

2023 Annual Report

Information Sheet



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

Progress through Partnerships

California relies on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a hub for water, biodiversity, agriculture, infrastructure, transportation, recreation, and more. Since 2010, the Council has worked to advance California's coequal goals for the Delta – a **reliable statewide water supply** and a **resilient ecosystem** – in a manner that protects and enhances the Delta's unique character and attributes. In 2023, the Council made significant progress towards short- and long-term objectives through its **partnerships** with state, federal, and local agencies, Tribes, community-based organizations, academia, and more.

Highlights from 2023

- The California Court of Appeal **dismissed the last lawsuit challenging the Delta Plan**, reaffirming the Council's authority.
- The Delta Levees Investment Strategy became a regulation effective on January 1, 2024, ensuring targeted investments that **protect lives, property, and state assets**.
- We hosted our first Tribal Listening Session, emphasizing our determination to **pursue opportunities that further Tribal considerations**.
- We co-funded the **first-ever survey of Delta residents** to gain first-hand feedback about their relationship to the Delta and its importance.
- Through state and federal interagency partnerships, we hosted two forums to bring together those working on or impacted by **ecosystem restoration** in the Delta.
- We, in partnership with the Delta Watermaster, Delta Conservancy, and Delta Protection Commission, **hosted a Delta tour for State Legislature and Newsom Administration staff**.

Collaborative science moves us forward

Coming together, whether it be to provide peer review services, co-host events, or coordinate actions, builds a shared understanding of the best available science for environmental decision-making. Our Delta Science Program...

- **Facilitated a peer review for the State Water Project** Delivery Capability Report that evaluated the California Department of Water Resources' approach and provided suggestions to improve methods and models.
- Hosted working group sessions on managing salinity to understand how California will adapt to changing climate conditions and **protect water quality** in the Delta.
- Funded research that documented the before and after effects of the Sacramento Regional Sanitation District's **\$1.7 billion** wastewater treatment plant upgrade, allowing scientists to **gather invaluable data on water quality that would have been lost**.

Leading the way – 10 years of the Delta Plan

"In 2023, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Delta Plan – the state's overarching strategic planning document for current and predicted Delta challenges. Since its adoption in 2013, its regulations, recommendations, and performance measures have paved the path for resilience and the partnerships needed across and beyond the region. Whether it be related to California's water supply and natural resources, the Delta's rich biodiversity, and unique heritage, **we know – now more than ever – that successful Delta Plan implementation is collective implementation and that the Council has the authority to lead the way.**" – Chair, Virginia Madueno

You can read the full report by scanning the QR code.



Phil Isenberg – 1939-2023

This year, we said goodbye to the Council's first-ever chair and former Assemblymember, **Phil Isenberg**. Isenberg's fierce leadership and forward-looking perspective paved the way for the Council to carry out its mission. **Without him, there would be no Council and no Delta Plan.** He championed good governance, independent science, and clear communication, and mentored many throughout his career.

The Delta is a better place because of him.

