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Posted Date: March 7, 2025 ([revised March 11, 2025](#))

**Revised Notice of  
Delta Independent Science Board Tour & Meeting  
(Day One – Suisun Marsh Tour)**

**Meeting Dates: March 19-20, 2025**

**Day One, March 19, 2025**

9:30 AM to 3:30 PM PT

This notice is for the first day (March 19, 2025) of a two-day Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) meeting. **For information on day two of the meeting, please refer to the [notice for Day Two -Clarksburg Schoolhouse \(March 20, 2025\)](#).**

[This notice has been revised to add clarifying details to a stop location. See purple and underlined text for additions.](#)

**Tour Starting Location**

Rush Ranch Open Space  
3521 Grizzly Island Road  
Suisun City, CA 94585

**Public Comments**

Information for providing public comments is at the end of this notice. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person.

**Webcast**

This meeting is in-person only and will not be webcast or recorded.

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**Meeting Materials**

This notice and the materials referenced in it are available on the Delta ISB's [meetings web page](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-isb/meetings) at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-isb/meetings>. Members of the public are encouraged to visit the events web page to view the meeting materials.

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## **Purpose**

On March 19, 2025, the Delta ISB will tour the Suisun Marsh, including visits to Rush Ranch and Montezuma Slough. At Rush Ranch, the Delta ISB will learn about the Suisun Resource Conservation District's management role, public and private duck club management, the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and how the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, & Restoration Plan sets the context for restoration and other efforts. At Montezuma Slough, the Delta ISB will learn about The Montezuma Wetlands Project and the operations of the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates.

To help with planning, please email [disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov) by noon (12:00 PM) on March 18, 2025, if you plan to attend the tour. **All attendees must wear close-toed shoes and long pants for health and safety.**

All members of the public participating in the tour are responsible for their transportation to and from the tour, as well as their food and water. No refreshments or water will be provided at any time during the tour. All times listed in the agenda are approximate.

This Purpose section describes the highlights. For more information about the meeting, refer to the agenda below.

## **Agenda**

The agenda items listed below may be considered in a different order pursuant to the determination of the Delta ISB chair. The times listed on the agenda are approximate only. At the discretion of the Delta ISB, all items appearing on this agenda, whether expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action.

### **~ 9:30 AM: Tour starts at Rush Ranch**

Meet at the Rush Ranch Open Space (3521 Grizzly Island Rd, Suisun City, CA 94585)

1. Welcome and Declarations
2. Public Comments  
The Delta ISB will take public comments on topics within its jurisdiction that are not on the agenda.
3. Rush Ranch Tour  
The Delta ISB will tour the Rush Ranch Open Space, which protects the largest and least disturbed remnant of historic mid-brackish tidal marshlands in the San Francisco Estuary.

At Rush Ranch, the Delta ISB will hear from the following speakers:

- **Steve Chappell**, Executive Director of the Suisun Resource Conservation District. Mr. Chappell will cover the District's management role in Suisun Marsh, the public and private dynamics of duck club management, and how the [Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, & Restoration Plan](#) sets the context for restoration and other efforts.
- **Dr. Stuart Siegel**, Coastal Resilience Specialist at the SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Adjunct Professor of the San Francisco State University. Dr. Siegel will provide an overview of the [San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) and its role at Rush Ranch.
- **Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers**, Delta Lead Scientist. Dr. Windham-Myers will cover her carbon and greenhouse gas research with eddy covariance flux towers.

**~11:30 AM: Lunch Break and Depart to [the Island Slough Managed Wetland Unit near Belden's Landing](#)**

The Delta ISB will have lunch at Rush Ranch. If you want to join, please bring a lunch. No business matters of the Delta ISB will be discussed over lunch. The Delta ISB will finish their lunch break at **12:10 PM** and depart to [the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Island Slough Managed Wetland Unit](#) near Belden's Landing.

**~ 12:20 PM: Reconvene Tour at [the Island Slough Managed Wetland Unit near Belden's Landing](#)**

Please see the [map for the directions](#) to the meeting spot near Belden's Landing. There is no set address.

4. Overview of Managed Wetlands

The Delta ISB will make a stop at the water control structures adjacent to Belden's Landing. [At the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Island Slough Managed Wetland Unit](#), Steve Chappell (Suisun Resource Conservation District) will provide an overview of managed wetland operations, which make up 90% of wetlands in the Suisun Marsh. [Laureen Barthman-Thompson and Daja Stitts of the California Department of Wildlife will discuss species and habitat management in the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, including salt marsh harvest mice and the importance of the Suisun Marsh to that species.](#)

~ **1:00 PM: Depart [Island Slough Managed Wetland Unit near Belden's Landing](#)**

~ **1:30 PM: Reconvene Tour at the Montezuma Slough**

Please see the [map for the directions](#) to the meeting spot at Montezuma Slough. There is no set address.

5. Montezuma Slough Tour

Montezuma Slough is a tidal channel located in the Suisun Marsh. It is where freshwater from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta mixes with saltwater from the San Francisco Bay. At Montezuma Slough, the Delta ISB will hear from the following speakers:

- **Dr. Doug Lipton** (Lipton Environmental Group) and **Cassie Pinnell** (Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting). Dr. Lipton and Ms. Pinnell will provide an overview of [The Montezuma Wetlands Project](#). This project is a private initiative that addresses the historic loss of wetlands and finding a responsible and beneficial use for sediments dredged annually from San Francisco Bay Area ports, harbors, and channels.
- **Phil Choy**, Suisun Marsh Program Coordinator, California Department of Water Resources. Mr. Choy will provide an overview of the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates operations. Located at the eastern end of Montezuma Slough, this facility is used by the California Department of Water Resources to reduce salinities in Suisun Marsh and improve habitat conditions for waterfowl and Delta Smelt.

~ **3:30 PM: Recess Meeting.** The meeting will reconvene the following day (March 20, 2025) at the Clarksburg Schoolhouse at approximately 9:00 AM. For more information, please refer to [the Day Two – Clarksburg Schoolhouse \(March 20, 2025\) meeting notice](#).

## Contact

- If you have any questions, please contact the clerk of the Board at 916-902-6571, email [disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov), or visit the Delta Stewardship Council Office (715 P Street, 15-300, Sacramento, CA 95814).
- If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Delta Stewardship Council at 916-445-5511.

## **Public Comments**

- Members of the public shall be provided an opportunity to address the Delta ISB on each agenda item except closed session items.
  - In addition, comments during the Public Comment period (Agenda Item 2) shall be limited to matters within the Delta ISB's jurisdiction and not on the agenda. Reasonable time limits may be established for public comments (Government Code Sections 11125.7).