

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, May 21, 2026

1:30 p.m.

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors was called to order in person, by teleconference, and remotely - Conference Access Information: Phone Number: (669) 444-9171, Code: 82210685051#, <https://dcdca-org.zoom.us/j/82210685051?from=addon> at 1:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Vice President Tony Estremera chaired the Board Meeting in President Martin Milobar's absence remotely from Valley Water's headquarters. Board members in attendance from the Sacramento Public Library Board Room were Director Robert Cheng, Director John Weed, Director Jacquelyn McMillan and Director Adnan Anabtawi. Director Gary Martin participated remotely from Santa Clarita's headquarters. Alternate Director Royce Fast participated remotely on President Martin Milobar's behalf.

Alternate Directors in attendance remotely were Dennis LaMoreaux and Sarah Palmer; the Board Clerk captured their attendance for the record.

DCA staff members in attendance were Graham Bradner, Josh Nelson, Jessyca Sheehan, and Adrian Brown.

Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff member in attendance was Carrie Buckman.

3. CLOSED SESSIONS

No public comment requests were received for this item.

4. OPEN REGULAR MEETING & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Tony Estremera opened the regular session at approximately 2:14 p.m. and asked Josh Nelson, DCA General Counsel, to report out on closed session. There were no reportable actions.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment requests were received for this item. Vice President Estremera closed the public comment item.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 16, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the April 16, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes from April 16, 2026, as

Noted: Martin
Second: Anabtawi
Yeas: Martin, McMillan, Estremera, Cheng, Anabtawi, Weed, Fast
Nays: None
Abstains: None
Recusals: None
Absent: Milobar
Summary: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent. (Motion passed as MO 26-05-01).

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) **May Monthly Board Report**

Informational Item

DCA Executive Director, Graham Bradner, presented the Monthly Report for May 2026 activities to the Board. Mr. Bradner stated that DCA continues to provide engineering and environmental support to DWR, and DWR is currently engaged in Change in Point of Diversion (CPOD) hearings with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Engineering studies are being conducted to advance the overall project design and consider potential innovations. The team is also preparing to update the cost estimate and Basis of Design Report (BODR) planned for early 2027, as well as working on the development of internal management plans, procedures, and workflows for transitioning to the delivery phase in 2027.

Regarding the budget overview, the Board of Directors approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/26 budget of \$65M. DCA has committed a total of \$62M through task orders and contracts and, to date, has incurred \$41.1M. The Estimate at Completion (EAC) is \$59.5M, which is approximately nine (9) percent under budget. The work progress for vendors that have deliverables is 76% complete with 66% of the estimated budget spent. Small Business Enterprise/Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (SBE/DVBE) committed contracts participation is nine (9) percent, and of that, seven (7) percent has been invoiced.

Outreach efforts have included advanced planning and coordination efforts for the Association of California Water Agencies conference (ACWA) in the Spring. Supported preparation and presented at DCP 2026 Annual Fieldwork Training.

Director Cheng noted that \$4.6M has been committed, only approximately 25% has been spent, and asked whether the remaining committed is expected to be spent by June.

Mr. Bradner clarified that the budget is based on conservative assumptions and reflects full expenditure under the planned activities. The program will adjust and accommodate any fluctuations in the delivery plan.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board, nor were any public comment requests received.

b) DCA Fieldwork Activities Program Update

Informational Item

Mr. Bradner introduced DCA Fieldwork Exploration Manager, Michael Sanchez, to provide an update to the Board on the status of exploration and fieldwork in both the past and present campaign.

Mr. Sanchez presented an overview of upcoming field exploration activities and plans. He emphasized that safety remains a cornerstone of the field program and reported that health and safety training was conducted on April 13th, with 76 participants attending remotely due to building access limitations. The training covered environmental awareness, cultural resources, public interaction protocols, and safety procedures, and was recorded for later distribution. He also noted the implementation of field communication protocols, including informational cards for public inquiries and a hard hat sticker system to verify completion of required training.

Mr. Sanchez provided a summary of completed work, noting that over the past four (4) years the program has conducted more than 100 borings totaling approximately 21,000 feet along with 76 cone penetration tests totaling over 12,000 feet.

Looking ahead, Mr. Sanchez outlined plans for the upcoming field season, which includes approximately 120 additional explorations to support engineering design and refinement of geologic models. He explained that fieldwork scheduling is influenced by environmental, cultural, and property access constraints, including seasonal considerations, which require a flexible and phased approach. Field activities are expected to begin June 1st, initially deploying four (4) drilling rigs and ramping up to as many as nine (9) rigs as conditions allow. He noted that adjustments may be required throughout the season to accommodate changing field conditions and maintain progress within program constraints.

During the field exploration update, Mr. Bradner clarified the scope of upcoming work, confirming that approximately 121 explorations are planned for the current campaign

through early November. He noted that, when combined with work planned for the following fiscal year, the total number of explorations is expected to be approximately 220.

Mr. Sanchez confirmed this estimate and explained that the expanded data set is essential to supporting the transition to Engineer of Record (EOR) design, providing a consistent 30% level geotechnical dataset across future project packages. He emphasized that this represents a significant effort over the next 18 to 24 months. He also noted that the current field season is constrained to conclude in early November, requiring careful scheduling within that timeframe.

Mr. Sanchez continued, emphasizing the importance of environmental compliance in field operations. He reported that the team operates under multiple permits and compliance plans and has developed digital applications to track and manage compliance commitments in real time. These tools allow field personnel to collect and record data offline, including locations, personnel, and public interactions, and upload the information once connectivity is available, ensuring accurate documentation and reporting.

Director Cheng thanked Mr. Sanchez for the overview and sought clarification regarding the relationship between planned borings and achieving a 30% design level geotechnical dataset.

Mr. Bradner clarified that the full dataset will be achieved through the combined total of explorations conducted over the current and next field seasons.

Director Cheng also inquired about field productivity, to which Mr. Sanchez explained that drilling durations vary significantly depending on depth, ranging from half a day for shallow borings to approximately ten days for deeper investigations, with cone penetration testing proceeding at a faster pace.

Director Weed asked about management and storage of geotechnical data.

Mr. Sanchez stated that field data is recorded electronically and stored within program databases, and Mr. Bradner added that multiple database systems are used to manage, analyze, and store the information within the DCA.

Director Cheng expressed support for the resumption of field activities, noting that it reflects meaningful program progress.

Mr. Bradner acknowledged the extensive coordination required to restart fieldwork activities, highlighting collaboration among engineering, environmental, and regulatory teams to ensure compliance.

Director Martin asked whether current exploration procedures are consistent with past practices.

Mr. Bradner confirmed that the core technical methods remain largely unchanged, while noting that current activities incorporate additional environmental compliance measures and monitoring requirements associated with the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Director Anabtawi commended the team's ability to manage the variable pace of field operations, recognizing the challenges associated with scaling activities up and down in response to project needs and external constraints.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board.

c) **Sr. Leadership Spotlight, Greg Baughman, DCA Safety Manager**

Informational Item

DCA Safety Manager, Greg Baughman, provided an overview of his background and current responsibilities supporting the DCA to the Board. He noted more than 25 years of safety management experience across multiple industries and described his role in developing and implementing the organization's health, safety, and security programs.

Mr. Baughman reported that key deliverables for the current fiscal year include updating the Health, Safety, and Security Plan, which is currently under review, as well as completion of office safety procedures and development of the Emergency Coordination Team. He stated that these foundational programs are intended to support both current operations and future program implementation.

Looking ahead, Mr. Baughman outlined upcoming efforts, including development of contract language for large-scale security services during the implementation phase and updates to health and safety training materials. He also highlighted ongoing coordination activities, including monthly safety working group meetings with DCA, DWR, and contractors, development of a safety metrics dashboard, and regular planning meetings to review upcoming field activities and ensure compliance with site-specific safety requirements.

He noted that operational readiness reviews and safety oversight inspections are being conducted in advance of field mobilization, with site specific Health and Safety Plans established for each location. Field safety oversight activities are expected to begin in conjunction with the resumption of drilling operations starting June 1st.

Director Estremera inquired about future planning for on-site medical and health-related services for project personnel, including potential facilities such as on-site clinics.

Mr. Baughman stated that while these responsibilities would fall within the health and safety function, detailed planning is still in early stages, and further development will occur as the program advances.

Mr. Bradner added that such services are typically provided by construction contractors and will be subject to oversight and compliance review by the DCA's Health and Safety team. He noted that emergency response infrastructure, including on-site response capabilities at key project locations, is anticipated and has already been conceptually incorporated into facility planning.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board.

d) **Adopt Resolution Approving the First Amendment to the National Constructors' Group Agreement for Strategic Support Services**

Adopt Resolution

DCA Chief Contracting Officer, Adrian Brown, presented a request to amend the contract with National Constructors' Group, increasing its capacity from \$750,000 to \$1.75M. He explained that the original contract, awarded through a competitive process as part of executive support services, has proven valuable and now requires expanded capacity to support additional workshops and upcoming fiscal year activities.

Mr. Bradner provided additional context, noting that National Constructors delivers senior level expertise in areas such as constructability, cost estimating, and schedule development. He emphasized the firm's role in supporting preparation of the updated cost estimate, particularly by providing detailed and independent reviews of key components, including the base estimate, contingency, and schedule. He stated that the amendment is necessary to support anticipated workload in the coming fiscal year and maintain flexibility for future needs.

Director Cheng requested clarification on how National Constructors' work integrates with other consultants and reviewing entities.

Mr. Bradner explained that primary cost-estimating work is performed by major program vendors under separate contracts, while National Constructors operates independently under a direct contract with the DCA to provide executive-level review and validation. He noted that this creates an additional layer of internal, independent review prior to external review by the DWR and participating Public Water Agencies (PWA's). He added that the DCA coordinates this process to ensure efficient information flow and timely input from all parties.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board, nor were any public comment requests received.

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution Approval of the First Amendment to the National Constructors' Group Agreement for Strategic Support Services

Noted: Anabtawi
Second: McMillan
Yeas: McMillan, Martin, Estremera, Cheng, Anabtawi, Weed, Fast
Nays: None
Abstains: None
Recusals: None
Absent: None
Summary: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent. (Motion passed as Resolution 26-05).

8. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vice President Estremera mentioned that members of the public may address the Authority on matters pertaining to the Staff Reports at this time.

No public comment requests were received for any of the staff reports.

a. General Counsel's Report

Mr. Nelson noted that his written report was included in the meeting packet and indicated that its key points had been covered in prior agenda items.

Director Anabtawi inquired about guidance related to Board member interaction on social media.

Mr. Nelson responded that a confidential legal memorandum had been distributed to Board members prior to the meeting and encouraged members to review it. He offered to address any follow-up questions as needed.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board.

b. DCP Communications Report

DCA Communications Manager, Jessyca Sheehan, informed the Board reported that the Communications Team supported fieldwork training conducted in April, working closely with the DWR's communications staff to develop materials and provide guidance on

community and landowner engagement, ensuring that public inquiries are addressed consistently and accurately.

She noted that the team is preparing for the upcoming tour season by refreshing tour materials, including updated itineraries, route maps, posters, and visual resources to enhance the public engagement experience. She also reported participation in recent outreach events, including the ACWA Spring Conference, infrastructure and industry forums, and ongoing planning for additional engagement opportunities, including the North American Tunneling Conference.

Ms. Sheehan highlighted continued progress in developing communications materials, including new fact sheets and the upcoming quarterly newsletter, which will provide updates on DCA activities and link to new resources. She emphasized ongoing efforts to present complex information in more accessible formats, incorporating visuals and graphics based on stakeholder feedback.

She announced the launch of the updated website document library, designed to improve user experience through enhanced search functionality, filtering options, and easier access to downloadable materials. She reported steady website performance, with increased user engagement, declining bounce rates, and strong traffic to key sections including the homepage, “Work With Us” page, and document library.

On social media, Ms. Sheehan reported continued steady growth across platforms, with a notable increase in impressions on Facebook and strong engagement through LinkedIn, particularly for industry outreach. She noted that communications efforts will continue to focus on leveraging digital channels to expand reach and direct users to key resources.

Director Anabtawi inquired whether the recent website updates incorporate new ADA requirements for public agencies.

Ms. Sheehan confirmed that accessibility considerations were a key component of the website refresh, including updates to design elements such as color schemes and document formats to improve usability and compliance.

Director Weed reiterated a request for a forward-looking schedule of communications presentations and outreach activities.

Ms. Sheehan confirmed that this information had been distributed to Board members via email earlier that day and offered to address any follow-up questions.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board.

d. DWR Environmental Report

DWR Environmental Manager, Carrie Buckman, informed the Board of two (2) major regulatory updates. Regarding Delta Plan Consistency, she reported that the DCA's Certification of Consistency was appealed by ten parties, with multiple issues raised across nearly all policies. She noted that the Delta Stewardship Council issued its decision at the end of April, denying the majority of the appeals and remanding only two (2) minor issues back to the DCA. She described this as a positive outcome and stated that staff will proceed with preparing a focused certification package addressing those specific items.

Ms. Buckman also provided an update on the Water Rights process, noting that the proceeding has advanced to the protestants' rebuttal phase. Written rebuttal testimony has been submitted, and oral hearings are scheduled to begin June 1 and continue throughout the month. She explained that the process will then move to the surrebuttal phase, followed by closing briefs, indicating that the matter is approaching its final stages.

No comments or questions were received from the Board.

e. Verbal Reports, if any

None.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Vice President Estremera adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m., remotely-Conference Access Information: Phone Number: (669) 444-9171, Code: 82210685051#, <https://dcdca-org.zoom.us/j/82210685051?from=addon>.