



INFORMATION ITEM

Science Communication and DWR's DELTA Education Program

Summary

This informational item will highlight the efforts of the Delta Stewardship Council's (Council) Delta Science Program focused on communicating scientific information across Delta communities. This item will provide an overview of the Council's Delta Science Program science communication programs, and will feature the Developing Environmental Literacy, Taking Action (DELTA) educational program led by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and supported by the Council.

Background

Communicating and translating science is an essential link for connecting research to its practical application in resource management. It's also critical for equipping the public with the knowledge it needs to navigate an increasingly complicated and rapidly changing natural world. As such, science communication is identified within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 as a core function through which the Delta Science Program should carry out its mission to inform water and environmental decision-making in the Delta. (Water Code, § 85280(b)(4).)

While science communication plays a role in nearly every effort of the Council's Delta Science Program, this informational item will highlight some of the efforts that are focused specifically on conveying scientific information to resource managers, policy-makers, and members of the public in the Delta. These include (but are not limited to) the "Delta Science Spot" social media series, collaborative events, and the biannual Delta Breeze newsletter. In particular, this item will feature the DELTA educational program. Developed and led by DWR, the DELTA program gives middle school students in Rio Vista the opportunity to learn about the ecology and management of the Delta from practicing Delta scientists, including Council staff. The students, as well as the scientists, engage with and learn from

each other, providing a valuable experience that extends beyond the lesson materials themselves.

About the Speakers

Lynn Takata is a Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist in the Delta Science Program's Science Communication, Synthesis and Decision Support Unit. She leads science communication efforts for the Delta Science Program and participates as a scientist instructor for DWR's DELTA education program.

Today's invited speakers founded and continue to implement DWR's DELTA education program:

Kathy Shultz is a Water Education Specialist at the California Department of Water Resources, where she oversees K-12 education programs and leads a statewide water educator community of practice.

Dr. Melinda Baerwald is the Manager of the Collaborative Science and Innovation Section in the Division of Integrated Science and Engineering at the California Department of Water Resources. She collaboratively oversees work ranging from the use of new genetic technologies to monitor imperiled species, to the experimental release of captive Delta smelt.

Contact

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