LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Dr. Windham Myers provided an overview of the highlighted article for this month.

Thompson J, Dahm C, Christman M, Colombano D, Rowlands N, Windham-Myers L. 2025. The State of Bay-Delta Science: An Introduction to the 2025 Extreme Events Edition. San Francisco Estuary & Watershed Science, 23(1).
<https://doi.org/10.15447/sfews.2025v23iss1art1>

The State of Bay-Delta Science (SBDS) is an ongoing Delta Science Program synthesis and communication effort intended to inform science and policy audiences about the “state of the science” for topics relevant to managing the Bay-Delta system. Editions of SBDS consist of collections of scientific articles published in the peer-reviewed journal San Francisco Estuary & Watershed Science (SFEWS) (available here: https://escholarship.org/uc/jmie_sfews). An editorial board comprising Delta Science Program staff and external experts guides development and production of each edition. The first two editions of SBDS were published in 2008 and 2016 and covered a broad range of topics related to water and ecological management in the Bay-Delta; the third edition in 2023 focused base of the food chain (plants and algae) and their ecosystem services. This edition explores extreme events affecting the Bay-Delta—heatwaves, droughts, atmospheric rivers, and wildfires—and how science and governance systems can adapt to the increasingly complex management challenges posed by climate change. The authors summarize some key findings on the status and trends of extreme events from the articles. The authors highlight the importance of long-term monitoring, which allows researchers to detect climate change signals in the Bay-Delta. The authors also note the importance of using region-specific climate models to help explore potential future scenarios in the Bay-Delta. Finally, they identify another key theme running throughout the edition, which is the growing need for flexible and adaptive frameworks that enable management decisions in the face of uncertainty.

Councilmember Mehranian and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed climate governance and climate science. Councilmember Burgis and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed the different variables that affect climate adaptation, extreme events, and the global

scale of these events. Executive Officer Pearson highlighted an information sheet that outlines the contents of the paper available on the Council's website.

Dr. Windham-Myers shared Delta Science Program activities including an update on ongoing independent scientific peer reviews, and the upcoming Fall 2025 Delta Synthesis working group. Dr. Windham-Myers highlighted upcoming events including the Delta Research Awards Seminar Series on May 7, Microplastic Pollution Symposium on May 9, and the 2025 State of the Estuary Conference on October 28-29.

Councilmember Miller shared appreciation for the Delta Science Program and thanked Brandon Chapin for their outreach and education.

Dr. Windham-Myers closed with a review of By the Numbers report.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento.

Councilmember Miller exited the meeting after this agenda item.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda <https://bit.ly/3S4q0uL>, minute 01:08:09.

**9. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
COUNCIL ON THE DELTA LEVEES INVESTMENT STRATEGY (DLIS)
(INFORMATION ITEM)**

Deputy Executive Officer for Planning and Performance, Jeff Henderson, provided an introduction, and Manager, Delta Resiliency Branch, of DWR, Bryan Brock, presented on discretionary investments in levee operations, maintenance, and improvement for fiscal year 2023-2024, and how they comply with DLIS, as required by Council regulations. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5012.)

Councilmember Mehranian and Brock discussed the Proposal Solicitation Package's (PSP) funding (Prop 1 and Prop 4), project development (Planning, design, and permitting), grant awards, and priority selection processes (DLIS priorities and PSP criteria scoring).

Councilmember Burgis sought clarification on the Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program. Chair Lee, Councilmember Burgis, Brock, and Henderson discussed the current status of the program's budget and how it receives its funding, the priority list of levees (why some are unidentified / how we can double-check the data), a BCP for a continued appropriation for subventions funding, and the West Sacramento Project, or more specifically why this project was allocated a large portion of funding and may/may not be a priority, and if DWR could provide contextual reasonings for similar projects in the future.

Councilmember Burgis raised a point regarding awareness of funding and the need for more. Councilmember Mehranian, Councilmember Burgis, Brock, and Chair Lee discussed reclamation districts and funding issues facing local entities (money shortage, distribution inequity, and operating costs).

Chair Lee closed with a request for further discussion at the Council's May meeting on how the priority list could be updated.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3S4q0uL>, minute 01:28:11.

10. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)

Environmental Program Manager for Delta Conveyance, DWR, Carrie Buckman, provided an update on ongoing activities concerning the Delta Conveyance Project.

Councilmembers Burgis and Buckman discussed the community benefits program (cautionary concern on solidifying details, as future needs change), Dutch Slough (integrated benefit vs. community benefits agreement), DWR's CPOD (Change in Point of Diversion) hearings, and what they mean for project timelines, and the possibility of Governor Newsom and the Trump Administration working to move the Conveyance Project forward faster, which Buckman indicated she had no information on.

Chair Lee sought clarification on CPOD diversion amounts (no change) and the Community Benefits Program's budget (200 million) before closing the agenda item.

Councilmember Zingale thanked Buckman for her continued reporting and consistency.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://bit.ly/3S4q0uL>, minute 02:12:37.

11. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will take place on May 22, 2025. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

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