



# Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

## Delta Stewardship Council

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October 28, 2024

### Autumn Gathering Summary

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The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) established the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC or Committee) after adopting the Delta Plan in 2013 and continues to oversee DPIIC activities as required by the Delta Reform Act. DPIIC serves as a forum to lead state, federal, and local agencies' efforts to implement the Delta Plan and Delta Science Plan. Committee members collaborate to implement their agencies' policies and authorities in ways that help achieve the co-equal goals of a more reliable California water supply and a restored, enhanced ecosystem in the Delta.

A recording of the meeting is available on the Council's YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_dxJf6ykdlU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_dxJf6ykdlU).

Meeting materials and presentations can also be found on the Council's website:

<https://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/dpiic/meetings>

### Attendees

The following committee members were in attendance:

Julie Lee	Chair, Delta Stewardship Council
Diane Burgis	Chair, Delta Protection Commission
Christine Birdsong	Undersecretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Cindy Messer	Lead Deputy Director, California Department of Water Resources
Katy Landau	Special Advisor, California Environmental Protection Agency
Samantha Arthur	Deputy Secretary for Water, California Natural Resources Agency
Jane Dolan	President, Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Campbell Ingram	Executive Officer, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Corey Copeland	Lead Scientist, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Jay Ziegler	Delta Watermaster, State Water Resources Control Board
Josephine Axt	Chief of Planning, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Todd Plain	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Sona Chilingaryan and Tina Yin	US Environmental Protection Agency
Jake Weltzin	Interim Bay-Delta Science Coordinator, U.S. Geological Survey

#### Panelists:

Erin Mullin	Principal Engineer, Delta Stewardship Council
Chris Williams	Principal Engineer, Department of Water Resources
Tom Zuckerman	Central Delta Water Agency

Joe Countryman	Member, Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Emily Pappalardo	Principal Engineer, DCC Engineering Co.
Tom Holzer	Member, Delta Independent Science Board
Glenn Prasad	Deputy Executive Director, San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency
Bryan Brock	Principal Engineer, Department of Water Resources
Gilbert Cosio	Principal Engineer, River Delta Consulting
Angela Calderaro	Department of Water Resources
Randall Neudeck	Principal Engineer, Metropolitan Water District
Lorena Guerrero	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jessica Pearson	Executive Officer, Delta Stewardship Council

## Welcome and Introductions

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Chair Lee opened the meeting with a roll call and a vote to approve the Spring 2024 DPIIC meeting summary. Chair Lee also provided opening comments regarding agenda items from past DPIIC gatherings; the release of the 2022-23 Delta Crosscut Budget Report, and the upcoming November DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee.

There was no public comment.

## Levees 101

Erin Mullin, P.E., Delta Stewardship Council; Chris Williams, P.E., Department of Water Resources; Tom Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency; and Joe Countryman, Central Valley Flood Protection Board Member provided an overview of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta's (Delta) levee system and the multiple benefits levees provide to the Delta.

Burgis, Zuckerman, Ziegler, Countryman, Axt, Weltzin, and Mullin discussed the subvention program, funding, the Flood Prevention Act of 2006, Proposition 4 (on the November 2024 ballot), PL 8499, non-project levees vs. project levees, levee maintenance, the mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the role of reclamation districts.

There was one public comment from Dominick Gulli regarding levee funding.

Chair Lee called for a recess to walk to the top of the levee behind Bogle Vineyards and discuss the levee along Elkhorn Slough.

### Delta Levee Tour

Chair Lee called the meeting to order and invited Gilbert Cosio of River Delta Consulting, Tom Slater of North Delta Water Agency, and Campbell Ingram of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy to present an overview of the plans for restoring and strengthening the levee along Elkhorn Slough.

There was no public comment.

Chair Lee recessed the meeting for a lunch break.

### Delta Levees: Challenges and Opportunities

Chair Lee reconvened DPIIC at 12:45 PM.

Delta Stewardship Council Executive Officer Jessica Pearson moderated the panel, which included Tom Holzer, Emily Pappalardo, Glenn Prasad, Bryan Brock, Cosio, Angela Calderero, Randall Neudeck, and Lorena Guerrero. The participants discussed current challenges and opportunities in funding and maintaining levees.

Pearson, Cosio, Prasad, Holzer, Pappalardo, Calderero, Brock, and Neudeck discussed specific standard(s) for levees, the multiple benefits of levees, the status of the 200-year urban levee standard, levee seismic risk, dredging (fish risk and dredge spoils), DWR's conveyance project, and flood risk in the Delta.

Ingram, Guerrero, Jake Weltzin, Brock, Pappalardo, and Cosio spoke on vegetation guidance for levees, socio-cultural concerns, public access, public outreach for project work, and levee dangers.

Ziegler, Calderero, and Prasad discussed regional planning, potential programmatic approaches to addressing priorities for mitigation in the Delta, and regional conservation investment strategies.

Diane Burgis provided a statement on non-project levees and funding for subvention.

Pearson closed the agenda item, thanked everyone for attending, and spoke on collaboration, funding, and the Delta Plan.

Chair Lee thanked everyone and called for public comments.

There was no public comment.

### Closing Remarks

Josephine Axt commented on Guerrero's overview of "what's coming soon." Axt provided context on the dredge material portion of the panel discussion, the ideology of "engineering with nature," and how the Delta has become a proving ground for that ideology. Ziegler echoed the panel's thoughts on the need for integrating a strategically focused dredging program to improve circulation in the Delta and address, in a future meeting, how to align and integrate a programmatic approach.

Ingram noted the arrival of a new invasive species in the Delta, the Golden Mussel.

Cindy Messer thanked the panel and spoke on the need for integration and funding.

There was no public comment.

### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 2:15 PM.