

To: Delta Council ISB [DeltaCouncilISB@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:DeltaCouncilISB@deltacouncil.ca.gov)

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2023 3:25 PM

From: Michael Whitehead [michael.whitehead@bia.gov](mailto:michael.whitehead@bia.gov)

**Subject: Public Comment on Science supported decision making; M  
WWhitehead**

Public Recommendation: Recognizing the Cost and Environmental Benefits of  
Projects Under Deep Uncertainty

Dear Delta Independent Science Board

I would like to highlight the importance of understanding the cost and utilization of public funds for projects that aim to address the challenges posed by deep uncertainty. Although important to understand the various scientific tools that are needed to address the delta concerns, I believe it is crucial for you to have a clear understanding of how much money is being allocated and how these investments contribute to the greater good. Additionally, I recommend exploring the potential economic benefits that can be derived from environmental solutions, particularly through the lens of environmental economics and nature-based solutions.

In my opinion, when considering projects that address some sort of deep uncertainty, it is essential to assess financial implications. These projects often involve significant investments in research, infrastructure development, and long-term planning. It is important for the public to be informed about the costs associated with these initiatives, as well as the potential benefits they can bring in terms of improved resource management, reduced risks, and enhanced resilience to uncertain conditions. Transparency and accountability in financial matters are vital to ensure public trust and engagement in decision-making processes, and to be updating the public on findings cannot be overstated because it is the reason we work in this field to begin with. a

Environmental economics helps us understand and quantify the economic benefits associated with nature-based solutions. For instance, investing in wetland restoration can provide flood protection, improve water quality, and create recreational opportunities, all of which have economic value. By incorporating environmental considerations into economic analyses, we can assess the cost-effectiveness and potential returns on investment of nature-based solutions. This approach highlights the interconnectedness of environmental and economic outcomes, demonstrating that sustainable environmental management can lead to long-term economic prosperity. These factors are what I am passionate about and

when I came across this public comment period I felt the necessity to write more about it.

In conclusion, I encourage you to be aware of the costs and utilization of funds for projects addressing deep uncertainty. Engaging in discussions and seeking transparent information about financial aspects will foster a better understanding of how public investments contribute to the greater good. Additionally, I urge you to embrace the concept of environmental economics and explore the economic benefits that can be derived from nature-based solutions. By recognizing the value of nature in economic terms, we can encourage the adoption of sustainable practices that not only protect the environment but also provide economic benefits for society.

Regards,

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