

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 17, 2025

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: 84644480409#, <https://dcdca-org.zoom.us/j/84644480409?from=addon> at 1:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Board members in attendance from the DCA Boardroom were President Martin Milobar, Director Gary Martin, Director Miguel Luna, Director Robert Cheng, Director John Weed, and Director Adnan Anabtawi. Director Tony Estremera participated remotely from a private location for just cause due to a physical disability pursuant to AB2449.

Alternate Directors in attendance remotely were Sarah Palmer, Dennis LaMoreaux, and Shiloh Ballard. Alternate Director Jacquelyn McMillan attended from the DCA Boardroom; the Board Clerk captured their attendance for the record.

DCA staff members in attendance were Graham Bradner, Josh Nelson, Adrian Brown, Dan DeSemple and Valerie Martinez.

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

3. CLOSED SESSION

No public comment requests were received for the closed session item.

4. OPEN REGULAR MEETING & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Milobar opened the regular session at approximately 2:15 p.m. and asked Josh Nelson to report out on closed session. There were no reportable actions.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment requests were received.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 20, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the February 20, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes from February 20, 2025, as

Noted:	Anabtawi
Second:	Martin
Yeas:	Milobar, Martin, Luna, Estremera, Cheng, Anabtawi, Weed
Nays:	None
Abstains:	None
Recusals:	None
Absent:	None
Summary:	7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent. (Motion passed as MO 25-04-01).

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) April DCA Monthly Report

Informational Item

DCA Executive Director, Graham Bradner, presented to the Board the Monthly Report for March 2025 activities. Mr. Bradner directed the Board's attention to Section One of the report, Executive Summary, which outlines the key focus areas for the DCA. 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).

He noted that engineering studies are underway to further project design development. These studies consider potential innovations, with plans to issue an updated cost estimate and Basis of Design Report (BODR) planned for early 2027.

Mr. Bradner added that a third parallel priority is the development of internal management plans. These efforts focus on establishing procedures and workflows to support a transition into the delivery phase of the program in mid-2027. This transition is pending completion of major permitting activities, issuing the updated cost estimate, associated financials, and upcoming Public Water Agencies (PWA) decisions to implement the program.

He emphasized that, in the meantime, a significant amount of work remains within the DCA to ensure readiness for this next phase. This continued internal development is one of the DCA's key priorities moving forward.

Mr. Bradner continued with the budget performance and metrics to date, advising that DCA is working with an underrun for the current fiscal year (FY). DCA has an approved total budget for the FY of \$43M with \$32.7M committed through contracts and task orders, leaving just over \$10M in uncommitted approved funds. DCA has incurred roughly \$20M in total invoices. There is still a bit of uncertainty with the remaining portion of the fiscal year, leading to an estimate at completion (EAC) that slightly exceeds the total committed amounts. He informed that as DCA approaches the fiscal year's end, the lines representing EAC and the committed amounts will converge, and the EAC will either come down or the total committed amounts will rise. The EAC is sitting at \$34.4M, representing a 20% total budget underrun.

In terms of work progress, DCA has been describing the general migration towards more quantitative assessments of performance. This includes thinking ahead about where the program is going with an increased focus on engineering, leading to the delivery of necessary program work. Mr. Bradner explained that DCA is now tracking the work progress in terms of percent complete compared to percent spent. Currently, DCA is nearly 68% complete in terms of this fiscal year's issued scope compared to 61% spent for the fiscal year, ahead of what was identified as work to be done. In regards to committed contracts, 13.1% is allocated to Small Business Enterprises (SBEs) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBs), while approximately 8.6% of that has been invoiced.

Mr. Bradner proceeded with current procurements, including the communication support services, which is a contract that is on the Agenda for the for the Board's consideration of adoption. Also, DCA issued the Executive Strategic Support Services Request for Qualifications (RFQ) last month. DCA has received a number of Statements of Qualification (SOQ) and is beginning the review process of those. He added other business-related procurements, such as the scheduling and cloud hosting software, Primavera P6. Moving forward, DCA will use its own cloud hosting of that software rather than using vendor platforms. The goal is to provide a more efficient and secure way for all contracted resources to access the same schedule and start working from a single platform.

DCA's outreach activities include a recent exhibit in Anaheim at the American Water Works Association (AWWA) conference. DCA social media posts continue to make a lot of progress, with a total of 312 posts and over a million impressions. This month, DCA experienced a small, unusual uptick in engagement and will continue to monitor it closely in the coming months.

Director Luna expressed that he liked the new model and that it looks nice.

Mr. Bradner thanked Director Luna.

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

b) Organizational Updates*Informational Item*

Mr. Bradner presented to the Board, recalling back in February, DCA had included an Agenda item to begin discussing the evolution of the organization, continuing a theme that had been previously introduced. At that time, DCA's organizational structure and activities was heavily focused on providing engineering support to DWR, particularly in evaluating alternatives and ensuring the successful delivery of those engineering services. He explained that DCA is now shifting its focus toward the future state of the program and assessing the organization's evolving needs to maintain performance. Referring to the organizational chart update previewed at the February Board of Directors meeting, Mr. Bradner informed the Board that the reorganization process has since been completed and presented a summary of the new structure.

Mr. Bradner listed the six (6) major divisions: Legal, Communications, Program Support, Technical Services, Environmental, and Real Estate. Engineering, geotech, subsurface data collection, and survey processes are now managed within the Technical Services division. Each division has a Division Manager; he briefly introduced Technical Services Division Manager Dan Desemple, whose spotlight is item 7c on the Agenda.

Turning attention to the organization chart, Mr. Bradner stated DCA has invested effort in delineating the clear roles and responsibilities for each division, specifying how any overlaps are intended to work. For instance, the function of Program Support overlaps with Technical Services, specifically with risk management, project-specific costs, and schedule-related actions. These originate within Technical Services, yet it is the function of Program Support to develop the DCA program requirements around those items, manage scope, schedule, and budget from an overall program perspective, and report those out across the organization. So, although there is some general overlap, there are clear delineations and separations between how the distinct functions are intended to operate and how they will communicate and execute cross-functionally.

Mr. Bradner stated that as part of this process, DCA has completed the designation of key positions within the program. He explained that the goal was to define the Division Managers, who hold critical responsibilities within the program, and clarify authority levels within the organization. He noted that this starts with the Executive Director, whose authorities and responsibilities are largely outlined in the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA) and the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). The Deputy Directors and Chief Engineer operate under the authority delegated to them by the Executive Director. These roles carry the same authorities as outlined by that delegation.

He noted the identification of a category called Special Assigned Roles. These roles come with specific responsibilities, many of which are connected to statutory or regulatory requirements. This category includes the Treasurer, General Counsel, Human Resources

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Manager, Chief of Staff, Senior Advisors, Program Controls Manager, Chief Contracting Officer, and the Health, Safety, and Security Manager. While these individuals are distributed throughout the organizational chart, they each hold special responsibilities and authorities that are unique to their specific roles.

Mr. Bradner continued by addressing the Division Managers, an essential role in helping to communicate and manage all the work within the divisions. The Division Managers, who coordinate closely with the Executive Office, are also likely to have Deputies. As with other leadership roles, the responsibilities of these Deputies are delegated by the respective Division Managers.

The organizational structure has been further developed in detail to define specific working sections, identifying those responsible for managing and delivering the work within each section. This includes outlining the roles of the section leads, task leads, support staff, and any additional resources necessary to carry out the work effectively.

Mr. Bradner noted that DCA has now worked through the full reorganization process, including defining roles, responsibilities, and authorities. With the rollout complete, the DCA team has realigned around the updated organizational structure. The current focus is on reviewing internal meetings and communication practices to ensure full alignment, supporting efficient and effective information flow. He pointed out that communication processes can easily become out of control without careful attention. The goal is to best use everyone's time while ensuring clear and streamlined information transfer.

Mr. Bradner concluded by stating that the organizational restructuring can now be considered a completed task.

Director Anabtawi acknowledged the significant amount of work involved. He commended the effort, noting that it's a meaningful way to signify the project's current phase and ensure that DCA is structured to be successful moving forward.

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

c) **Sr. Leadership Spotlight, Dan DeSempole, Technical Services Division Manager**

Informational Item

Mr. Bradner introduced Dan DeSempole, DCA's Technical Services Division Manager. He expressed that he was glad to have Mr. DeSempole present so the Board could meet him and invited Mr. DeSempole to introduce himself.

Mr. DeSempole expressed his enthusiasm for joining the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) program and thanked President Milobar and the Directors for the opportunity to introduce

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himself. He shared that over the past four to five months, he has been transitioning into his new role as Technical Services Division Manager, aligned with the recently rolled out organizational structure. He noted how welcoming and talented the team has been and conveyed his excitement about contributing to the Program's continued success.

Originally from the Seattle, Washington area, Mr. DeSempole attended Washington State University, where he met his wife. They have been married for 30 years and have two (2) children. He acknowledged the patience and support of his wife, who has accompanied him through various relocations during his career, including 15 to 16 years spent living overseas in London and Abu Dhabi. During that time, he worked on several high-profile projects and traveled extensively with his family, strengthening their close bond.

Outside of work, Mr. DeSempole enjoys golf, travel, and cycling, a hobby he has been more involved with over the last five (5) to six (6) years. He currently resides in San Mateo and plans to relocate to the Sacramento area later this summer.

Professionally, Mr. DeSempole has been with Jacobs for 30 years. Remarkably, he was recruited during his wedding reception, something he humorously and endearingly ties to having had one (1) wife, one (1) job, and one (1) company for three (3) decades and hopes that fact continues. His roots are in the water business, and he has spent most of his career working on water-oriented projects, including time spent in Northern California with teams in the Redding and Sacramento offices.

While he has held various domestic and international roles, Mr. DeSempole gravitates toward managing large-scale programs and projects. He emphasized his passion for project delivery, collaborating with clients, and leading teams to solve complex challenges, particularly those presented by infrastructure projects similar to the DCP. He looks forward to bringing his experience to this role and continuing to grow and learn as part of the program team.

President Milobar stated that the Board is glad to have Mr. DeSempole on the team.

Mr. Bradner offered that, as the Division Manager of Technical Services, Mr. DeSempole oversees a wide range of deliverables and responsibilities while leading a large team. He explained that the Technical Services Director role also includes responsibility for cross-functional interface management, an essential component of coordinating a complex project of this scale. Ensuring effective communication and connection across all teams is critical, given the layered structure of the program.

Mr. Bradner highlighted that one of the areas where Mr. DeSempole has particularly impressed him is in his ability to manage this internal coordination. He emphasized that Mr. DeSempole plays a key role in ensuring no one is left out of important conversations and that issues are addressed collaboratively across divisions. This requires ensuring that

everyone is aligned and clearly understands the project's direction and objectives, an added responsibility that Mr. DeSempole has taken on with skill and effectiveness.

Director Martin remarked that Mr. DeSempole has a very impressive background and resume. He welcomed Mr. DeSempole aboard and expressed that it was good to have him on the team.

Mr. DeSempole thanked Director Martin.

Director Cheng noted that he had not had the chance to review Mr. DeSempole's previous experience from the earlier slide and asked if he could take a few minutes to highlight some of the major projects he had worked on.

Mr. DeSempole, shared a summary of key projects from his career. He began by sharing how compiling the list reminded him why he enjoys working on large programs and why he has remained with Jacobs for so long, as they have provided him opportunities to work on exciting and meaningful projects.

Most recently, Mr. DeSempole transitioned out of a major infrastructure program in San Mateo, where he participated in delivering \$1 billion worth of wastewater infrastructure. He noted that this project, currently in the construction phase, has been a valuable refresher on the complexities that arise at the end of large construction efforts and how strategic planning can help mitigate risk as the project moves toward completion. He added that some of the lessons learned will be particularly relevant as the DCP progresses.

Before his time in San Mateo, Mr. DeSempole worked on "The Line" project in Saudi Arabia, a highly publicized and ambitious city development under the Neo Mustaqbal (NEOM) initiative. Jacobs and two other global consultants formed a unified group to deliver the project, which involved rapidly mobilizing people, aligning operations, and establishing processes. He described this as a major learning experience in building a collaborative delivery team from the ground up, working with large consultancies, and bringing teams together.

Earlier in his career, Mr. DeSempole was part of the team on the London Tideway Tunnel Program, his first international assignment. He spoke about the parallels between that program and DCP, especially in the early phases focused on scope definition, baseline development, preliminary engineering, permitting, and land acquisition. He also mentioned the significant emphasis on stakeholder engagement and public consultation in the UK, noting its similarities to processes in California. Mr. DeSempole concluded by reflecting on the broad range of projects he has worked on, and the valuable lessons carried forward from each, all of which he looks forward to applying in his new role with the DCP.

Director Cheng followed up with a question, noting that the four highlighted projects were very impressive. He asked whether any of them had been completed or if they were each in different stages of construction.

Mr. DeSemples responded that the San Mateo project is nearly complete, with approximately a year and a half remaining until final completion. While The Line project is part of a 40-year program, meaning full completion will take longer.

As for the other projects, Mr. DeSemples clarified that the last three tunnel programs have been completed. Specifically, the London Tideway Tunnel was recently commissioned. He shared that when he joined the project in 2008, the team anticipated a 20-year delivery timeline, though it took a bit longer to complete. He summarized that all projects are completed except for The Line, which is still ongoing.

Director Anabtawi expressed his appreciation for Mr. DeSemples' impressive career and conveyed his amazement at the caliber of talent the DCA Program has attracted. He noted that the team is fortunate to have Mr. DeSemples on board, acknowledging that managing teams across various disciplines and consultants will be challenging. He concluded by sharing his excitement about having Mr. DeSemples as part of the team and thanked him for his contribution.

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 to the Board that, while the meeting schedule is typically discussed at the end of each fiscal year, it is being brought up earlier this year due to DCA's building momentum and the need to establish a clear meeting schedule as more resources are added to the team. With interrelated activities becoming more prevalent, it is important to understand the year's schedule and Board meeting cadence clearly.

He asked the Board to consider the Board meeting cadence for the upcoming year, providing a range of options, including monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, and the minimum required by the JPA, at least two (2) meetings per year. Over the past several years, the Board has used a hybrid approach, meeting monthly or bi-monthly as needed, with bi-monthly meetings scheduled for the first three (3) quarters of the fiscal year and monthly meetings in the Spring, particularly due to the budget process, and administrative and various activities that we need addressed at the board level.

Mr. Bradner explained that he and staff recommend continuing with the same approach, which has been effective. The proposed plan for the next fiscal year would be to maintain a similar cadence, bi-monthly meetings throughout the year, with monthly meetings in the Spring to accommodate the budget process. This approach allows flexibility in the event the Board needs to adjust to specific requirements.

President Milobar agreed with the proposed schedule, affirming that it seemed very workable. He confirmed that monthly meetings can be held when the budget process is underway, and the bi-monthly schedule continues to work well otherwise.

Mr. Bradner concluded that the proposed meeting schedule would be adopted, with the calendar included as an attachment. Any necessary changes would be communicated, but this plan would be the foundation for the next fiscal year.

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

e) Consider Passing Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement to Provide Communications Support Services to Lucas Public Affairs

Adopt Resolution

Mr. Bradner introduced Adrian Brown, the Chief Contracting Officer.

Mr. Brown presented to the Board that DCA issued a RFQ on December 20, 2024, seeking consultants for branding, communications, and graphic support to collaborate with DWR and DCA's engineering and stakeholder engagement staff. The RFQ included tasks such as assisting in coordinating and facilitating meetings with the public and project stakeholders, including but not limited to Board and subcommittee meetings.

The RFQ was advertised for one (1) month and one (1) week, with the last day for questions on January 7, 2025 and qualifications due by January 31, 2025. The procurement team assessed the SOQs for completeness before assembling an evaluation committee. The committee began its review on February 6, 2025, with final discussions on February 18, 2025, resulting in a shortlist of three (3) firms: Prosio Communications based in Roseville, Lucas Public Affairs (LPA) based in Sacramento and the incumbent, VMA Communications based in Claremont.

The evaluation panel interviewed all three firms, and after considerable discussion, recommended awarding the contract to Lucas Public Affairs. The initial contract will last for five (5) years, two (2) months, and 13 days, ending June 30, 2030, with a total value of \$10M. The contract will be task-order based.

Staff recommended that the DCA Board authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and arrange a contract with Lucas Public Affairs for the specified term and amount.

President Milobar confirmed with Mr. Brown that his presentation was complete and requested comment from Mr. Bradner.

Mr. Bradner acknowledged the thoroughness of the process presented by Mr. Brown. He noted that it was a multi-step process, beginning with a review of written submissions followed by interviews. The evaluation utilized a weighted and numerical scoring system, with input from both DCA representatives and external parties. Mr. Bradner expressed his appreciation for Mr. Brown's coverage of the process and confirmed his full support for the staff's recommendation.

Director Anabtawi inquired if a Communications Manager was identified in Lucas Public Affairs' proposal. Mr. Bradner confirmed that Jessyca Sheehan was designated as the Communications Manager. He explained that the role would initially focus on internal tasks for the next two (2) months, with a more public-facing role beginning July 1 of the next fiscal year. He added that Ms. Sheehan was online, though on vacation, and could address any further questions.

Director Martin then asked for clarification regarding the selection committee's composition, specifically if it was comprised of only DCA representatives.

Mr. Brown explained that the committee included representatives from both within and outside the DCA.

Director Cheng expressed appreciation for the thoroughness and objectivity of the process and thanked Valerie Martinez for her service during a challenging period. He also requested that Ms. Sheehan briefly describe the large-scale communications projects she has worked on.

Ms. Sheehan introduced herself as the Executive Vice President at LPA, leading their energy and climate practice, overseeing field teams, working with subcontractors, and other consultant partners. She has nearly two (2) decades of experience in consulting on large infrastructure projects, particularly with utility companies such as PG&E, and her leadership on the "Save Our Water" campaign. She also noted her experience in California's energy, climate, and water sectors.

Director Cheng expressed his appreciation for Ms. Sheehan's background in California politics and communication strategies.

Alternate Director Palmer echoed Director Cheng's comments, expressing appreciation for Ms. Martinez's service over the past two (2) years. She noted that she had been with the organization since the beginning and thanked her for setting the team on a strong path forward.

President Milobar thanked Alternate Director Palmer for her comment.

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

Recommendation: Approve Passing Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement to Provide Communications Support Services to Lucas Public Affairs

Motion to Approve Passing Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement to Provide Communications Support Services to Lucas Public Affairs, as

Noted:	Milobar
Second:	Weed
Yeas:	Milobar, Martin, Luna, Estremera, Cheng, Anabtawi, Weed
Nays:	None
Abstains:	None
Recusals:	None
Absent:	None
Summary:	7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent. (Motion passed as Resolution 25-02).

f) **Adoption of Resolution Commending and Thanking Dan Flory for His Service on the Board**

Adopt Resolution

Mr. Bradner acknowledged Alternate Director Dan Flory for his service on the DCA Board of Directors. He noted that Director Flory had served since the adoption of the amended JPA, a pivotal moment in the agency's history that marked the expansion of the Board and the implementation of foundational policies and procedures. Although Director Flory's time on the Board was relatively brief, Mr. Bradner highlighted his long and distinguished career in California water and expressed DCA's deep appreciation for his contributions. On behalf of staff, he thanked Director Flory for his efforts and extended best wishes for his future endeavors.

Director Anabtawi shared his appreciation for Alternate Director Flory, noting that he had the pleasure of working with him during his involvement with the State Water Contractors.

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He described Director Flory as a delight to work with and expressed his gratitude for his service. Director Anabtawi extended his thanks to Director Flory.

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

Recommendation: Adoption of Resolution Commending and Thanking Dan Flory for His Service on the Board

Motion to Approve Adoption of Resolution Commending and Thanking Dan Flory for His Service on the Board, as

Noted:	Martin
Second:	Anabtawi
Yeas:	Milobar, Martin, Luna, Estremera, Cheng, Anabtawi, Weed
Nays:	None
Abstains:	None
Recusals:	None
Absent:	None
Summary:	7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent. (Motion passed as Resolution 25-03).

8. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

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

a. General Counsel's Report

DCA General Counsel, Josh Nelson, informed the Board that his written report was included in the meeting packet. He noted that the majority of legal efforts for the month were focused on matters appearing on the Agenda.

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 2025 on behalf of Treasurer Katano Kasaine. He reported an opening cash balance of \$3.2M as of February 1. During the period, the DCA received approximately \$2.9M in contributions and had disbursements totaling \$5.46M, resulting in an ending cash balance of approximately \$714,000. Mr. Benson concluded his report by informing the Board that the full details, including the

statement of net position, cash receipts, and disbursements, were included in the meeting packet.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board.

c. DCP Communications Report

Mr. Bradner provided an update on recent and ongoing communications initiatives. He noted that the team has established a monthly cadence for the newly launched DCA Digest, a newsletter used to share important project updates. It has been well received, and members of the public can subscribe via the DCA website.

He reported that the Engineering Components video was released in March and is available on the DCA website. The video has been segmented into short snippets, each focusing on a different project component, and distributed through social media. This effort was a collaboration between the Engineering team and VMA Communications, involving storyboarding, scripting in multiple languages, and multi-channel distribution. The Engineering team developed the animations in close coordination with the Communications team.

Mr. Bradner also shared that an updated version of the "What is the DCA?" video has been released. This new version includes updated graphics, new footage, and revised language to better represent the current role, activities, and purpose of the DCA.

He further noted that on March 25, 2025, DWR Director Karla Nemeth and DCA leadership, including Director Miguel Luna in his role as legislative liaison, conducted a briefing for new state legislators. These briefings are part of DCA's ongoing efforts to keep stakeholders and decision-makers informed and engaged, especially to counter misinformation.

Director Luna added that the briefing was well attended and productive, including strong interest from legislators representing Delta regions. He thanked Ms. Martinez and the VMA team for their efforts in coordinating the event and preparing materials. He emphasized the importance of continued engagement with the Legislature and praised the quality and cadence of the communications work.

Ms. Martinez thanked Director Luna for his efforts, noting his strong relationships within the Legislature helped bring attendees to the event. She then reported that virtual project tours are now available in Spanish and Chinese on the DCA website.

In March and April, the DCA participated in the Western Winter Workshop, the Water Education for Latino Leaders conference, and the American Water Works Association conference. At each event, DCA staff had exhibit booths, and Mr. Bradner gave a presentation at the Western Winter Workshop. In May, the DCA will participate in the

Association Of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference and the California Water Association Spring Policy Symposium.

Community outreach in the Delta is also ongoing, with DWR outreach teams present at community events.

Ms. Claudia Rodriguez added that following the legislative briefing, the DCA followed up with attendees by sending an information packet and personalized letters from Director Luna. These were distributed to all but three (3) legislators, who were unavailable due to the holiday. Ms. Martinez noted that Yadira Rodriguez personally hand-delivered many of the packets, providing a personal one-on-one impact.

Mr. Bradner shared his gratitude to Ms. Martinez and the VMA team for their outstanding service and professionalism over the years. He acknowledged the evolution of the project and the importance of VMA's role in maintaining clear and effective communication about a complex and frequently changing initiative.

President Millibar echoed the appreciation on behalf of the Board, thanking Ms. Martinez for her clarity, professionalism, and dedication.

Director Cheng added that he appreciated the earlier comments regarding VMA and Ms. Martinez's engagement, which has been deeply valued. He also thanked Director Luna for his leadership in legislative outreach, acknowledging that while it may not often be top of mind, it is a critical element for the Program's success. He then asked for more details on the legislative meetings: specifically, how many legislators were engaged and whether there were any surprises during the conversations.

Ms. Martinez responded that three (3) Legislators attended the briefing in person, which was considered a strong turnout for this type of event. In addition, approximately nine (9) Chiefs of Staff and legislative directors participated, with a few others unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts. She noted that Kasey Schimke, the government affairs representative for DWR, had taken the lead on coordinating the meetings.

Director Luna added that the briefing was designed for new members of the legislature, who are often overwhelmed with various priorities and training. Despite this, the attendance included three (3) legislators and nearly a dozen staff representatives, which was encouraging. He described the meeting as productive, with good engagement and open dialogue. Although the topic could be contentious, the tone remained constructive throughout. He highlighted that Director Nemeth, Carrie Buckman, and Mr. Bradner all participated and provided expert responses to questions which contributed to the event's success. He emphasized that having factual, clear, and accessible information was crucial

and credited both VMA and Ms. Martinez for ensuring this was achieved through concise, digestible materials.

President Milobar asked if there were any additional comments.

Director Martin added a final thank you to Ms. Martinez, expressing that she would be missed. He praised her professionalism, particularly during the final stages of her contract. He commended the high quality of the newest content on the website, noting that it was high quality, clear, direct, and easy for a broad audience to understand. He emphasized the importance of communication and outreach to the project's success and thanked Ms. Martinez for her significant contributions.

Ms. Martinez responded warmly, expressing appreciation for the kind words and saying she was touched by the remarks. She reassured everyone that the team was in good hands moving forward.

Director Weed concluded by thanking Ms. Martinez once more for her service to the DCA.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board.

d. DWR Environmental Report

Carrie Buckman, Environmental Manager at DWR, presented to the Board a brief update on the ongoing water rights process, the major permit process at the moment. She explained that the Department is seeking obtain a Change in the Point of Diversion (CPOD) to the State Water Project water rights to allow diversion from two (2) new intakes in the North Delta. For this change to be approved, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) must determine that granting the petition would cause no injury to a legal user of water, including other water rights holders, and no unreasonable impacts to fish and wildlife.

The process involves a hearing before the SWRCB, which began with policy statements on February 18, 2025. The hearing resumed on April 3, 2025 with opening statements and the first panel, which focused on why the California Simulation Model 3 (CalSim 3) and the Delta Simulation Model II (DSM2) are suitable models. She explained that this is DWR's opening statement and panels to make their case in chief that they are able to meet those two (2) criteria for the State Board. Two (2) panels have presented so far, with a third underway during the current meeting. In total, five (5) panels will present the Department's case in chief, which is scheduled to continue through June 11, 2025.

Following that, protestants will present their case in chief, due July 11, 2025, with testimony scheduled beginning August 8, 2025 and continuing into September and October. Ms. Buckman also noted that an additional policy statement session is scheduled for May 19 to replace the one interrupted in March by a cyberattack. That session will allow both in-person and virtual participation.

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Director Cheng acknowledged the effort put into the process and commented on the effectiveness of the panels, especially praising Adam Murdock's participation.

Director Anabtawi expressed appreciation for the extensive technical and legal work involved; he asked Ms. Buckman to extend gratitude to the panelists for their commitment.

President Milobar asked Ms. Buckman when this effort will be wrapping up.

Ms. Buckman responded that the hearings are expected to conclude around the end of the year, and then the SWCRB will proceed to draft a water rights order. The final decision is anticipated in 2026.

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

e. Verbal Reports, if any

No verbal reports were received.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Bradner informed the Board that there are a few key Agenda items on the horizon. Specifically, several contract amendments will need to be addressed, likely at the May Board meeting. These include amendments for major vendor contracts that must be finalized ahead of the next fiscal year. He also mentioned the intent to begin sharing a multi-year work plan, spanning two (2) to three (3) years, to provide a clearer view of the project's direction. While major permitting activities remain underway, his summary report outlined additional priority initiatives that must now be carried out in parallel. He emphasized that it is an appropriate time to begin framing these efforts as coinciding for the Board's awareness.

He added that the Sustainability Program would also be brought back to the Board. The Board had approved a related policy nearly two (2) years ago, and significant work has taken place behind the scenes since then. This includes evaluating opportunities and assessing alignment with large-scale infrastructure sustainability frameworks. An update to the Board is anticipated in May or June.

He concluded by noting that these items will begin to stack up across the next couple of Board meetings.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

President Milobar adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m., remotely-Conference Access Information: Phone Number: (669) 444-9171, Code: 84644480409#, <https://dcdca-org.zoom.us/j/84644480409?from=addon>