



DRAFT

SUMMARY MAY 28, 2026

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

For review and adoption by the Council at the June 25, 2026, meeting.

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

MEETING SUMMARY

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM on May 28, 2026, at the California Natural Resources Agency at 715 P Street, Room 2-221, Sacramento, California 95814.

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

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following Councilmembers were present in person: Burgis, Lee, Miller, Patterson, and Zingale. (Government Code § 11123)

Councilmember Mehranian was absent.

Councilmember Eggman arrived at the end of Agenda Item 5.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/cu803oo>, minute 00:01:25.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)

4a. Adoption of March 26, 2026, Meeting Summary

4b. Adoption of April 23, 2026 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 Miller, seconded by Councilmember Burgis.

Vote: 5/0 - The motion was adopted (Burgis: Aye, Eggman: Absent, Lee: Aye, Mehranian: Absent, Miller: Aye, Patterson: Aye, Zingale: Aye)

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/cu803oo>, minute 00:01:43.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Lee introduced Rachel Wigginton, Special Assistant for Planning and Science, to provide an update on the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC).

a. Relationships and Regional Restoration – Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Subcommittee Meeting and Restoration Forum Preview

Wigginton introduced herself to the Council, provided background on DPIIC, including the Delta Plan concerning DPIIC and the Restoration Subcommittee. Wigginton next provided an overview of the upcoming Restoration Subcommittee Meeting and Restoration Forum happening on June 18th, 2026, at the Bogle Family Vineyards.

Councilmember Burgis thanked Wigginton for the update and expressed her excitement for the upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Zingale, Executive Officer Jessica Pearson, and Wigginton discussed the Department of Water Resources' potential update on the Lookout Slough project at the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee meeting later in the month.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/cu803oo>, minute 00:02:38.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson began with a review of her participation in the Water Education Foundation tour and Councilmember Patterson added her reflections. Pearson next announced Council staff and DWR staff are collaborating to develop a comprehensive 2-dimensional computer model that simulates floodwater movement in the Delta. The model creates a digital replica of the entire Delta to simulate flood scenarios such as levee failures and sea level rise.

Pearson shared that one certification of consistency was filed since the last Executive Officer's report in March. The Hotchkiss Tract Levee Rehabilitation Project certification was filed by Reclamation District 799 on March 30, and the appeal period closed on April 29 with no appeals filed. The project will rehabilitate and improve segments of the existing levee along Dutch Slough to achieve the applicable rural levee standard, including levee raising, widening, slope improvements, and construction of a waterside tidal marsh bench.

Pearson welcomed Pauline Nakyajja, the new accounting officer, and Leonardo Lluberes, the Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion fellow.

Pearson closed, highlighting the Outreach Highlights Report and the Active Projects List.

a. Legal Update

There was no legal update.

b. Legislative Update

Audrey Cho, legislative and policy advisor, began with an overview of the State Budget May Revision. Cho next reviewed updates to bills of interest for the Council SB 872, AB 2216, AB 2218, and AB 2215. Cho provided an update on the Presidential Fiscal Year 27 budget request released in April, and Federal water policy, including H.R. 8653, the Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2026, and water infrastructure improvements funding for the Delta.

Councilmember Miller and Cho discussed the Council's ability to take a position on bills in the California Legislature. Pearson and Cho discussed the proposed cuts to the United States Geological Survey. Councilmember Burgis and Cho discussed the importance of water data and monitoring. Councilmember Patterson and Cho discussed the appropriated federal funds for water infrastructure improvements.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/cu803oo>, minute 00:09:54.

7. LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Delta Lead Scientist, Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers highlighted recent Delta Science Program activities and previewed upcoming events. Dr. Windham-Myers reviewed the By the Numbers report. Dr. Windham-Myers provided an overview of the snow year 2025-2026 and introduced Dr. Areidy Beltran-Peña and Dr. Alan Rhodes with the Lawrence Berkeley Labs. Dr. Beltran-Peña provided an overview of the traditional role of snowpack in California's water system, water usage in Sacramento, San-Joaquin, and Tulare basin, the areas of her study. Dr. Beltran-Peña discussed the implications of a low to no snow future and the impacts on agriculture. Dr. Rhodes discussed snow trends in the west, Dr. Beltran-Peña overviewed the warming models and the change in precipitation from snow to rain the models suggest including projected run off, and how this effects each basin of study (Sacramento, San Joaquin, Tulare). Dr. Rhodes discussed the variability of California snowpack and extreme events that create instability of the snowpack, such as atmospheric rivers, and highlighted the events of February-March 2026 that affected the snowpack. Dr. Rhodes highlighted proactive science measures that can

be used to effectively manage water resources. Dr. Windham-Myers concluded the presentation highlighting the Department of Water Resources' California Water Plan and the 2026 Delta Science Plan as examples of planning for a new climate reality.

Councilmember Zingale and Dr. Rhodes discussed the proactive versus preventative climate approach, water loss from extreme events. Councilmember Zingale and Dr. Beltran-Peña discussed the agricultural supply from California, and the difference between urban and agricultural water usages. Councilmember Eggman and Councilmember Zingale discussed the variety of California agriculture produced and the water usage for each crop. Councilmember Eggman and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed the water temperature and algae blooms in Stockton. Councilmember Burgis discussed the change in water temperature, monitoring, changes in precipitation, water storage and supply, and the acknowledgment of climate change. Councilmember Patterson, Dr. Beltran-Peña, Dr. Rhodes, and Pearson discussed the increased flood risk from the increased runoff modeled in the study and the implications for reservoir management. Councilmember Patterson and Dr. Beltran-Peña discussed the change in the start of the water year and the implications for the California fire season. Councilmember Patterson, Councilmember Eggman, Chair Lee, and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed water use in the agriculture sector. Dr. Windham-Myers highlighted a quilt created by the Council's Science Communication and Synthesis Program Manager II, Maggie Christman. The quilt depicts a heatmap of projected increases in runoff from strong storm events in the Delta watershed in the coming decades.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda <https://rebrand.ly/cu803oo>, minute 00:33:48.

8. POTENTIAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2026 DELTA SCIENCE PLAN (ACTION ITEM)

Delta Lead Scientist Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers and Environmental Scientist Hollis Jones presented the 2026 Science Plan update to the Council for potential endorsement and adoption of Resolution 2026-04.

The update covered the need for a Delta Science Plan, Delta Plan Recommendation G R1, the Delta science strategy, an overview of the Delta Science Plan, its successes, and the grand challenges: (1) Scientists and managers must anticipate a future with potentially different environmental conditions and regulations, (2) environmental change is outpacing traditional science, (3) scientific information remains decentralized and poorly connected to communities and decision-makers, (4) Traditional Knowledge and other ways of knowing are siloed from decision-making. It also outlined actions to address these challenges, action highlights, resources for the Delta science community, the plan's development process, next steps, and a request for endorsement.

Councilmember Zingale, Executive Officer Pearson, and Jones discussed collective action (pathways, examples, meaning, and tracking meaningful progress). Councilmember Miller and Executive Officer Pearson expanded on the conversation, discussing management outcomes, change and implementation tracking, and how these help manage the Delta.

Chair Lee inquired about the changes made in this iteration of the plan and asked for more information on the action examples and tracking processes that were added or changed.

Councilmember Burgis and Jones discussed social science, tribal technical knowledge, the plan's implementation, and its resources section. As a closing comment, Dr. Windham-Myers highlighted AB 1755 (Open and Transparent Water Data Platform for California) before the Council's consideration of Resolution 2026-04.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Motion: (approve Resolution 2026-04): offered by Councilmember Zingale, seconded by Councilmember Miller.

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

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/cu803oo>, minute 01:19:32.

9. DELTA LEVEES INVESTMENT STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Delta Stewardship Council Lead Engineer Erin Mullin, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Principal Engineer Kelly Soule, DWR Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program Manager Sandra Maxwell, and Council Senior Engineer Ashok Bathula presented on recent legislative updates to The California Water Plan, the State's long-term strategy for managing, protecting, and using its water.

The update began with an overview of the Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS) background and purpose, followed by a report from DWR on its annual investments in Delta Levees for FY 2024-2025. It covered the report's objectives, the levee programs supporting the Delta, a summary of awards for FY 24-25, DWR's annual reporting requirements, current and future funding, the Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program, and lessons learned.

Chair Lee, Councilmembers Burgis, Maxwell, Soule, and Mullin discussed project cost increases, ways to facilitate Council collaboration, who was included on the priority list, feedback received, future funding for subventions, increasing DLIS awareness, differences between subventions and DLIS, and Victoria Islands' high-priority status in DLIS.

Councilmember Eggman cautioned about monitoring the budget for signs of funding cuts, and Councilmember Patterson thanked the team for their efforts.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda <https://rebrand.ly/cu803oo>, minute 01:51:36.

10. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will take place on June 25, 2026. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

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