



# Delta Stewardship Council

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

## MEMORANDUM

Date: January 25, 2022

To: Delta Stewardship Councilmembers

From: Jessica R. Pearson, Executive Officer

Subject: 2021 Priorities Progress

The attached 2021 Priorities matrix provides an overview of the Council's accomplishments over the past year. This progress will serve as the foundation for the Council's 2022 activities, which are drawn from our multi-year Council-approved workplan and will be presented at the February meeting.

As the Council will recall, our focus in 2021 included the continuation of work on major Council commitments, including our Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS), providing statewide guidance on Delta ecosystem resilience and recovery through our Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment, implementing key aspects of the Delta Science Plan, and releasing our draft Delta-specific Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy (*Delta Adapts*).

While this past year presented numerous challenges, under the leadership of the Board, Councilmembers and staff were able to make progress on each of these major initiatives.

- **DLIS** rulemaking process initiated for a revised regulation with an anticipated effective regulation date in Fall 2022.
- **Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment** draft PEIR released. Final PEIR anticipated June 2022, followed by a public hearing, consideration and possible certification of the final PEIR and adoption of the Ecosystem Amendment, and if adopted, request to initiate rulemaking.
- **Delta Adapts** draft Vulnerability Assessment endorsed by Council in June 2021. Completion of accompanying Adaptation Strategy anticipated in 2023.
- Delta Plan 5-Year Review Follow-Through:
  - **Environmental Justice (EJ) Issue Paper** workplan completed and EJ Expert Group convened. Completion is anticipated in 2023.

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- **Appeals Procedures.** Proposed revisions circulated for a 90-day public review in December 2021. Council workshop anticipated in early 2022.
- **Performance Measures** data updates and enhancements to the online Performance Measures Dashboard completed.
- **DPIIC highlights:** Endorsement of formation of the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee; second annual Delta Crosscut Budget released; and Interagency task force created to refine recommendations to the Delta ISB's Science Needs Assessment.
- **2021-2025 Science Action Agenda (SAA)** final draft released for public comment and final SAA anticipated by April 2022.
- **11th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference** in April 2021 saw the highest level of attendance in the conference's history.
- **Adaptive Management Forum** provided a collaborative platform to synthesize lessons learned from ecosystem restoration and water management projects. The third biennial Forum will be held in early 2023.
- **Delta Science Tracker** web platform developed. Once launched in early 2022, the tool will track and summarize science activities and funding in the Delta.
- Delta Independent Science Board (ISB) released the public draft of the **Monitoring Enterprise Review** in September 2021 with a final release anticipated in the first quarter of 2022.