

NOV 2022

Delta Adapts Update

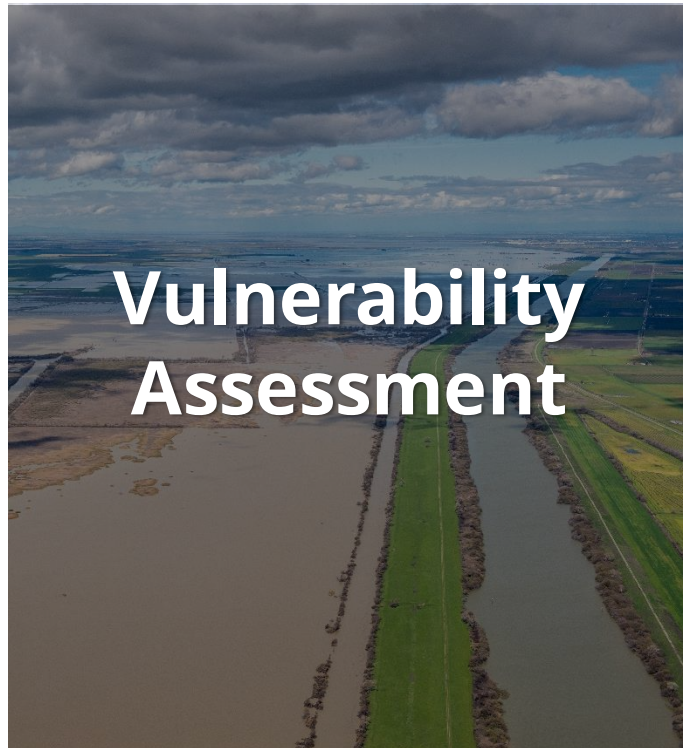
Harriet Lai Ross
Associate Deputy Executive Officer
for Planning & Climate



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

Delta Adapts =



The overarching goal is to build climate resilience in the Delta

Community Engagement

- **Focus Group**

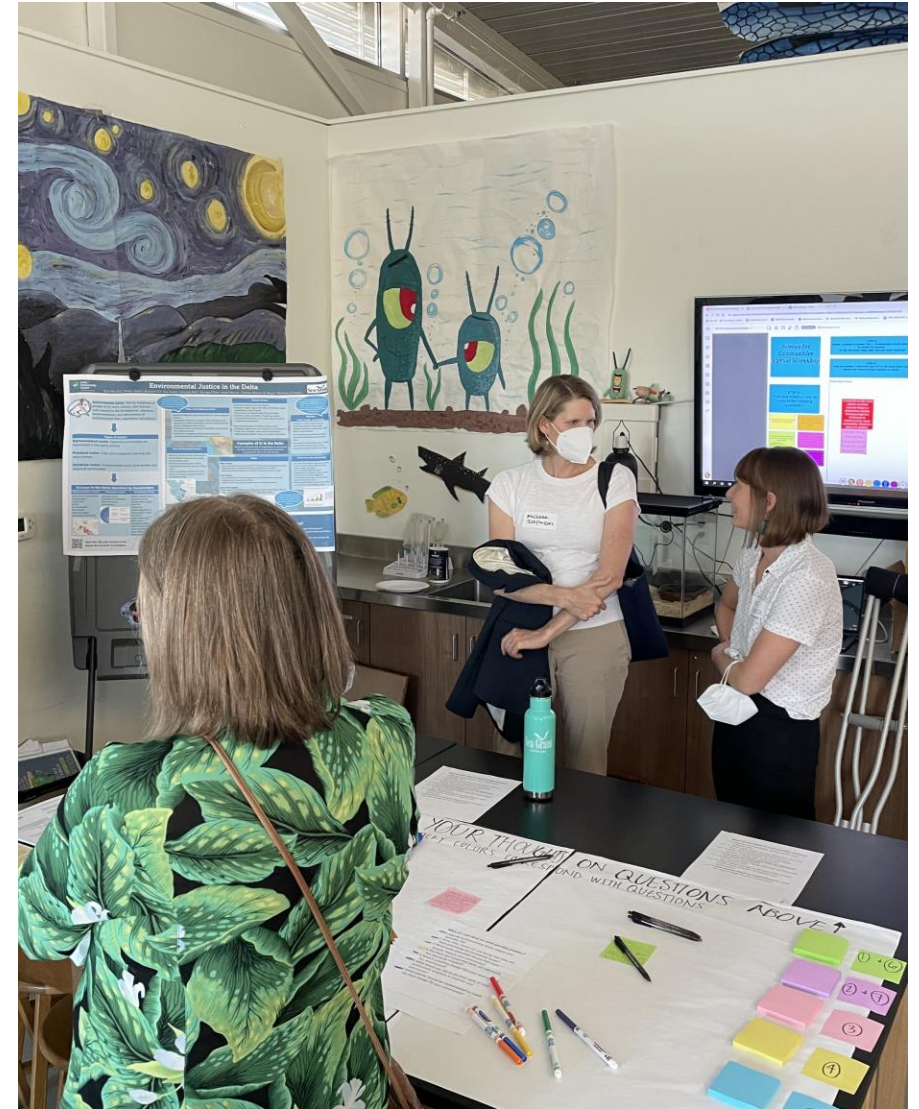
- 2-4 meetings each w/ Flooding, Ecosystem, Agriculture, and Water Supply Reliability

- **EJ Expert Group**

- 3 meetings
- Interviews

- **Growers and Landowners**

- Presented to over 35 Delta growers
- Presented to over 100 Suisun Marsh Landowners



FLOODING

- The Delta is a system
- Levees are the backbone of Delta
- Levee projects that meet multi-benefit objectives will be critical
- Consideration of upstream flood management and water supply when managing Delta habitats



ECOSYSTEM

- **Main climate change concerns:**
 - Sea level rise & saltwater intrusion
 - Adaptability of habitats to changing conditions
- Whole system approach, comprehensive vision
- Consideration of potential barriers to restoration
- Address challenges in permitting, fiscal mechanisms for adaptation, and alignment with Delta Plan targets



WATER SUPPLY

- Suite of actions are necessary to build resilience
- **Main concerns:**
 - Reduced reservoir storage & supply
 - Increased demand on groundwater usage
 - Increased need for water transfers
 - Reduced supply used to address water quality (salinity) in the Delta
- **General support of draft adaptation strategies:**
 - Increase storage and supply, modified operations, increased self-reliance and conservation, & modify regulations



AGRICULTURE

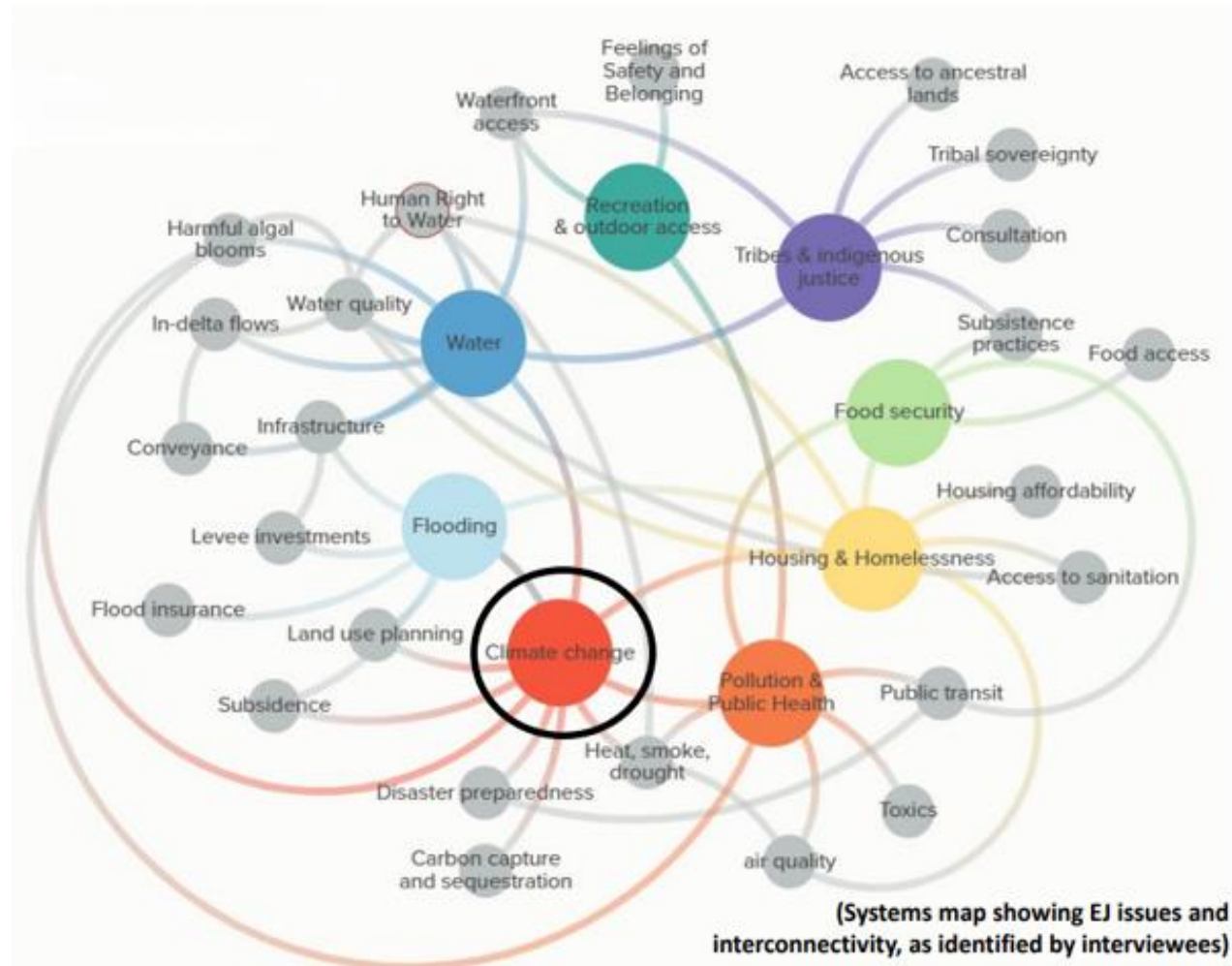
- Consideration of how adaptation can help the agricultural economy and culture evolve
- Growers are observing climate change impacts
- **Multi-benefit strategy suggestions:**
 - Rewetting of subsided lands
 - Land use mosaics
 - Wildlife-friendly agriculture
 - Ecological connectivity
- Priorities around levee investment and water quality



EQUITY

- Prioritize vulnerable communities
- Promote funding to communities with the greatest climate change impacts
- 14/22 EJ Issue Paper interviewees indicated climate change as a key Environmental Justice area of concern*

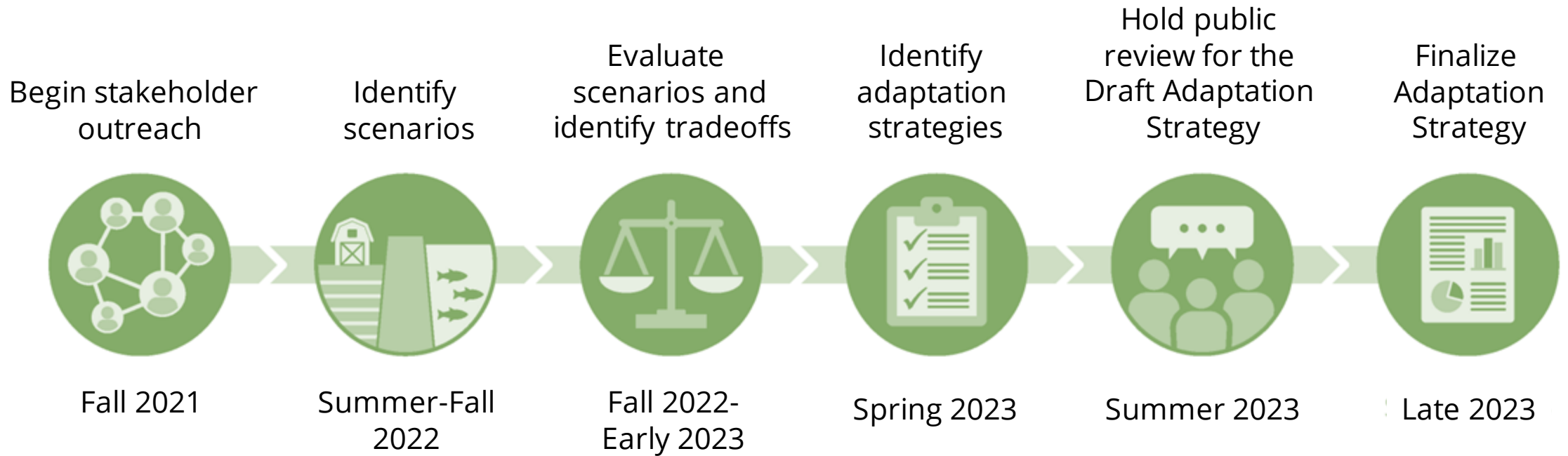
* Summary Report of Delta EJ Interviews



Common Themes

- Water quality is **biggest concern**
- Adaptation solutions should be **multi-benefit**, cross-cutting, nature-based, and equitable
- Prioritize **vulnerable communities**





Thank you

Connect with us



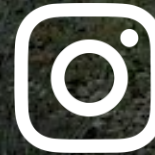
Scan the QR code
to subscribe to our
listserv



Deltacouncil.ca.gov



[@DeltaCouncil](https://twitter.com/DeltaCouncil)



[@delastewardshipcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/delastewardshipcouncil)



[Delta Stewardship Council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Delta-Stewardship-Council)



[@delastewardshipcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/delastewardshipcouncil)

