



Delta Stewardship Council

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

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MEMORANDUM

Date: May 21, 2026

To: Delta Stewardship Councilmembers

From: Jessica R. Pearson, Executive Officer

Subject: Upcoming Council Meeting – Thursday, May 28th, 2026

It is an important time in the Delta for science communication and collaboration. The 2026 Delta Science Plan we are bringing to the Council for endorsement reflects updated emerging concepts, management needs and new opportunities for action. The Delta Science Plan is recommended in the Delta Plan and provides an important framework for conducting, coordinating, and communicating science in the Delta.

One of the projects I am most proud of here at the Council is our completion of an exhaustive and challenging process to develop State priorities for levee investments. Levees in the Delta are critical infrastructure that protects people and property, the Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS) establishes priorities for state investments in levees by targeting areas where the risk to people, property, and critical state interest is greatest. This includes two considerations central to the coequal goals – water supply reliability and ecosystem health. At this month's meeting the Council will hear a joint presentation from the Department of Water Resources and Council staff on DLIS. This is part of the yearly required presentation from the Department of Water Resources on levee operations and improvements established into law in 2024. Council staff will also provide analysis through an overview of key lessons learned from seven cycles of DLIS, the importance of ongoing DLIS prioritization, and what we've accomplished from investments to date.