

AUG 2021

Public Participation Plan Update



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

Public Participation Program

- Council is based on a public involvement model
- Part of overall communications strategy
- Will take survey results and evaluate where we can continue to improve
- New future of public meetings



01.

Public Participation Plan

How We Got to the Plan

- Guide for how any stakeholder or member of the public can inform Council decision-making
- Suite of public involvement activities
- “No one size fits all”

2019

Internal review, research, outreach to established groups, and public survey opened

3/2020

Draft Plan Released
Held “roadshow” and virtual workshop

4/2020

Revised Draft Plan

Response to COVID-19 emergency

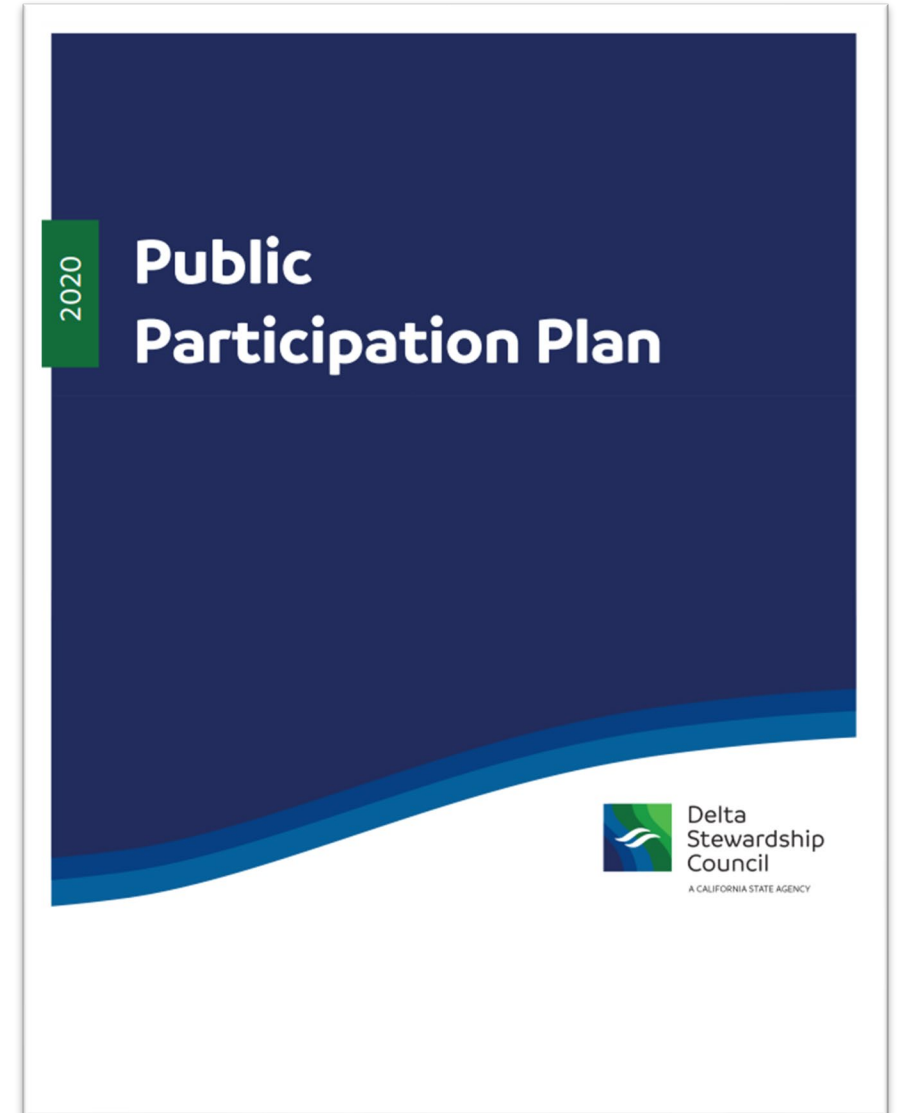
6/2020

Final Plan

Endorsed by Council

Foundations

- Communicate how public comments are used
- Understand impact of decisions
- Clear process to participate
- Continuous evaluation
- Value and promotion of equity, inclusion, and diversity



Since Endorsement

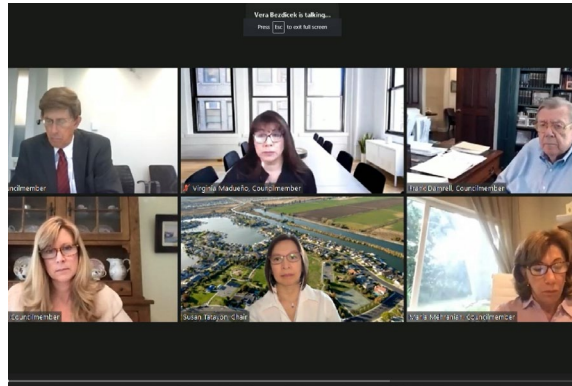
- Collaborating more closely with CBOs
- Expanding use of advisory groups
- Utilizing and exploring opportunities for compensating community partners
- Implementing environmental justice and community outreach training
- Analyzing public comment trends
- Expanding virtual participation



02.

COUNCIL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The Council has been busy since the Plan's Endorsement (June 2020)...

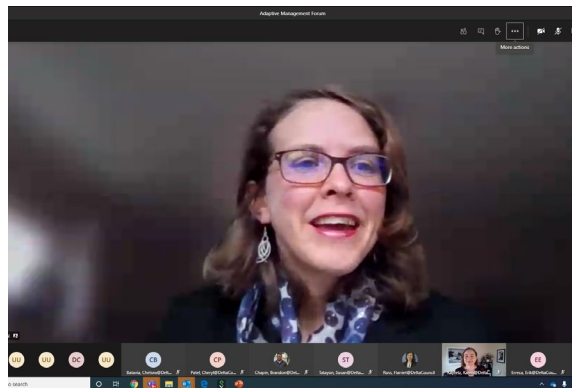


13 Council Meetings
15 Delta ISB Meetings
4 DPIIC Meetings



6 Council Public Workshops or Community Meetings

- 2021 PSN, Delta Adapts, EJ Issue Paper



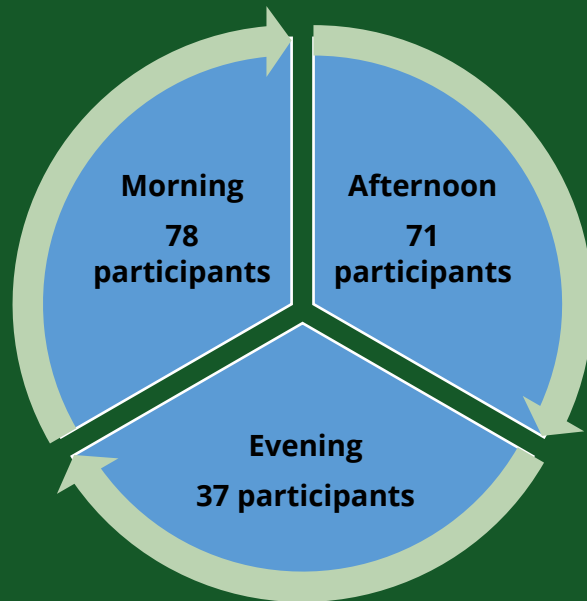
9 Delta Science Program multi-day workshops or symposia



11th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference

- 672 people per day!

Average Attendance ...



51

Council, ISB, or
DPIIC Meetings

119

Lookout Slough
Certification
Hearings

39

Council workshops

121

Delta Science
Program events

03.

SURVEY RESULTS

The Survey



Delta Stewardship Council Public Participation Survey

A year after endorsing our Public Participation Plan, the Delta Stewardship Council would like to hear from you about how we are doing!

The [Delta Stewardship Council](#) was established to bring a broad, statewide perspective and diverse expertise to the mission of furthering the [coequal goals](#) for the Delta. To accomplish this, the Council places a high value on public participation in its decision-making and continually strives to improve the way we engage the public.

The Council endorsed our [Public Participation Plan](#) in June 2020. The Plan serves as a guide for how any stakeholder or member of the public, regardless of background, location, ability, or status, can pursue opportunities to inform Council decision-making.

Please take a few minutes to answer some questions about the Council's participation efforts. Your responses will help us refine our strategies for involving the public, especially as we continue to adjust our participation opportunities as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. An overview of the results will also be reviewed with Councilmembers at a meeting in late summer.

Available from July 19 – August 17

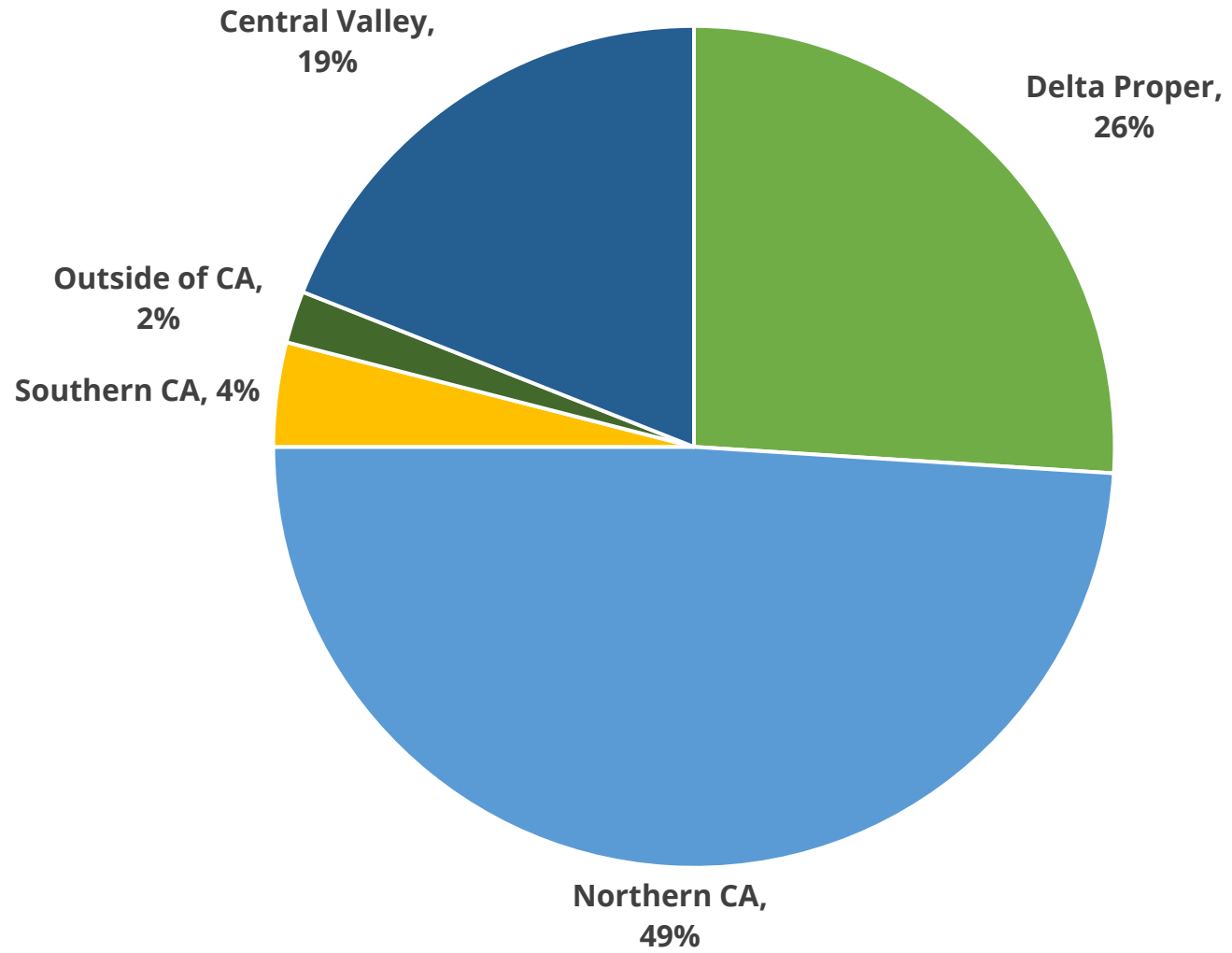
Sent to:

- Council email list
- Direct email to partners, past public commenters, and event attendees
- Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

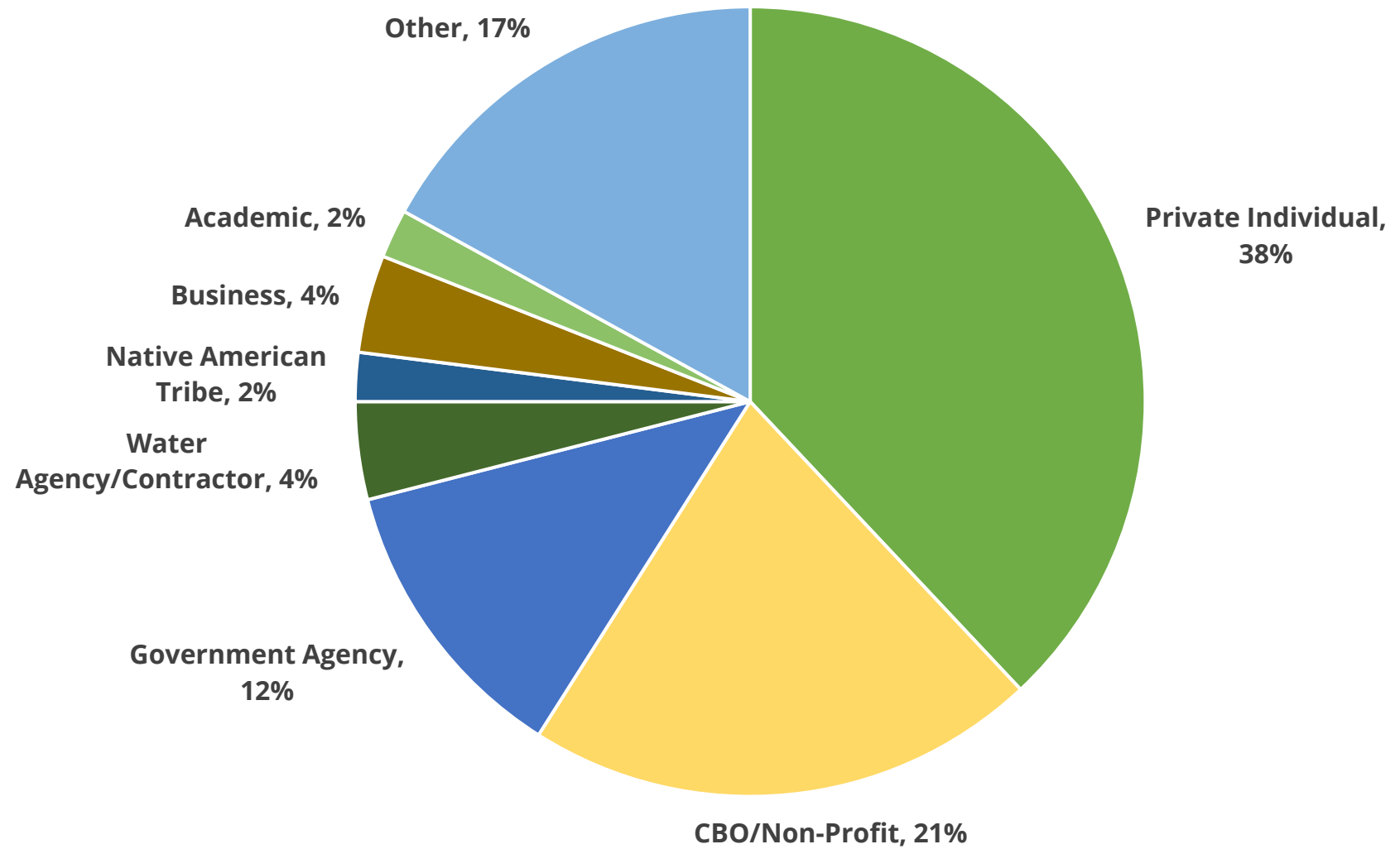
Responses received:

- 95 in 2020
- 86 in 2019

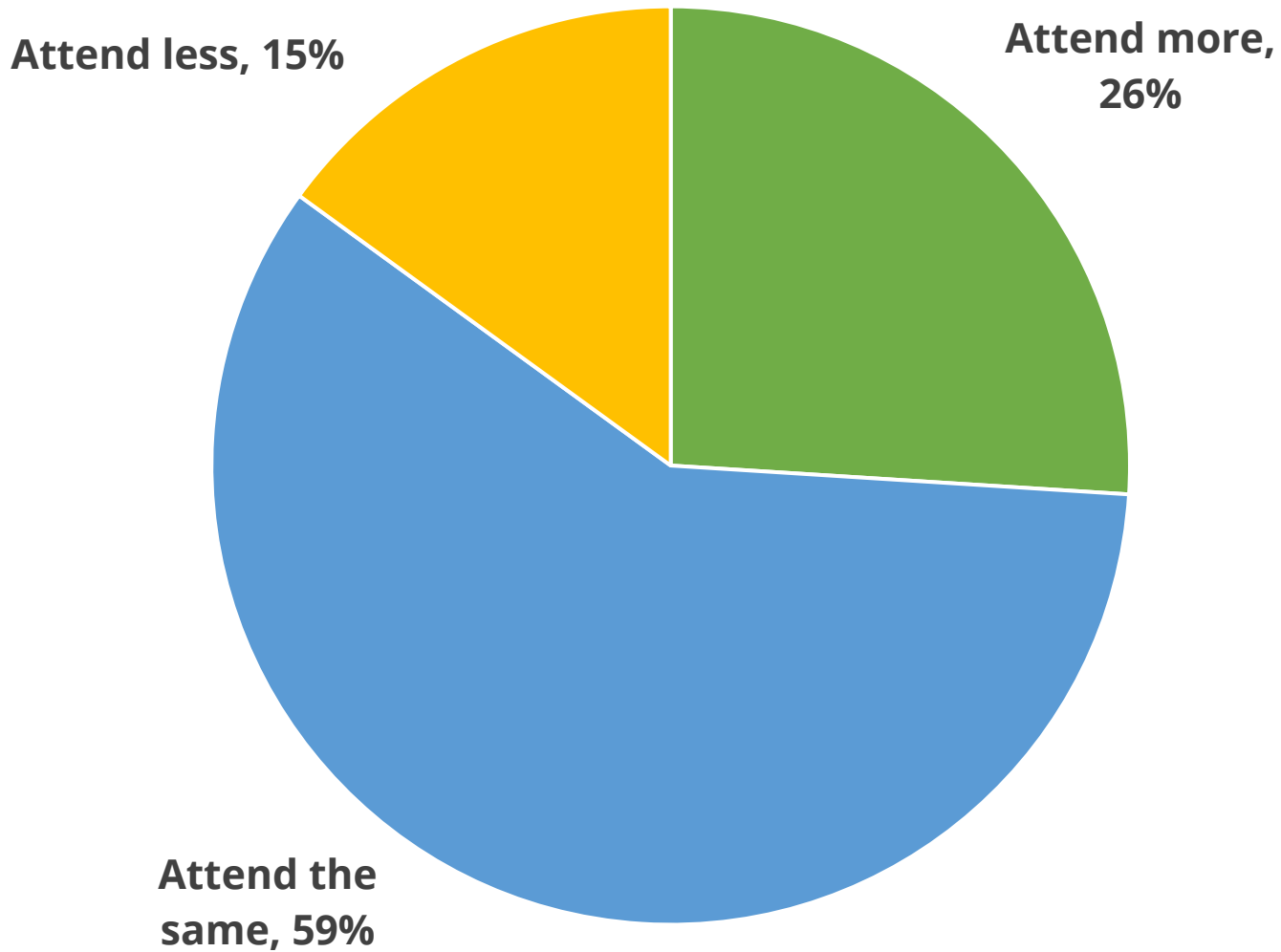
Who responded?



Who responded?



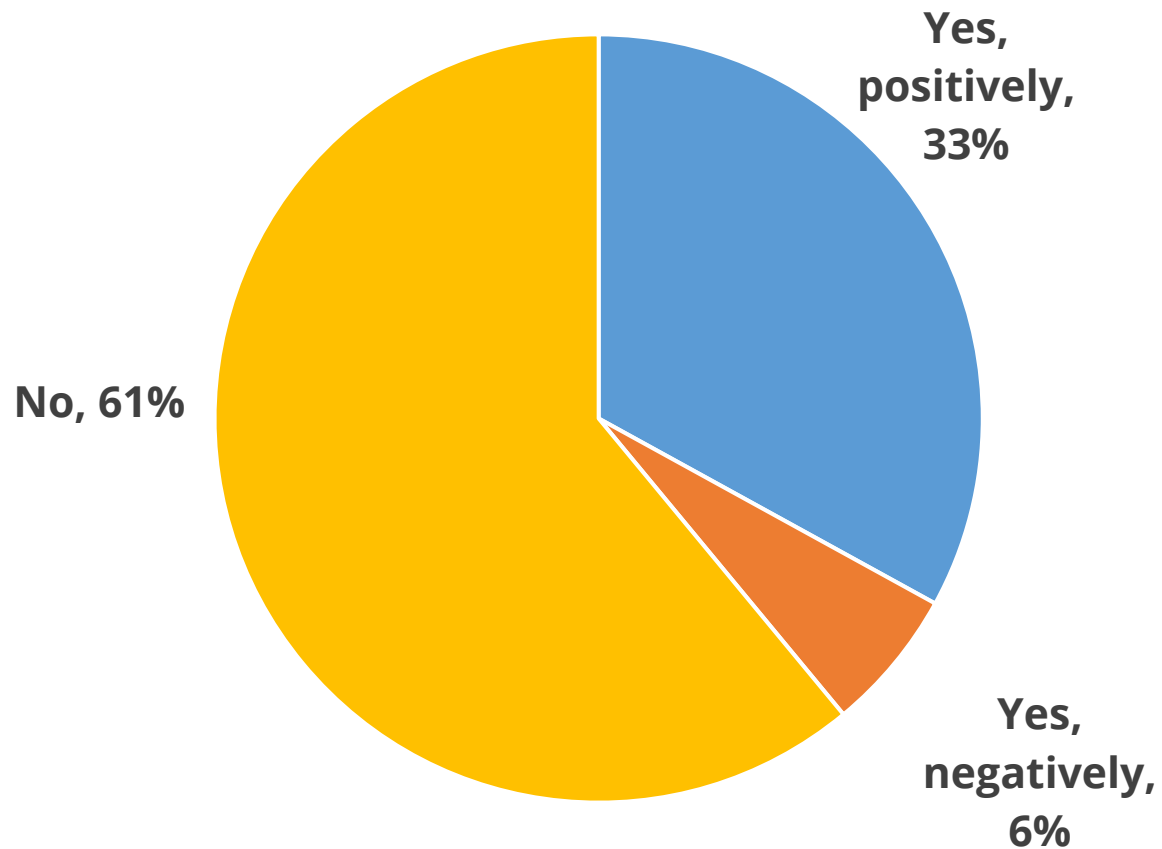
Since the Council has gone to fully virtual meetings as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, have you found that you...



"The virtual meetings have been extremely important for my ability to participate in DSC activities. Please keep them!"

"I myself have simply been less involved with the Delta for a variety of reasons."

Since the endorsement of the Council's Public Participation Plan in June 2020, have you noticed a difference in how the Council interacts with the public?



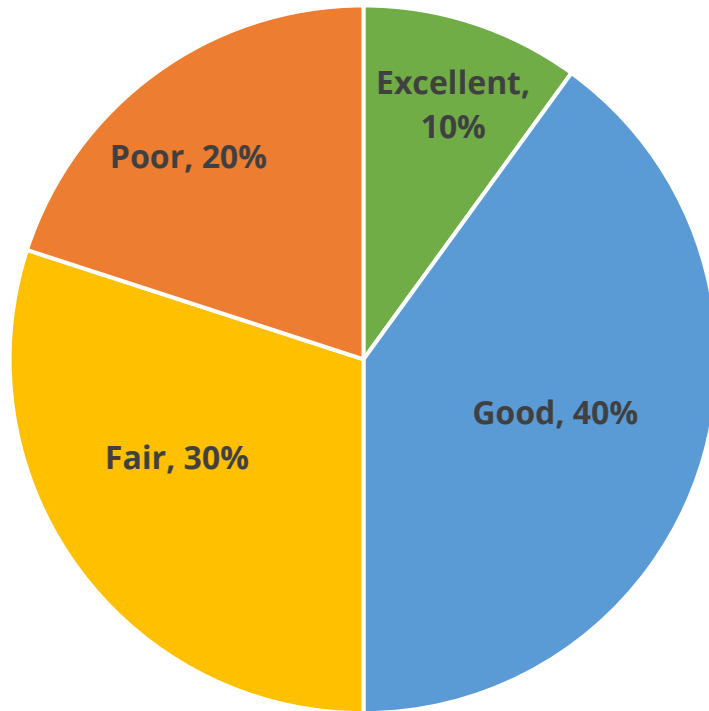
"I recently became aware of this council in recent months so I cannot provide extensive background."

"I am unfamiliar with the Council's Public Participation Plan."

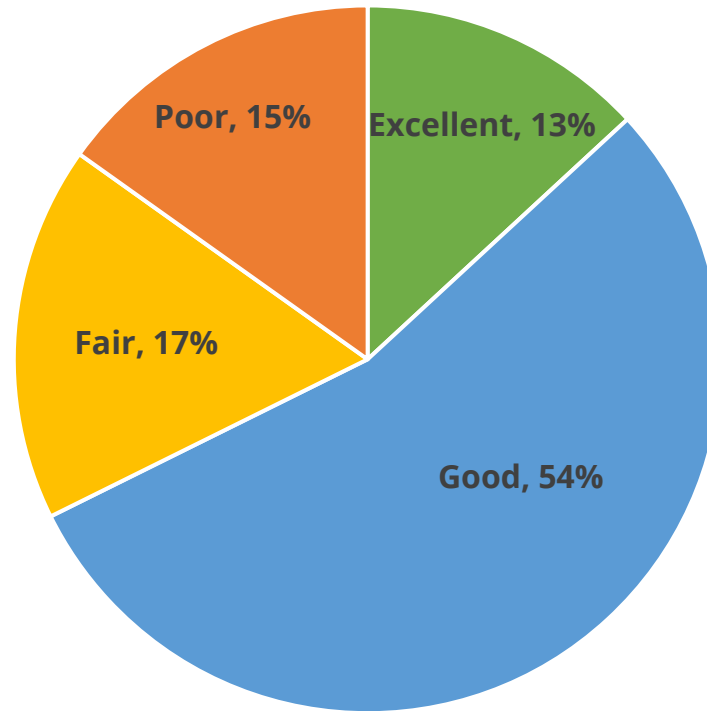
"Can't tell the importance of one thing over another."

Overall, how would you rate the Council's efforts to engage the public?

2019



2021



"Staff cares."

"I think there is a good effort. I also think it is difficult for the public to understand the effect and relevance of the Council's actions to their lives."

"Most people don't seem to know about the Delta Stewardship Council."

"Inputs never seem to change the DSC's overall strategy."

What does the Council do well when engaging the public?

- Effective public engagement
- Pleasant and prompt communication
- Easy access to virtual meetings and information on website
- Local community collaboration and small group meetings
- Timely access to materials

"Website has a lot of good resources/information."

"I do like the web based platform usage for informing the public of meeting and webinars"

"Staff working with local groups to address concerns."

"Your emails have been very easy to understand. I did reach out to someone and they were responsive and friendly via email. Being friendly, engaging, and open-minded is important. Passing no judgment to others when they have questions or concerns. Having humility when working with others."

"Surveys"

What could the Council improve when engaging the public?

- Increased advertisement
- Responding to and valuing input
- Continued use of virtual access to meetings
- Engagement early in the process
- Making info easy to understand and find
- Work with more underrepresented communities

"Making issues...understandable to..."newbies" [of] the water topic and government meetings and procedures in general."

"Communicating exactly the type of input it is looking for. Some questions are too open-ended."

"Make all products of Council-funded projects, including progress and final reports [...and data], readily available to interested agencies and the public."

"Actively seek stakeholder input during the development of programs, rather than at the end once the ability to make changes is limited."

"Make sure ALL public meetings continue with a Zoom-type option so members of the public don't have to travel to participate."

What barriers do you encounter when attempting to engage with the Council?

Barrier	2019	2021	Trend
Awareness of Activities	27%	46%	↑
Value of Participating	30%	36%	
Effectiveness and Relevance	26%	36%	
Too Busy	25%	26%	↓
Transit	39%	20%	
None	12%	18%	↑
Access to Info	14%	16%	
Knowledge of Issues	-	12%	
Time of Day	24%	12%	↓
Cost to Attend	12%	12%	↔
Location	41%	8%	↓
Virtual Access	-	2%	↑

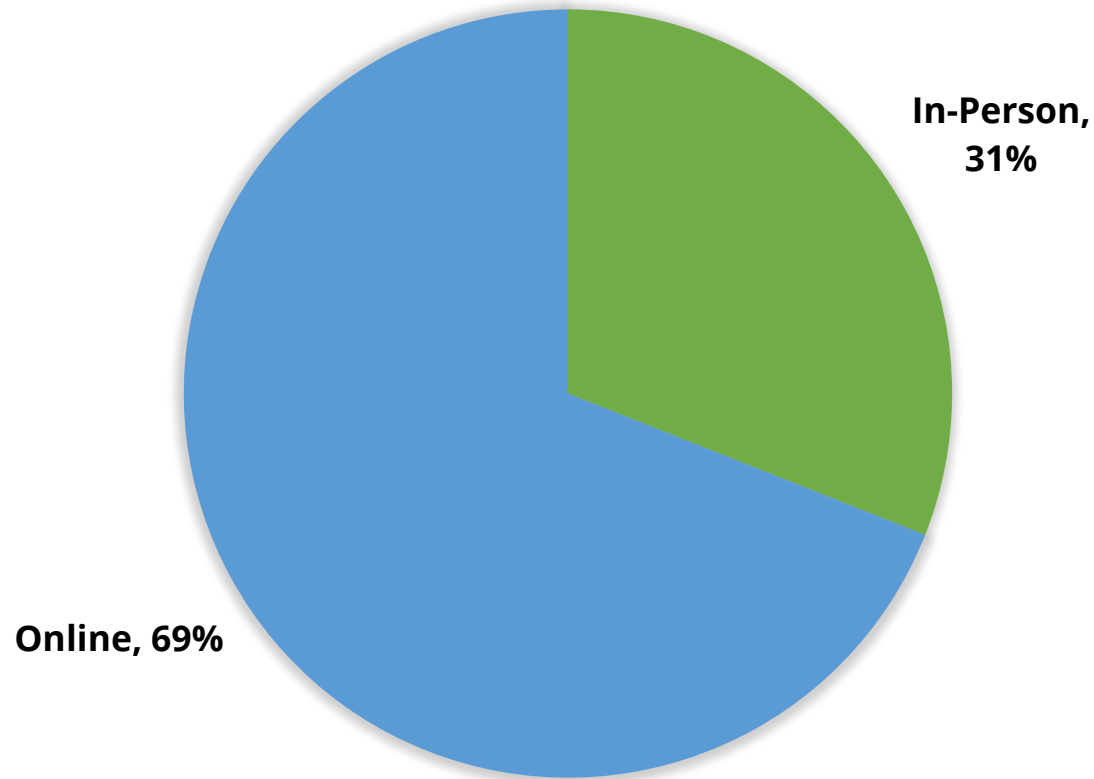
Out of all the Council's activities, are there any that need more improved public engagement than others?

Activity	2019	2021	Trend
Environmental Justice	35%	45%	↑
Delta Adapts	-	45%	
DLIS	34%	43%	
Tribal Engagement	24%	36%	
Delta ISB	29%	34%	
Delta Plan Amendments	36%	25%	↓
CEQA Process	33%	25%	
DPIIC	26%	21%	
Covered Action Early Consultation Process	26%	18%	
Council Meetings	27%	18%	
Delta Science Program Events	31%	16%	
Other	21%	11%	
Covered Action Certifications and Appeals	21%	9%	

What mechanisms for information-sharing and engagement do you find useful?

Mechanism	2019	2021	Trend
Maven's Notebook	30%	46%	↑
Direct Communication with Staff	23%	42%	
Meetings with Staff	15%	40%	
Council Workshops	31%	36%	
Staff Reports	33%	32%	↓
Council Meetings	33%	32%	
Council Email List	48%	32%	
Facebook	17%	22%	↑
DPIIC Meetings	19%	22%	
Flyers at Community Locations	-	18%	
Sending a Letter	19%	18%	↓
Tables at Community Events	-	18%	↑
Instagram	3%	12%	
Twitter	9%	10%	
Other Email List	22%	10%	↓
Other	14%	6%	

When/if in-person meetings resume, will you primarily attend Council meetings or events in person or online?



"I think I would go in person if there was an agenda item of special interest that I wanted to comment on, otherwise, I may use a virtual meeting format."

"Don't know right now."

"Actually, I'd like to have both in-person and online options b/c conflicts can come up."

What other recommendations do you have to improve public involvement, and is there anything else we should know?

- Concerns about Delta Conveyance Project
- Language Translation
- Earlier posting of presentations for meetings
- Explain considerations of decisions
- Council staff on tour in different communities
- More videos
- Confusion about roles of Delta agencies
- Appreciate efforts
- Delta ISB funding concerns
- Public access concerns
- Virtual access and participation in meetings

04.

NEXT STEPS

Where do we go from here?

- Work to reduce barriers and expand outreach
- Continue to expand partnerships
- Continued website, tracking, and planning improvements
- Hybrid meetings

Other ideas?



Connect with us

We want to hear from you!



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

Office of Public Participation

engage@deltacouncil.ca.gov

(916) 798-9817

deltacouncil.ca.gov

Join our email list!

<https://bit.ly/3swbYEw>



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