

Delta Stewardship Council 2024 Proposed Work Plan		
Objective 1: Implement the Delta Plan		
Work Item	Timeframe	Background
Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS) Implementation	Ongoing	The DLIS regulation took effect January 1, 2024. Staff will also prepare informational tools describing the value of DLIS and make the DLIS decision-making support tool available on the Council website. Staff's presentation to the Council regarding updated risk profiles is anticipated in Spring 2024. The next annual levee investment report is anticipated in Spring 2025 from the Department of Water Resources.
Delta Adapts: Adaptation Strategy	2021-2024	The Council released the draft Vulnerability Assessment in January 2021 for public review and comment and took action to endorse the final Vulnerability Assessment at its June 24, 2021 public meeting. Completion of the Adaptation Plan is anticipated in Spring 2024, and implementation of Delta Adapts recommendations will commence immediately thereafter.
Environmental and Tribal Justice Issue Paper	2022-2024	Completion of the EJ Issue Paper is anticipated in 2024 and will be presented to the Council upon completion.

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Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment Rulemaking	2023-2024	<p>The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Ecosystem Regulations will be released in Spring 2024 and a public hearing on the proposal will be held subsequently. Following review of and response to public comments received on the proposed rulemaking, staff will bring the rulemaking package to the Council to consider authorizing submittal of the rulemaking package to the Office of Administrative Law in Fall 2024. Under this timeline, the updated regulations would take effect in 2025.</p>
Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC)	Ongoing	<p>In 2024, DPIIC will meet in April and October. The Restoration Subcommittee will also meet multiple times. DPIIC will also be re-convening the Delta Agency Science Workgroup—after a multi-year hiatus—to discuss and advance action on harmful algal blooms (HABS), modelling, and science funding.</p>
Five-Year Review of the Delta Plan	2023-2024	<p>Council staff has initiated the 2024 Five-Year Review of the Delta Plan, using Delta Plan Performance Measures as a framework for the review. This second Five-Year Review also includes an analysis of past? covered actions and appeals and an assessment of Adaptive Management Plans. Completion of the Five-Year Review is anticipated in Spring 2024.</p>
Science for Communities 2.0	2024	<p>In October 2022, the Council's Planning Division and Delta Science Program held an event at the Big Break Visitor Center in Oakley that focused on enhancing collaboration between scientists and community based organizations to address important Delta issues and data needs. Given the positive feedback received by participants, staff are designing a follow-up event to be held in Fall 2024.</p>

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Delta Plan Performance Measures	Ongoing	<p>The mid-year performance measures report includes finalized data from the 2023 Water Year. The year in review report provides an update on a broader suite of performance measures including agency actions and programs. In 2024, reporting on the new and revised ecosystem performance measures will be included.</p>
Covered Actions and Potential Appeals	Ongoing	<p>In 2023, the Council received 9 certifications of consistency for covered actions. No appeals were submitted. We anticipate a similar or higher number of certifications of consistency in 2024 with ongoing potential for appeals. Throughout 2024, Council staff will continue to engage in early consultation with DWR regarding the Delta Conveyance Project, anticipating certification of that project and potential appeals in 2025.</p>

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Objective 2: Advance One Delta, One Science		
Work Item	Timeframe	Background
Delta Research Awards	2023-2024	In 2024, DSP will issue its third competitive call for research projects since 2019. After rigorous independent expert proposal review, over \$6 million will be awarded to research projects that inform water and environmental decision-making and advance research gaps identified in the 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda.
Delta Science Fellows	2024	In 2024, the DSP and UC San Diego, California Sea Grant will issue a competitive call for applications for the Delta Science Fellows Program. These early-career scientists work with Council staff, as well as collaboratively with academic and community mentors to address priority issues identified in the 2022-2026 Delta Science Action Agenda.

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Support Science-based Decision-Making	2024	<p>Salinity Management Workshop: On March 26 and 27, the Delta Science Program will be hosting a virtual workshop to discuss tools and strategies, identify knowledge gaps, and build shared goals for adaptively managing ocean saltwater intrusion in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.</p> <p>Modeling Framework Strategy: Building on its February 2023 workshop focused on integrated modeling, DSP is preparing a draft modeling framework strategy for promoting a collaborative community and set of open-source tools for advancing integrated, transparent modeling to better inform resource management decisions.</p> <p>The 2024 DSP-NCEAS synthesis working group will bring together natural science with the science of social systems and decision making to solve problems at the human-environment interface in the San Francisco Estuary.</p>
Independent Scientific Peer Review	Ongoing	<p>In 2024, DSP will facilitate the following peer reviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's fish and aquatic effects analysis, which serves to inform its biological assessment for the long-term operations of the Central Valley and State Water Projects.• The Department of Water Resources' monitoring and science plans for supporting critical summer-fall habitat actions for delta smelt.

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Science Communication	Ongoing	<p>SBDS synthesizes the current state of scientific knowledge on topics of high management concern in the Bay-Delta and where critical uncertainties remain. The edition will be completed in 2024 with an anticipated release of peer-reviewed publications in late 2024 or early 2025.</p> <p>The Bay-Delta Science Conference (BDSC) is a forum for presenting scientific analyses and results relevant to the management of the Bay-Delta. The 12th biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference will take place at the Safe Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento, CA, from September 30 to October 2, 2024.</p>
HABS Monitoring Strategy	Ongoing	<p>At the request of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and State Water Resources Control Board, and following an information-gathering workshop in November 2022, DSP has supported the development of a draft Delta harmful algal blooms (HABs) monitoring strategy.</p>
Delta Science Plan Update	2024	<p>The next Delta Science Plan will be framed around grand challenges with the goal of focusing collaborative efforts on a few key problems with the highest potential for impact. In 2024, DSP will be soliciting public input on the framing and contents of this update.</p>
Delta Science Tracker	Ongoing	<p>In 2024, DSP staff will continue fostering community use of the tool through several outreach and engagement opportunities, and the tool will be used as a resource to assess progress being made on implementing the 2022-2026 Delta Science Action Agenda.</p>

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Interweaving Traditional Knowledge Assessment	2023-2024	In consultation with a local Tribal partner, the Delta Science Program has been undertaking an assessment of interweaving Traditional Knowledge within the Delta science and management enterprise. To date this has entailed a literature and best practices review, interviews with DPIIC agency representatives, and, most importantly, interviews with Tribal representatives and practitioners. The Delta Science Program expects to complete and release the findings from this assessment in mid-2024.
ISB Support and Collaboration	2024	In 2024, the Delta ISB is slated to finalize three reviews on food-webs, subsidence, and decision-making under deep uncertainty. In addition, the Board will prepare a memo assessing DWR's responses to Delta ISB comments on the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Conveyance Project.

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Objective 3: Enhance Outreach and Engagement		
Work Item	Timeframe	Background
Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI)	Ongoing	In 2024, the Council plans to hire a JEDI officer who will be tasked with leading the Committee's activities and development of an equity action plan for the organization.
Social Science Integration	Ongoing	The purpose of the Delta Resident Survey is to gain a better understanding of the attitudes, values and well-being of Delta residents related to social and environmental issues. An initial report with survey results is available online, and additional analysis and result dissemination will be conducted in 2024.

Work Item	Timeframe	Background
Continue Tribal Outreach and Update Tribal Consultation Policy	2023-2024	During 2024, Council staff will initiate consultation with Tribes with the expected presentation of an updated Tribal Consultation Policy for Council consideration by the end of the year.
Policymaker Outreach and Partnership	Ongoing	The Council will continue targeted and proactive outreach to federal, state, tribal, and local policymakers and organizations to enhance awareness of the Council's role and identify partnership opportunities that advance the coequal goals. This will take the form of briefings on the Council and Delta Plan, meet and greets, and other opportunities for spreading awareness of Council's role and initiatives.