

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 16, 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: 89409862935#, <https://dcdca-org.zoom.us/j/89409862935?from=addon> at 1:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Board members in attendance from the State Water Contractors (SWC) Boardroom were Director Jacquelyn McMillan, Director Robert Cheng, and Director Adnan Anabtawi. Director Gary Martin, President Milobar, Director John Weed, participated from remote meeting locations.

Alternate Directors in attendance remotely were Mark Gilkey, Sarah Palmer, Royce Fast, Michael Plinski and Shiloh Ballard. The Board Clerk captured their attendance for the record.

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

Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff members in attendance were Carrie Buckman and Janet Barbieri.

3. CLOSED SESSIONS

No public comment requests were received for this item.

4. OPEN REGULAR MEETING & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Milobar opened the regular session at approximately 2:03 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. President Milobar closed the public comment item.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 19, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the February 19, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes from February 19, 2026, as

Noted: Martin
Second: Anabtawi
Yeas: Milobar, Martin, Cheng, Anabtawi, Weed
Nays: None
Abstains: McMillan
Recusals: None
Absent: Estremera

Summary: 5 Yeas; 0 Nays; 1 Abstain; 1 Absent. (Motion passed as MO 26-04-01).

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) April DCA Monthly Report

Informational Item

DCA Executive Director, Graham Bradner, presented the Monthly Report for April 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 \$58.8M through task orders and contracts and, to date, has incurred \$32.9M. The Estimate at Completion (EAC) is \$61.5M. The work progress for vendors that have deliverables is 69% complete with 69% 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 developing materials and communication tools for upcoming Geotechnical fieldwork activities and prepared July-December 2026 outreach events list. Mr. Bradner mentioned that there has been a cancellation of the DCA Summer

Internship program for the FY 26/27 due to a building accident and closure of the DCA office.

Mr. Bradner presented the monthly progress report. He reviewed the commitment and expenditure status, noting that the total FY 25/26 budget of \$65M is represented in the circular graphic provided, with approximately \$58.8M currently committed through contracts. The remaining unallocated reserve and undefined allowance are shown in the corresponding portions of the chart provided.

Mr. Bradner reported that overall program performance is approximately 69% complete, which is aligned with the estimated 69% spend to date. He noted that approximately \$6M in uncommitted funds remains, roughly half of which is expected to be allocated through an amendment to the geotechnical services contract. He explained that while a few divisions show minor lag between percent complete and spending, none represent material concerns. Some of the variance is attributable to the prior fieldwork injunction, which has since been vacated and is expected to allow those activities to ramp up. He also noted that certain functional areas will require additional key and strategic staffing to advance work. Overall, Mr. Bradner stated that he sees no emerging issues of concern related to work progress or expenditures.

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

b) DCA Roadmap Update

Informational Item

Mr. Bradner provided an update on the DCA's three (3) year roadmap through 2027, emphasizing the near-term shift in focus toward preparation of the updated Class 3 (three) cost estimate. He referenced the previously presented roadmap, organized around three primary workstreams: (1) the Basis of Design Report (BODR) and updated cost estimate, (2) program delivery planning, and (3) program delivery. Key milestones identified include completion of the updated cost estimate, renegotiation and amendment of the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA), and actions required in advance of Public Water Agency (PWA) implementation votes.

Mr. Bradner reported that analysis of potential program refinements has been completed and identified opportunities for cost and schedule efficiencies, which are currently under consideration by the DWR. He noted that the BODR effort is approximately halfway complete and that a full draft—including narrative and design drawings—is scheduled for issuance to DWR and the PWAs in mid-May. He highlighted the significant advancement in design maturity, from approximately 150 conceptual drawings to more than 1,000 drawings representing roughly 20 percent design, underscoring the importance of this

work in supporting the updated cost estimate. Finalization of the cost estimate is anticipated in the first half of 2027.

Mr. Bradner explained that program delivery planning efforts are being phased and prioritized to support near-term needs, particularly the compensatory mitigation projects (CMPs), while allowing more labor-intensive program-wide systems and processes to be staggered and aligned with the start of major construction procurement. This approach allows early lessons learned from pilot efforts and technology testing. Additional engineering activities will continue in coordination with power providers and DWR, with some work scheduled to follow completion of the next round of geotechnical investigations beginning in June.

Property-related activities are currently focused on temporary entry permits (TEPs) for geotechnical work and associated surveys and pre-construction studies. Permanent property acquisition is planned to follow participating public water agencies (PWAs) approval to proceed and the availability of appropriate funding. Mr. Bradner noted that JEPA negotiations are ongoing and that the intent is to complete legal review by the end of the calendar year to enable consideration and adoption from the DCA Board and DWR. He clarified that the Program Delivery phase was established in the Work Breakdown Structure to properly track costs associated with subsurface investigations, survey work, and other early delivery-related activities that directly support final design and construction.

Mr. Bradner emphasized the significance of the upcoming Class 3 (three) cost estimate, noting that it will provide increased confidence, reduced uncertainty, and a refined evaluation of economic feasibility through an updated benefit-cost analysis. The estimate will establish the baseline cost for future implementation, bond financing, and program management, with future changes measured against this baseline. He noted that accuracy ranges typical of a Class 3 (three) estimate will be refined and supported by quantitative risk analysis.

Director Martin asked for clarification on whether the mid-2027 timeline for the PWAs approval to proceed includes the detailed design phase rather than the construction phase.

Mr. Bradner clarified that the mid-2027 PWAs approval milestone represents final approval for implementation of both design and construction, rather than separate approvals, and that property acquisition would commence immediately thereafter.

Director Anabtawi inquired about how cost escalation, cost performance index, inflation indices, and benefit-cost comparisons would all be communicated.

Mr. Bradner acknowledged the need for enhanced communication and stated that, in addition to inflation-adjusted comparisons, an updated benefit-cost analysis will provide normalization across time and costs.

President Milobar followed up by asking if the benefit-cost analysis would account for any agricultural benefits.

DWR Environmental Manager, Carrie Buckman, added that while the current benefit-cost analysis incorporates the Incidental Take Permit (ITP), future updates may reflect changes resulting from the water rights process, groundwater sustainability considerations, and evaluation of benefits associated with alternate diversion scenarios. She confirmed that coordination with the State Water Contractors (SWC) and other stakeholders will be part of that effort.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board.

c) DCP Communications Strategy Update

Informational Item

DWR Communications Manager, Janet Barbieri, emphasized that communications for the project are carried out jointly by the DWR, the DCA Communications team, and the SWC, functioning as a coordinated and integrated communications program. Ms. Barbieri outlined the team's responsibility to provide clear, accessible public information to diverse audiences, including the general public, industry stakeholders, and participating PWAs, using a range of formats such as written materials, graphics, video, and audio. She noted that a core objective is to ensure PWAs receive consistent and timely information to support informed decision-making, particularly as key implementation milestones approach. Additional priorities include maintaining momentum and visibility during lengthy regulatory and planning processes, strengthening digital communications, and continuing to improve website and social-media platforms.

DCA Communications Manager, Jessyca Sheehan, reviewed upcoming milestones over the next 12 months and the Communications team's role in supporting them, including the BODR, the updated cost estimate, engineering refinements, and permitting progress. She noted the importance of regular engagement with PWAs, industry partners, and community stakeholders, and of providing adaptable materials that agencies and partners can use in their own outreach efforts. Feedback from agencies indicated a desire for higher-level, less technical updates suitable for boards and staff, which is being incorporated into current and future communications products. She also highlighted ongoing and planned industry engagement through conferences, briefings, tours, videos, and fact sheets.

Ms. Sheehan further reported on recent improvements to the DCA website to align with updated branding and enhance usability, as well as ongoing updates to the document library and video gallery to ensure information is current, accessible, and easy to navigate.

Director Cheng requested clarification if there were any areas that needed improvement efforts to address certain milestones.

Ms. Barbieri and Ms. Sheehan noted that certain topics continue to generate recurring questions despite existing materials, indicating a need for simpler, more direct messaging. They described efforts to distill complex information into clear, concise formats and to vary delivery methods to match how different audiences consume information.

Director Anabtawi commended the strong coordination among communications teams and asked whether prior work on terminology and messaging has been leveraged to better resonate with the general public.

Ms. Barbieri confirmed that polling results have informed messaging approaches and continue to guide how the project is described publicly.

Director Weed expressed interest in ensuring benefit analyses clearly articulate distinctions among beneficiary groups and offered support for communications outreach at the upcoming American Water Works Association ACE26 conference in Washington, D.C.

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

d) DCA Meeting Cadence

Informational Item

Mr. Bradner presented the proposed Board meeting calendar for the upcoming fiscal year. He noted that the current practice is to meet bi-monthly for most of the year, transitioning to monthly meetings during the spring to accommodate development and approval of the DCA's annual budget. Based on anticipated activities and agenda needs for the next fiscal year, he stated that staff recommend maintaining the existing meeting cadence and sequence, including bi-monthly meetings with special meetings convened as necessary, and monthly meetings during the spring budget cycle.

Director Anabtawi expressed support for maintaining the current Board meeting cadence, stating that it effectively reflects the organization's needs at this time.

Director Weed suggested noting that, if necessary, the Board President retains the authority to establish special or ad hoc committees to address specific issues.

Mr. Nelson confirmed that the Board has discretion to create ad hoc or advisory committees as needed.

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

8. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Milobar 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 reported that his written update was included in the meeting packet.

No comments or questions were received from the Board.

b. Treasurer's Report

Adam Benson, Group Manager of Finance Administration at Metropolitan, presented the Monthly Treasurer's Report for February-March 2026 on behalf of Treasurer Katano Kasaine. Mr. Benson informed the Board that the written report was included in the meeting packet. He reported an opening cash balance of \$4.3M as of February 1. During the period, the DCA received a total of \$9.4M in contributions and had disbursements totaling \$10.1M, resulting in an ending cash balance of \$3.6M as of March 31, 2026.

No comments or questions were received from the Board.

c. DCP Communications Report

Ms. Sheehan provided an update on recent Communications activities, noting that a major focus in March was supporting the DCA Industry Day held at the DCA Board meeting room. She reported strong participation, with nearly 100 attendees both in person and online, and noted that the event provided an important opportunity to engage industry stakeholders ahead of the upcoming geotechnical Request For Qualifications (RFQ). The Communications team also supported community outreach related to upcoming fieldwork in coordination with Delta Conveyance Office (DCO).

Ms. Sheehan noted that the summer internship program was canceled due to facility issues, though communications efforts had begun in coordination with Human Resources, with the intent to revisit the program next year. She reported ongoing efforts to

strategically plan outreach and engagement activities with both water agencies and industry audiences in anticipation of program implementation.

She further reported completion of website branding updates, enhancements to the video library, and continued reorganization of the document library to improve accessibility and ease of use. Upcoming activities include project tours, participation in the ACWA Spring Conference in Sacramento, and continued engagement at industry and educational events, including presentations at UCLA, UC Davis, and the Water Education for Latino Leaders annual conference. In April, staff supported training for geotechnical field crews in preparation for mobilization later this spring. Looking ahead, planned outreach includes engagement with the Construction Network and participation in the Southern California Water Coalition quarterly meeting.

Ms. Sheehan also reported that social-media engagement remains strong at approximately 20 percent, significantly above typical industry benchmarks, despite a modest decrease in posting frequency in March.

Director Anabtawi requested guidance regarding Board member interaction with social media and potential Brown Act implications.

Mr. Nelson advised that directors should avoid commenting on or reacting to the social-media posts of other directors, including reactions such as emojis, as these could potentially constitute prohibited communications under the Brown Act. As a best practice, he recommended that directors share DCA posts through their own social-media channels rather than engaging in comment threads. He also indicated that staff would provide written guidance to the Board to further clarify these requirements.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board.

d. DWR Environmental Report

DWR Environmental Manager, Carrie Buckman, provided an update on ongoing planning and permitting activities to the Board. She reported that the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) hearing on the Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan was held on February 26th and 27th. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Council directed staff to prepare a draft determination addressing the appeals submitted. The draft determination has not yet been released, but it is expected to be discussed at the Council's meeting scheduled for the following week.

Ms. Buckman also reported continued progress on the Water Rights CPOD proceeding. The process is entering the protestants' rebuttal phase, with written testimony due April 30. Oral testimony is scheduled to begin in June, with hearing dates running from June 1st through June 26th.

Regarding the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Ms. Buckman stated that the DCA has received the construction biological opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She noted that the National Marine Fisheries Service is preparing its construction-related biological opinion and that issuance is anticipated within the next few months.

She further reported on the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), noting that the DCA submitted an amendment application to address minor project modifications identified by the DSC and to include burrowing owl as a covered species. The first amendment to the ITP was issued on March 24th. Ms. Buckman concluded by stating that staff is currently focused on implementing the provisions of the ITP.

Director Cheng asked for clarification regarding the burrowing owl, noting his understanding that the species is under consideration for listing and inquiring whether the amendment was intended to proactively address that status.

Ms. Buckman responded that while she is not an CESA legal expert, it is common practice for regulatory agencies to establish protective terms and conditions once a species is under consideration for listing. She noted that the amendment was intended to address potential future regulatory requirements by incorporating protections in advance.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board.

e. Verbal Reports, if any

None.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

President Milobar adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m., remotely-Conference Access Information: Phone Number: (669) 444-9171, Code: 89409862935#, <https://dcdca-org.zoom.us/j/89409862935?from=addon>