



DRAFT

SUMMARY JULY 23, 2026

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

For review and adoption by the Council at the August 27, 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 9:30 AM on July 23, 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: Eggman, Lee, Mehranian, Patterson, and Zingale. (Government Code § 11123)

Councilmember Burgis and Councilmember Miller were absent from the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/3t425x5>, minute 00:01:14.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM)

4a. Adoption of June 25, 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 in Sacramento or Eureka.

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

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

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/3t425x5>, minute 00:01:43.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Chair Lee reported on her attendance at the kickoff meeting for the Delta Climate Adaptation Team (DCAT) on June 30 which will support cross-sector collaboration between groups working on climate change adaptation in the Delta. Chair Lee also highlighted her participation in the Interweaving Traditional Knowledge series. She reported on the past two sessions and highlighted the last upcoming session on July 28. Chair Lee closed with a highlight of the Delta Independent Science Board meeting, which she attended and reported to the Board on Council activities.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/3t425x5>, minute 00:02:33.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson opened with a recognition of Disability Pride Month. Pearson reported on a comment letter sent by the Council to Reclamation

District 38 regarding the Mokelumne River Confluence Multi-Benefit Project. This levee project would include a waterside habitat bench at the confluence of the North and South Mokelumne rivers on Staten Island. Pearson announced that no new covered actions have been filed since the last Council meeting and announced updates to the Covered Actions web portal.

Pearson welcomed Emeline Tu, a summer fellow from the UC Davis Environmental Policy and Management program, and congratulated Edmund Yu on his promotion to Environmental Program Manager.

The report closed with an overview of the Outreach Highlights Report and the Active Projects list, available in Councilmember packets.

Pearson then invited the Legislative and Policy Advisor, Audrey Cho, along with Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Fellow Leo Lluberes, to provide a legislative update.

a. Legal Update

There was no legal update.

a. Legislative Update

Audrey Cho, the Council's legislative and policy advisor, introduced Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Fellow Leo Lluberes. She provided updates on the recently signed 2026-27 budget highlighting key budget propositions related to the Council and other updates on bond measures.

Cho discussed bills of interest: AB 2218 (Kalra), AB 1600 (Arambula) on including farming communities in disadvantaged communities, AB 35 (Alvarez), and AB 2215 (Calderon). Cho provided an update on SB 872 by Senator McNerney, the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund, including recent amendments on funding, and funding allocations processes. Councilmember Eggman, Cho, and Chief Counsel Jorge Aguilar discussed prioritization of the funding in the bill and the overlap in the prioritization of the funding of this bill and the Council's Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS). Councilmember Patterson and Cho discussed the process and mechanism for the funding in the bill to be prioritized, the decision-making process for this funding source, and the implications of having a possible redundant levee funding process. Councilmember Mehranian, Aguilar, and Cho discussed potential

recourse for the Council and highlighting the importance of DLIS as an adaptable tool for levee prioritization. Chair Lee and Cho discussed money attached to the bill (currently no funding is attached to the bill), and any transparency and public reporting efforts included in the bill. Councilmember Zingale and Cho clarified that there are no public reporting requirements tied to a portion of the funding in the bill.

Lluberes provided federal updates on H.R 9512 Doug LaMalfa Sacramento River Basin Water Security and Reliability Act of 2026, the Water Resources Development Act of 2026, and updates on federal funding.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The agenda item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/3t425x5>, minute 00:05:30.

7. SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS DRAFT 2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY (ACTION ITEM)

Eva Bush, environmental program manager at the Council, and Edith Verdin, senior planner for the San Joaquin Council of Governments, presented on the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). Bush provided an overview of the Council's authority on regional plans and land use, the statutory requirements of the Council's review process of regional plans. Verdin provided background on the San Joaquin Council of Governments, a review of the region location within the Delta Primary and Secondary Zone, and an overview of the RTP/SCS including the financial breakdown of the plan, projects, and state requirements of the plan. Verdin outlined key metrics that went into the plan, including forecasted growth, and an overview of the timeline of the plan. Councilmember Eggman and Verdin discussed transportation projects, and ridership and funding of the San Joaquin Regional Transit District. Bush reviewed the plan's consistency with the Delta Plan, and closed with the staff recommendation to adopt staff recommendations and approve Resolution 2026-05.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

Motion (approve Resolution 2026-05): offered by Councilmember Eggman, seconded by Councilmember Patterson.

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

The item is viewable on the linked agenda <https://rebrand.ly/3t425x5>, minute 00:29:19.

8. LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT (INFORMATION ITEM)

Lead Scientist Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers discussed algal blooms, including harmful algal blooms (HABs), in the Delta—where and when they occur, the lack of unified HAB monitoring and prediction, and the Council's efforts. The report covered the Council's Delta Science Program activities, including completion of NCEAS cohort 3 training, early-bird registration for the Bay-Delta Science Conference, Traditional Knowledge Roundtables #1 and #2, and the Delta Climate Adaptation Team kickoff.

Executive Officer Pearson, Dr. Windham-Myers, Councilmember Eggman, Councilmember Mehranian, and Chair Lee discussed the 2022 bloom and the resulting shift in the grazer community, tracking which species (algal blooms) are consuming what. They examined interactions between golden mussels and algal blooms (no conclusive data), bubbler efficiency, the increasing frequency and intensity of blooms, and the toxicity of algal blooms—measured when reported, as toxicity cannot be determined by appearance. They also considered whether different algal blooms are non-toxic, the likelihood that these problems stem from a highly managed system optimized for flood control and water flow, and the authority to monitor, clean up, and spray.

The presentation concluded with upcoming events to be aware of: the September U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Peer Review, the September 3 CoEQWAL launch, the September 28-30 Bay-Delta Science Conference, the October 5–6 Science Day 2026 by California Natural Resources Agency & California Council on Science and Technology, and the “By the Numbers” info sheet.

Pearson and Dr. Windham-Myers discussed the low flows of the San Joaquin River caused by seasonal diversions.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

There was no public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/3t425x5>, minute 00:52:43.

9. DELTA INDEPENDENT SCIENCE BOARD (ISB) UPDATE (INFORMATION ITEM)

Current Delta ISB Chair Dr. Inge Werner and past ISB Chair Dr. Lisa Wainger presented on the ISB's scope—including themes, documents, the initiation of reviews, and the Delta ISB's stance on endorsing policy decisions—noting that the Delta ISB does not play a role. They also discussed current review activities, the ongoing review of contaminant monitoring with a focus on risks to aquatic ecosystems and the review approach. Additionally, the presentation covered the May 2026 in-person public meeting that included a tour of the Sacramento Area Sewer District's EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility, as well as a scoping review of Nature-based Solutions, a new panel series, and preparations for the next panel focused on learning from other systems.

The presentation also addressed whether Delta's future planning scenarios effectively account for deep uncertainty. Dr. Werner and Dr. Wainger explained what deep uncertainty is, how decision-making under deep uncertainty (DMDU) differs, and the role of scenarios in uncertainty analysis. The Delta ISB's review process was outlined, along with strategies to mitigate cognitive biases. A Results Summary highlighted that while not all decisions benefit from DMDU, this systematic approach to exploring uncertainty offers significant advantages. The presentation concluded with an overview of next steps: upcoming publication of review findings in the San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Sciences journal, development of practical recommendations in a future perspective piece, and a seminar synthesis report that provides accessible information about DMDU and its benefits.

Chair Lee and Dr. Wainger discussed expanding scope to encompass decision-making under deep uncertainty and the reasons people hesitate to do so.

Chair Lee thanked both Dr. Wainger and Dr. Werner for their time on the Delta ISB.

Chair Lee asked for public comment.

Public Comment

Virginia Gardiner commented on the ISB's initiation of Delta Social Science efforts in the Delta.

There was no further public comment in Sacramento or Eureka.

The item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://rebrand.ly/3t425x5>, minute 01:52:58.

10. PREPARATION FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will take place on August 27, 2026. Please refer to the posted meeting notice 10 days before the meeting for further information or updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

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