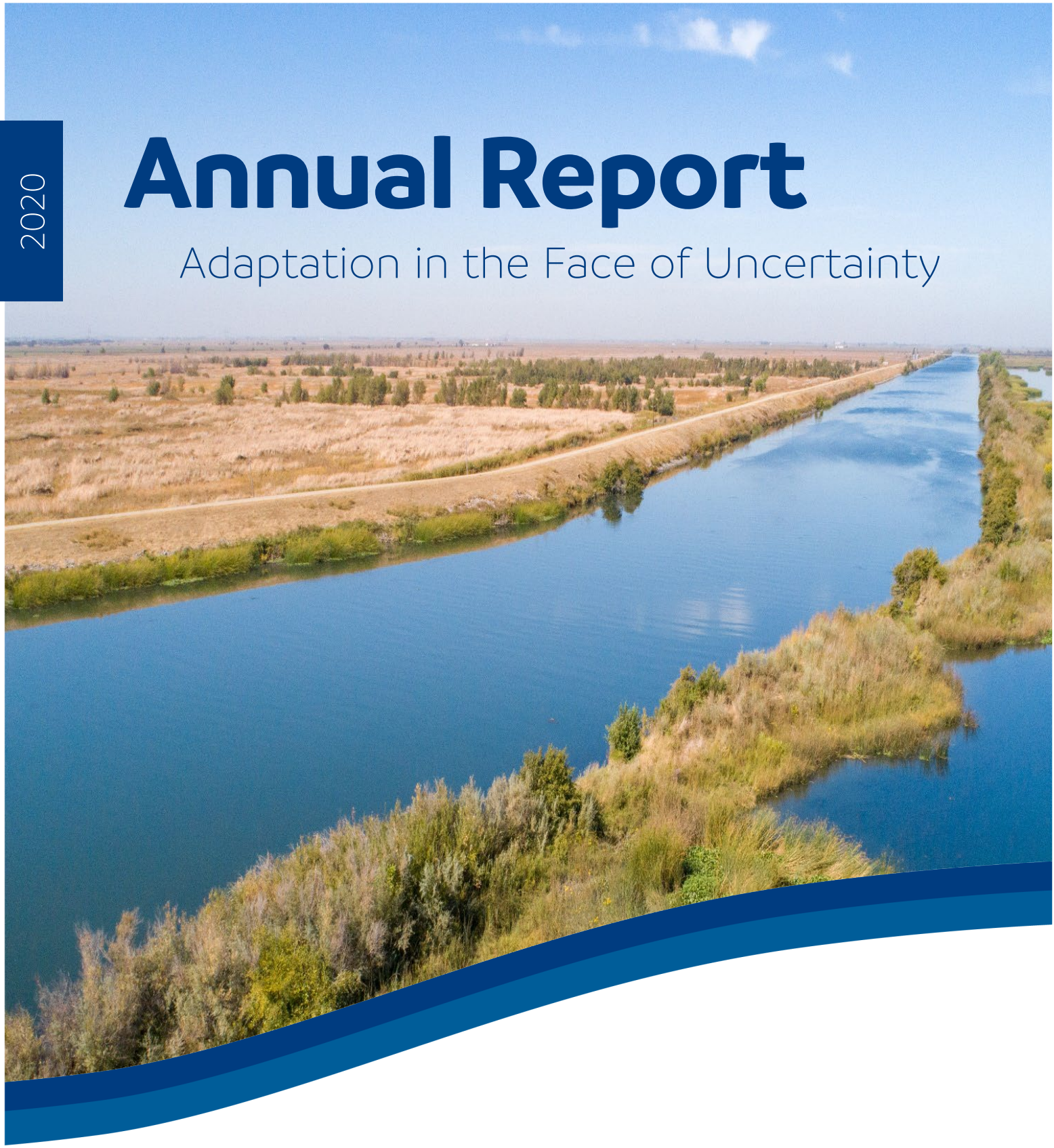
2020

Annual Report

Adaptation in the Face of Uncertainty



Delta Stewardship Council

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Acknowledgements

Photos throughout this document are courtesy of the Delta Stewardship Council's staff and the California Department of Water Resources.

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Introduction by Executive Officer Jessica R. Pearson

2020 has tested our resiliency as a state, as an organization, and as a workplace. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic pushed us to expand our adaptive capacity. When we left our office in March, we launched an internal mantra that has propelled us through this uncertain time: *We are prioritizing clear communication, a proactive approach, and flexibility in operations.*

Coupled with our mission of furthering the coequal goals – a reliable California water supply and a resilient Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem – this mantra helped us stay connected and effective while rapidly transitioning to remote work and virtual public meetings. With these sudden shifts, as an agency we have maintained our focus on serving the interests of Californians by adopting and integrating new tools and technology for continued collaboration with partners fostered over a decade of Delta stewardship.

Ten years ago, the Delta Plan arose out of a necessity to unite and focus the many federal, state, and local agencies involved in the near- and long-term management of the interconnected Delta toward a set of common goals. This need for unity and coordination is more urgent now than ever. Our momentum toward implementing the Delta Plan in 2020 relied not only on our own effort and dedication, but also on invaluable contributions from the many agencies, stakeholders, and academics at work in the region.

This annual report highlights the significant milestones we met this year, thanks to leadership from our chair and councilmembers, and progress in building our collective capacity to chart a strong future for the Delta. These accomplishments – developing the first-ever Delta climate vulnerability assessment, shaping strategic actions for ecosystem protection and restoration, funding research and hosting science events to advance our understanding of regional challenges and solutions, and having the Council's authority upheld by the Third District Court of Appeal – belong not just to the Council, but also to our partners and the Delta community.

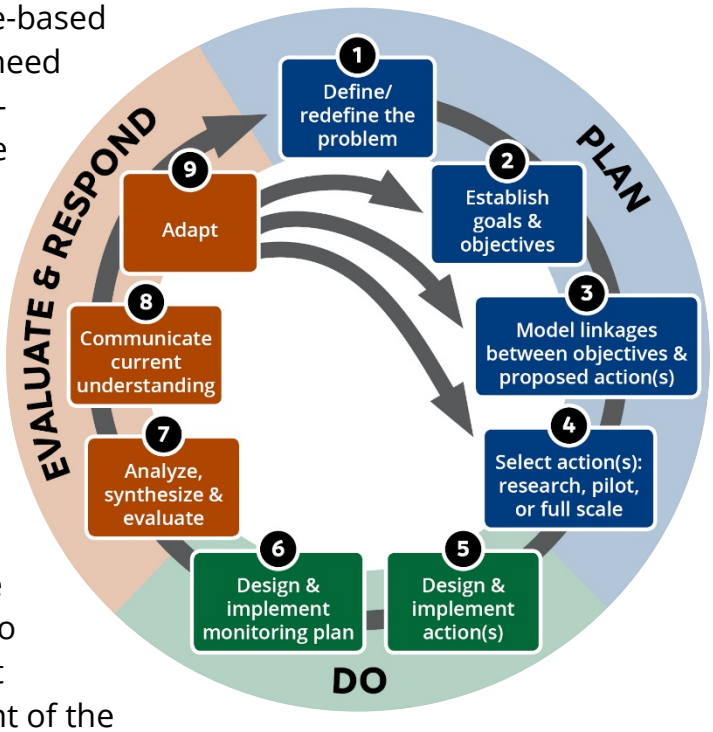
I hope that we look back on this year, despite its immeasurable hardship and loss, as a reminder of our resilience in the face of adversity and of our true interconnectedness in the Delta and beyond.

With gratitude,

Jessica R. Pearson, Executive Officer

Adaptive Management for Anticipatory Science and Policy in the Delta

Adaptive management is an evidence-based approach to addressing an ongoing need for decision-making in complex, high-impact situations. It enables an active learning process to advance an objective – whether it be the development of effective restoration strategies for the Delta's ecosystem or something more straightforward like an immediate agency-wide shift to teleworking. This three-part approach (**plan, do, and evaluate and respond**) guides our work at the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) to align Delta decision-making with best available science for the advancement of the coequal goals.



Phase 1: Plan

Creating a Climate Resilient Future

Following more than a decade of Delta stewardship, we're well positioned to look back on our contributions and plan for all that's ahead. In her June blog, "An Experiment in Governance: Marking Ten Years of the Council," Executive Officer Jessica R. Pearson identified **Delta Adapts** as a model for how we may meet present and future climate change challenges.

In addition to informing future work at the Council, Delta Adapts will provide local governments with a toolkit of data and information for regulatory and planning documents, and aid in prioritizing climate change in future actions and investments across the region. Delta Adapts spans multiple years and is comprised of two phases: a vulnerability assessment and an adaptation strategy. One component of the assessment is the social vulnerability index, available to the public online, which identifies communities with multiple vulnerabilities to climate change.

Social Vulnerability Factors

Climate change has already impacted and will continue to impact the Delta, but science shows that it will not affect all residents equally: some individuals are more vulnerable to the hazards of climate change and some communities have a decreased adaptive capacity.

This year, we identified the following 14 factors to inform our vulnerability assessment and eventually aid in the development and equitable implementation of adaptation strategies:

1. Young children
2. Older adults living alone
3. Ability status
4. Educational attainment
5. Linguistic isolation
6. Poverty status*
7. Race and ethnicity*
8. Tenancy
9. Vehicle access
10. Health insurance access
11. Asthma rate
12. Cardiovascular rate
13. Low birth weight rate
14. Food security

*According to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, low-income people and people of color have higher baseline rates of chronic medical conditions that increase their sensitivity to the effects of flooding. It is important to note that these population health disparities are the result of long-term, cumulative social and economic factors – not intrinsic differences based on race.

To prepare the draft vulnerability assessment, we conducted extensive stakeholder engagement. Connecting with community-based organizations and service providers early on to help structure our engagement and materials better positioned us to reach vulnerable communities. We also held a series of state agency, regional partner, and community stakeholder briefings to review data, verify results, and ensure that Delta Adapts complements other ongoing studies. Such collaborations will continue into 2021 as we work with the public to develop an adaptation strategy that will be a vital tool for building economic and environmental resilience.

Science in Action

To effectively face rapid climate change, aligning decision-making with science is imperative. This year, our Delta Science Program began updating the **Science Action Agenda (SAA)**. As with the first SAA (2017-2021), the 2022-2026 SAA will identify near-term science actions, identify major gaps in knowledge, promote collaborative science, and build an effective science enterprise that spans many agencies and non-governmental organizations. This collaboratively-developed list of science actions will strengthen the connection between the problems that managers face and the science needed to support effective decision-making and investments, including the Delta Science Proposal Solicitation.

Complementary to the SAA, the **Science Needs Assessment (SNA)** examines the need for a bolder, more forward-looking, and better integrated science and management program that is well-positioned to address the Delta's rapidly changing environmental conditions. To prepare for the SNA report, the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) and the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) co-hosted a well-attended, four-part spring and summer discussion series and a two-day fall workshop. These virtual forums created space for regional decision-makers, scientists, and stakeholders to raise and discuss concerns about the long-term management of the climate-impacted Delta and to begin to identify system-wide steps to address those concerns.

Science Needs Assessment Process

In 2019, the Delta ISB authored a letter to the DPIIC encouraging development of a strategic SNA. In response, the DPIIC included the SNA as a priority action in the Delta Science Funding and Governance Initiative. A committee consisting of state, federal, water agency, and Delta ISB members convened to plan a workshop that would inform the SNA.

Ahead of the SNA workshop, the Delta ISB and the DPIIC published a briefing paper to provide context and to inform attendee thinking around the following key questions:

1. What is currently known about future environmental change?
2. What will future decision-makers need to know?
3. What science needs to be conducted today for decisions tomorrow?
4. What changes are needed to science governance, funding, and integration to conduct the necessary science?

A virtual discussion series was held to begin exploring these key questions in preparation for the two-day October workshop, at which more than 150 regional decision-makers, scientists, and stakeholders gathered to discuss long-term science needs.

Following the workshop, the planning committee began synthesizing the information gathered for the development of a report (expected in 2021) that will provide recommendations for building an adaptive and anticipatory science enterprise.

Together, the SAA and the SNA efforts are intended to build an effective, proactive science enterprise that supports statewide water supply reliability, Delta ecosystem restoration, and an improved understanding of the values and attributes that make the Delta a unique place to live, work, and recreate.

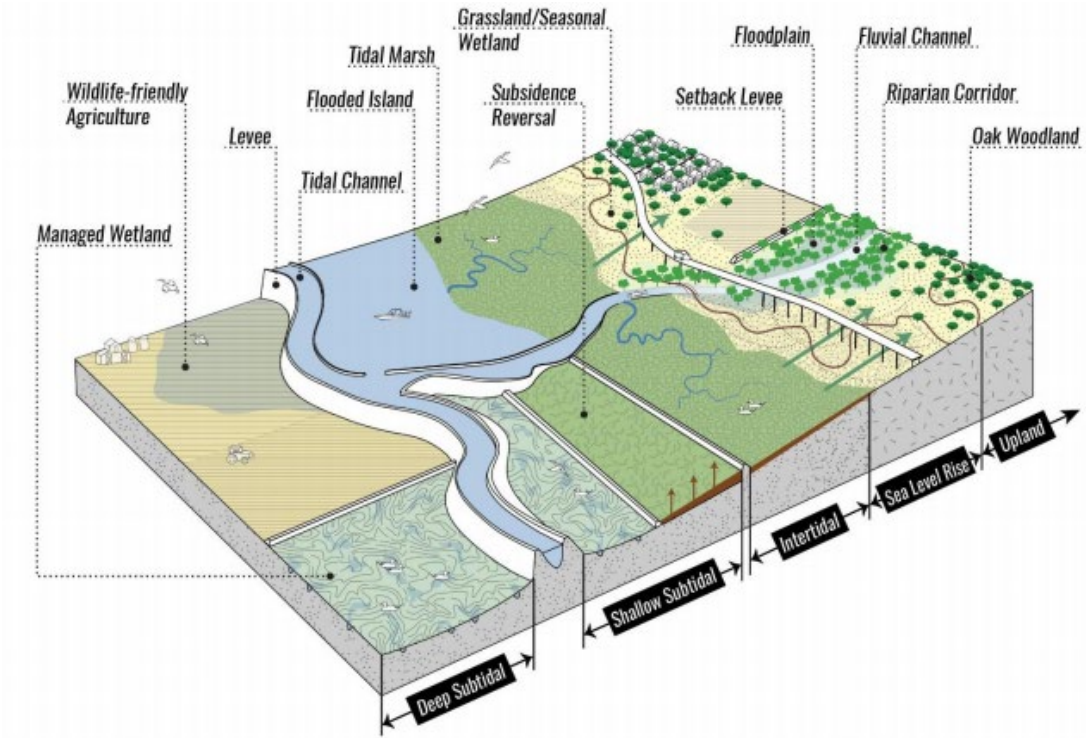
Phase 2: Do

A Holistic Approach

The Delta is the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas. It is also a highly engineered and managed system that demands an adaptive and holistic approach to protecting, restoring, and enhancing its complex and declining ecosystem.

Whereas traditional restoration approaches prioritize organisms, particularly those labeled as endangered, *ecosystem-based management* simultaneously considers water, land, *and* organisms, in other words, the entire system. Such an approach benefits biodiversity, self-sustainability, resilience to climate change, and human well-being.

In May, the Council reviewed a preliminary draft of a proposed amendment to Chapter 4 of the Delta Plan: "Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem." It incorporates ecosystem-based management approaches and was developed with extensive feedback from state and federal agencies, the Delta ISB, peer reviewers, stakeholders, and the public. The proposed amendment aims to get the *right restoration projects* on the ground in the *right places* – and faster than ever before – through greater coordination and transparency in funding, permitting, and review. In combination with a strong focus on implementation and best available science, this proposed amendment will improve the effectiveness of restoration efforts and the reliability of statewide water deliveries.



Proposed Amendment Core Strategies

The following five core strategies form the basis of six Delta Plan policies and 15 recommendations for protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem:

1. Create more natural, functional flows.
2. Restore ecosystem function.
3. Protect land for restoration and safeguard against land loss.
4. Protect native species and reduce the impact of nonnative invasive species.
5. Improve institutional coordination to support implementation of ecosystem protection, restoration, and enhancement.

In her February blog, Chair Susan Tatayon classified ecosystem-based management as a critical tool for achieving the coequal goals. She highlighted the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio as an additional opportunity to advance this approach and to deepen the science-policy connection necessary at this scale. Because the proposed amendment is of statewide and regional significance, we are preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with an expected public review period in 2021.

One Delta, One Science

Guided by the vision of *"One Delta, One Science,"* our Delta Science Program continued its leadership in the broader Delta science community to coordinate, communicate, and advance regional science to support decision-making. In April, the Delta Social Science Task Force – coordinated by our Delta Science Program and the UC Davis Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute (UCD CMSI) – released its final strategy for better supporting the integration of social science in the management, policy, and science landscape of the Delta.

Why is Social Science Important?

Over the years, there has been an abundance of ecological, biophysical, and natural science research in the Delta; but an understanding of how it is used and perceived by a diverse set of decision-makers, managers, stakeholders, and the public remains elusive. Addressing this gap with social science is essential to ensuring the saliency and relevancy of science to stakeholders' most pressing needs, furthering the advancement of the coequal goals, and working collaboratively with communities to protect the Delta as an evolving place that responds to changing uses and values.

MANAGEMENT
We need to understand how people both inside and outside of the Delta perceive, use, and value its resources. This understanding will inform management actions, the prioritization of resources, and the alignment of best available science with the wants and needs of Californians.

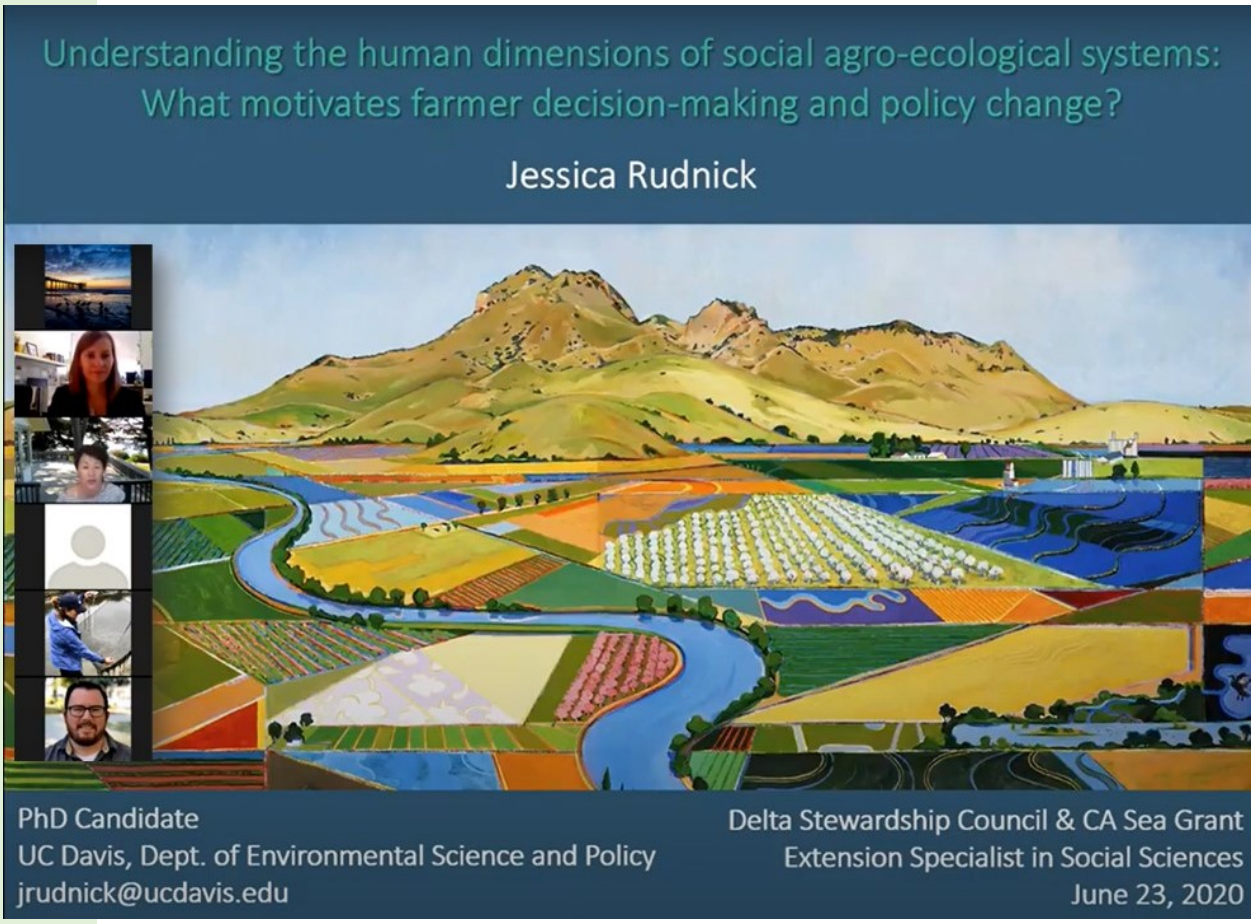
POLICY
We need to evaluate how collaborative governance approaches can facilitate diverse and representative engagement, especially on complex and contentious issues. This evaluation will aid in overcoming barriers to equitable participation in policy processes and more effective infrastructure for achieving the coequal goals.

SCIENCE
We need to expand our monitoring and assessment of the state of the Delta to include long-term tracking of Delta communities' attitudes, values, beliefs, and priorities; encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary teams that will evaluate the complexities and interdependencies between social and ecological components of the Delta and develop best practices for community-based participatory research processes; and bridge the scientific gap in understanding regional environmental justice concerns.

This year, our inaugural internal Social Science Coordination Team convened to develop an Action Plan that responds to findings and recommendations detailed in the Task Force's social science strategy for the Delta.

Even incremental efforts to implement the Task Force's recommendations can contribute to broader systemic change. To take immediate action on recommendations two and three, we have partnered with California Sea Grant to hire a social science extension specialist to advance collaborative partnerships and catalyze research that will inform regional decision-making.

In June, candidates for this position presented on their respective areas of expertise in a four-part public webinar series on the human dimensions of environmental management and policy. This was an opportunity for scientists, managers, and policymakers at work in the Delta to hear how applicants would apply social science in the region. The successful applicant, our first dedicated social scientist, Dr. Jessica Rudnick, began developing a comprehensive social science agenda in December.



Forums that advance multi-disciplinary science have continued to be a focus for our Delta Science Program. To understand the state of science, identify gaps in knowledge, and synthesize and communicate available data, the Delta Science Program hosted and co-hosted the following events this year:

How to Achieve a True Consensus for Best Environmental DNA (eDNA) Practices

Co-hosted with the UCD CMSI, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, this January symposium explored challenges and policy issues related to the application of eDNA in the Bay-Delta and nearshore coastal areas to further monitoring and goals. Tracking eDNA in species communities has become a critical tool worldwide for understanding patterns in both rare and invasive species.

Estuarine Connectivity Symposium

Hosted by the Delta Science Program, this February symposium engaged a diverse base of experts to explore the unique ecological and policy challenges to achieving connectivity in the San Francisco Estuary amid climate change. Ecological connectivity facilitates the movement of organisms and biophysical processes that create and maintain ecosystems – this is particularly important for species adaptation during rapid environmental change.

Sacramento River Drainage Spring-Run Chinook Salmon

Hosted in coordination with the DWR and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), this virtual September workshop focused on identifying knowledge gaps and science needs for the development of a Sacramento River drainage spring-run Chinook salmon juvenile production estimate. This estimate improves understanding of annual variation in juvenile abundance and guides the permitting of water operations.

Zooplankton Ecology

Co-hosted with the DWR and the CDFW through the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP), this virtual October symposium featured the latest research on zooplankton ecology as well as current and emerging methods for monitoring and data collection. Understanding the dynamics of the zooplankton community, a critical food source for native Delta fishes, is necessary to effectively manage the region's fish populations.

Effective science communication transforms information into knowledge and knowledge into action. Opportunities for regular exchange between scientists, decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public is essential to the Delta science community's success moving forward. This year, we worked to expand the science communication portfolio for the Delta with the **Science in Short Podcast**. Co-produced by Maven's Notebook and Estuary News Service with funding from our Delta Science Program, this podcast spotlights current Bay-Delta science and the scientists who conduct it. Two of this year's episodes featured recent Council-funded research: a study of fish interactions with wetland topography by Delta Science Fellow David Ayers and an investigation into the role of remote sensing technology in aquatic plant science by the CDFW's Dr. Shruti Khanna.

Publications

To support our Delta Science Program's mission of synthesizing and communicating science, we led and contributed to numerous peer-reviewed articles for publication this year including:

LEAD AUTHOR:

Environmental Biology of Fishes
"Contrasting the migratory behavior and stranding risk of white sturgeon and Chinook salmon in the Yolo Bypass floodplain of California," lead author: Pascale Goertler

Journal of Fish Biology
"Lamprey (Entosphenus sp. and Lampetra sp.) estuarine residence is regionally variable and constrained by temperature," lead author: Pascale Goertler

Scientific Reports
"Striped bass (Morone saxatilis) migration timing driven by estuary outflow and sea surface temperature in the San Francisco Bay-Delta, California," lead author: Pascale Goertler

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS:

San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science (SFEWS)
"Farm to fish: Lessons from a multi-year study on agricultural floodplain habitat," contributing authors: Louise Conrad and Lynn Takata

Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines
"Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors," contributing author: Annika Keeley

Climatic Change
"Vulnerability and risk: Climate change and water supply from California's Central Valley water system," contributing author: Andrew Schwarz

Responding to a Changing Environment

Our most valuable engagement partner is the public. The challenges associated with the statewide transition to remote work and public meetings altered our use of existing digital platforms and necessitated the introduction of others. The inclusion of remote platforms has expanded opportunities for the public to attend events that they may not have otherwise been able to attend if held only in-person, as evidenced by overall increased attendance at our public meetings, workshops, and symposia. Throughout this shift, we have remained committed to prompt, clear, transparent, and publicly-accessible decision-making processes.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were in the process of finalizing our draft Public Participation Plan. In response to the public health crisis, we adaptively planned additional opportunities for the public to provide input through virtual means and edited the Plan to include a new section about how the Council approaches public participation during emergencies. Endorsed by the Council in June 2020, the Public Participation Plan serves as a guide to members of the public on ways to inform Council decision-making and comment on Delta Plan implementation. We took an adaptive management approach to developing and implementing the Public Participation Plan – recognizing that effective mechanisms for public participation are not "one size fits all."

Phase 3: Evaluate and Respond

The Council's Authority

This year, we witnessed a significant milestone for the Delta Plan. Concluding seven years of litigation, the Third District Court of Appeal recognized the Council's central authority over sustainable management of the Delta. The Court's published decision upheld the Delta Plan, affirming a trial court holding that it was based on best available science. The Court also acknowledged the broad authority that the Delta Reform Act confers to the Council over matters such as reduced reliance on the Delta.[1]

Our covered action consistency review process is the formal channel through which councilmembers and the public evaluate and respond to the consistency of proposed state and local projects with the Delta Plan's regulations. This year, we received seven certifications of consistency for covered actions. One appeal was submitted by the Solano County Water Agency against the Westlands Water District's Lower Yolo Ranch Restoration Project and was subsequently withdrawn.

Additionally, we distributed 20 detailed comment letters to identify potential covered actions and ensure state and local agencies are aware of the Delta Plan's requirements and how they may apply to their work. This outreach is part of our early consultation process, which successfully engages state and local agencies regarding certification of consistency requirements.

[1] *Delta Stewardship Council Cases* (2020) 48 Cal.App.5th 1014.

Measuring Performance

Although baseline and target data values for many performance measures were set only two years ago, making it difficult to identify significant trends, the five performance measures below changed between Water Years (WYs) 2019 and 2020.

Overall, they showed an increased presence of native fish in Delta waterways during a wet year, an ongoing need for Nutria eradication, and harmful algal blooms (HABs) becoming increasingly dangerous hazards to water quality and public health.

Over time, consistent tracking and reporting will enable the Council and other Delta Plan implementing agencies to identify and respond to such trends.

WY 2019 was a wet year; WY 2020 is anticipated as a dry year.

Data	Performance Measures: Descriptions and Expectations
Water Exports (PM 3.9)	
• **WY 2019:** Exports exceeded historical wet years. • **WY 2020:** 2020 did not trigger performance measures related to critically dry or wet year targets.	Exporting water from the Delta during wet years causes less harm to species than exporting in other years. In dry years, water exports should decrease because the system is at its most vulnerable. Across year types, in aggregate, less water should be exported from the Delta to match an overall decrease in the amount of water expected to be available under changing climate and sea level rise projections for California.
Functional Flows - Yolo Bypass Inundation (PM 4.2a)	
• **WY 2019:** Fremont Weir flows met the target for 30 consecutive days of Yolo Bypass inundation. • **WY 2020:** Sacramento River flows were not high enough to overtop the Fremont Weir. The performance target, a minimum of 21 days of consecutive inundation every other year, was satisfied in 2020 only because it was met in 2019.	Floodplain inundation from high flow events supports native fish spawning and rearing. Currently, annual Fremont Weir overtopping is not expected; biannual overtopping is sufficient. More frequent inundation would benefit native Delta fish species.

Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Species (PM 4.10)

- **WY 2019:** Native fish biomass and abundance increased in near-shore habitat.
- **WY 2020:** 1,183 nutria were taken from the watershed, with 13 from the Delta. In total, 2,039 were taken from the watershed since March 2017, with 105 from the Delta.

Native fish biomass is measured in relation to invasive fish biomass.

Efforts to control invasive species, both terrestrial and aquatic (such as nutria and alligatorweed), are in progress and critical.

Native fish biomass benefits from wet years.

HABs (PM 6.10)

- **WY 2019:** There were 27 HAB sightings and one danger advisory.
- **WY 2020:** There were 28 HAB sightings and 10 danger advisories.

Though the number of HAB sightings in 2020 was consistent with previous years, there was a significant increase in danger advisories due to the increase in sampling and testing efforts compared to previous years.

HABs danger advisories merit the greatest caution for people and pets.

Delta Tourism (PM 5.8)

- **WY 2019:** Sales of fishing licenses in all Delta counties decreased; approximately 58,000 acres of land in the Delta and Suisun Marsh were publicly accessible.
- **WY 2020:** Sales of fishing licenses have not yet been calculated. There was no increase in acres of publicly accessible land.

We anticipate a decrease in fishing licenses in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Although tourism suffered this year, further enhancements and expansion of publicly accessible Delta and Suisun Marsh land (supported by Proposition 68) are expected in 2021.

Transparency in Science Funding

State and federal agencies, water contractors, and academic institutions fund and implement science programs and activities across the Delta. This network constitutes the ***Delta science enterprise***. A transparent, comprehensive understanding of how activities are prioritized and funded has remained elusive, despite the importance of science to decision-making for regional management and statewide natural resource protection.

Addressing this gap, the DPIIC developed the inaugural Delta Crosscut Budget Report for fiscal year 2018-2019. This represents a first attempt to establish and implement a transparent, collaborative process for data collection related to science funding across the Delta science enterprise.

To sustain and support this transparency, we began work to scope, design, and build the **Delta Science Tracker**. Expected in 2021, this science activities platform will allow users to view the breadth and status of Delta science activities, track funding streams, and find collaborators and resources.

Delta Science Proposal Solicitation

To support scientific research on high-priority topics critical to the establishment of management-relevant knowledge, our Delta Science Program has partnered, this year, with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and California Sea Grant to release a Delta science proposal solicitation.

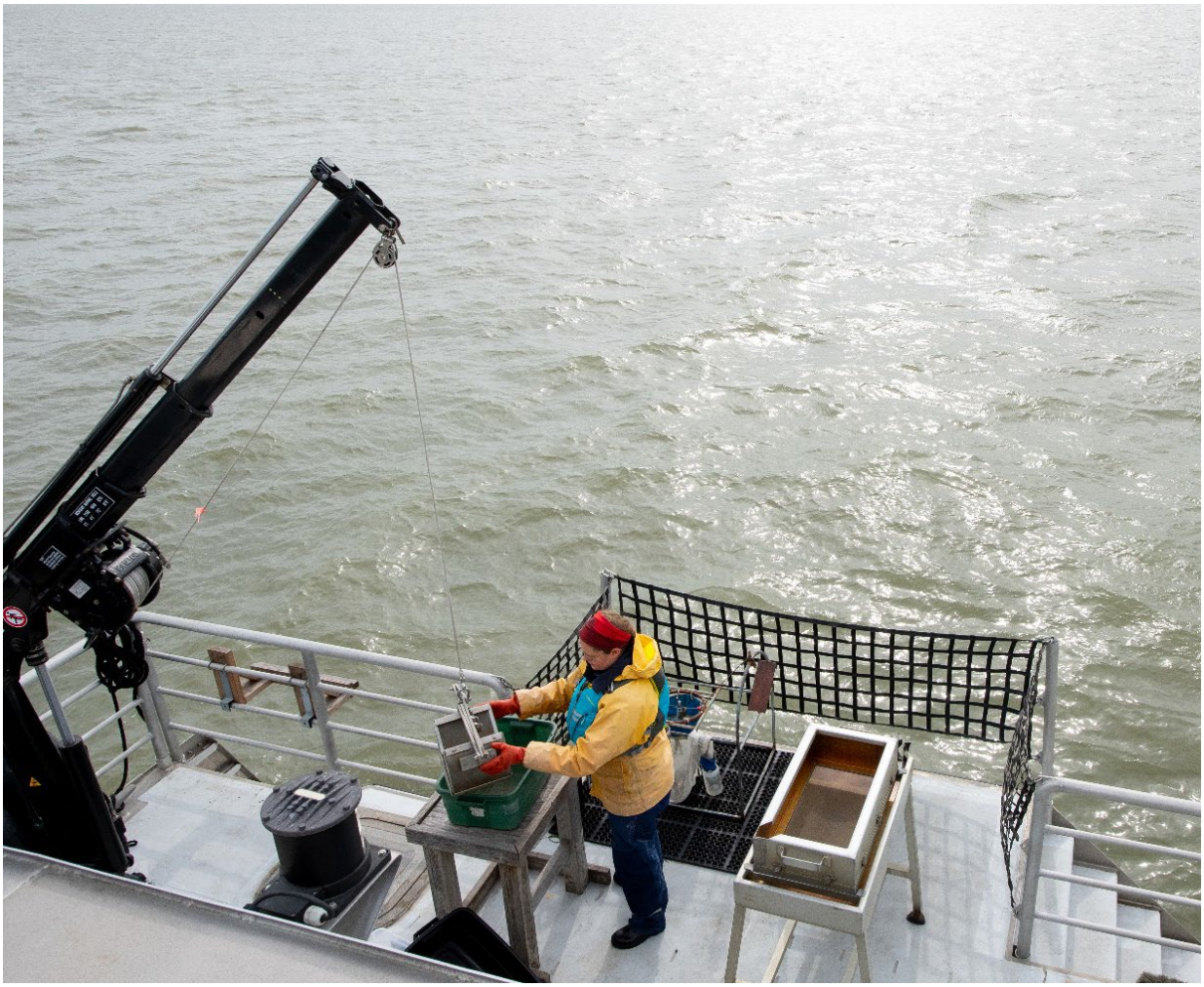
Proposals will address the 2017-2021 SAA's five priority action areas:

1. Assess the human dimensions of natural resource management decisions.
2. Capitalize on existing data through increasing science synthesis.
3. Develop tools and methods to support and evaluate habitat restoration.
4. Improve understanding of interactions between stressors, managed species, and their communities.
5. Modernize monitoring, data management, and modeling.

Collectively, a total of $9 million will be awarded to successful research proposals through a rigorous process overseen by our Delta Science Program.

A Forward Perspective

In August, at the close of his three years as Delta lead scientist, **Dr. John Callaway** wrote a reflective blog detailing the lessons that he learned and his hopes for the future. Dr. Callaway acknowledged the tremendous progress made during his tenure – through collaboration, funding, independent peer review, and communication – and the challenges that remain in the Delta.



After assuming the post of Delta lead scientist in September, **Dr. Laurel Larsen** picked up where Dr. Callaway left off. In her introductory blog, Dr. Larsen detailed her "complex-systems framework" approach to evaluating and responding to the Delta's wicked challenges. She also discussed data synthesis, integrated modeling, and citizen science as tools that she plans to implement during her tenure. Dr. Larsen sees her position not only as a scientific steward but also as a champion of equitable representation and diverse perspectives.

2020 Highlights: Winter

January

January 23
Council discusses 2020-2021 priorities

January 24
Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District finds Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project consistent with the Delta Plan

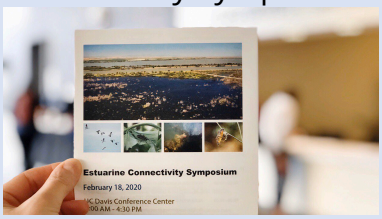
January 29
Delta Science Program co-hosts How to Achieve a True Consensus for Best Environmental DNA Practices Symposium with the UCD CMSI, the DWR, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

February

February 4
The Delta ISB issues a memorandum on the review of the Preliminary Public Draft Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment

February 6
The Delta ISB issues a memorandum on the Social Science Strategy for the Delta: Observations and Recommendations

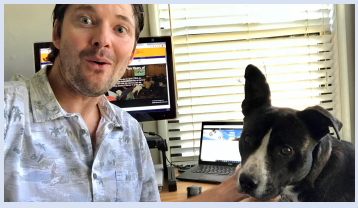
February 18
Delta Science Program hosts Estuarine Connectivity Symposium



March

March 2
The DPIIC discusses the critical need for aquatic weed control

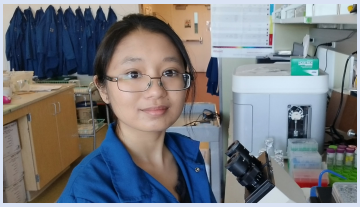
March 20
Council closes office to the public, moves to remote meetings, and reaches 100% capacity for remote work



March 24
Steve Culberson publishes "Building Upon 50 Years of Interagency Ecological Science in the Bay-Delta"

March 26
Council approves $1 million in levee funding

2020 Highlights: Spring

April	May	June
April 7 DWR finds Sherman Island Belly Wetland Restoration Project consistent with the Delta Plan **April 7** Westlands Water District finds Lower Yolo Ranch Restoration Project consistent with the Delta Plan **April 13** The Delta ISB issues a memorandum on preparing for accelerating and uncertain environmental change **April 28** The Delta ISB and the DPIIC launch discussion series in preparation for the SNA Workshop **April 28** City of Antioch finds Brackish Water Desalination Project consistent with the Delta Plan	**May 8** Delta Science Program and State Water Contractors announce 2020 Delta Science Fellowship Program recipients  **May 11** Council issues a Notice of Preparation for the Draft PEIR for the Proposed Ecosystem Amendment **May 28** Council holds a PEIR Scoping Meeting on the Proposed Ecosystem Amendment	**June 12** Council forms an internal Delta Diversity Team to discuss cultural sensitivity, self-education, and civic action **June 15** Delta Science Program and California Sea Grant begin a four-part brown bag webinar series on social science for the Delta **June 25** Council appoints six new Delta ISB members to begin September 1 **June 25** Council endorses Public Participation Plan

2020 Highlights: Summer

July	August	September
July 13 The DPIIC issues the FY 2018-2019 Delta Crosscut Budget Report  **July 13** The DPIIC meets to discuss ecosystem-based management and science funding **July 28** Updates to the Delta Plan Performance Measures Dashboard are made	**August 12** California Supreme Court lets stand appellate decision upholding the Council's authority for sustainable management of the Delta **August 17** DWR finds Wings Landing Tidal Habitat Restoration Project consistent with the Delta Plan	**September 8-10** Delta Science Program co-hosts Sacramento River Drainage Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Workshop with the DWR and the CDFW **September 29** Delta Science Program holds the SAA Management Questions Workshop

2020 Highlights: Fall

October

October 5-6
The Delta ISB and the DPIIC host the SNA Workshop

October 14
Chair Tatayon joins the CA Water Data Consortium Steering Committee

October 26
The DPIIC meets to discuss the SNA Workshop and Delta Adapts

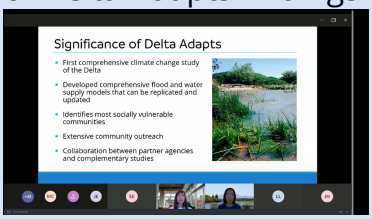
October 27-28
Delta Science Program co-hosts the Zooplankton Ecology Symposium with the IEP

October 26
Central Valley Flood Protection Board finds American River Watershed Common Features, Levee Project consistent with the Delta Plan

November

November 9
Delta Science Program and Reclamation announce a Delta Science Proposal Solicitation that awards up to $9 million for research projects that advance the 2017-2021 SAA priority areas

November 19
Council begins discussion of Delta Adapts findings



November 19
Delta Science Program completes Delta Science Tracker Design Workshops, in preparation for the platform's launch in 2021

December

December 2
Delta Science Program and California Sea Grant hold the first of two application webinars for the 2021 Delta Science Proposal Solicitation

December 10
DWR finds Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project consistent with the Delta Plan

People

Departures from the Council

We are stronger because of our board leadership, staff, and partners who are dedicated to furthering the coequal goals. This year, we thanked or welcomed the following individuals for their innumerous contributions to the Council, our Delta Science Program, and the Delta ISB.

Council

- Randy Fiorini
- Oscar Villegas
- Ken Weinberg

Executive Leadership

- Dr. John Callaway
- Keith Coolidge
- Jessica Law

Delta ISB

- Dr. Elizabeth Canuel
- Dr. Tracy Collier
- Dr. Richard Norgaard
- Dr. Vince Resh
- Dr. John Wiens

Council Staff

- Lynn Borja
- Bonnie Dickson
- Erika Giorgi
- Terry Ann James
- Ron Melcer

Stewardship Spotlight: Randy Fiorini

This year marked a decade of leadership from former Councilmember, Chair, and (most recently) Vice-Chair Randy Fiorini, whose breadth of California water and agriculture knowledge and exemplary leadership, stewardship, and mentorship have guided the Council since our early years. During his terms, Councilmember Fiorini was an instrumental figure: overseeing early development and implementation of the Delta Plan, establishing the DPIIC and growing its impact, and facilitating difficult but essential conversations among the many entities at work in the Delta region – all the while cultivating trust and building lasting friendships. Following the conclusion of his term, Councilmember Fiorini returned to his family and farming operation in Turlock, California, leaving behind a legacy of strong partnerships and science-based decision-making that will influence our work for years to come.

Arrivals at the Council

Appointments

Council

- Daniel Zingale

Delta ISB

- Dr. James Cloern
- Dr. Virginia Dale
- Dr. Tanya Heikkila
- Dr. Diane McKnight
- Dr. Robert Naiman
- Dr. Lisa Wainger

Executive Leadership

- Dr. Laurel Larsen

New Staff

- Dr. Chelsea Batavia
- Morgan Chow
- Henry DeBey
- Dr. Ted Flynn
- Matthew Gaither
- Geneva Hutcheson
- Graham Padayachee
- Julia Schmitz
- Lynn Takata

2020 State Fellows

- Cheryl Patel
- Byron Riggins
- Molly Williams

Superior Accomplishment Awardees

Accessibility

- Erika Giorgi
- Chris Hohn
- Rachael Klopfenstein
- Avery Livengood
- Kameron Montgomery
- Scott Navarro
- Lynn Takata
- Brittany Young
- Edmund Yu

Telework Transition Team

- John Caampued
- Brandon Chapin
- Chris Hohn
- Kameron Montgomery
- Christie Thomason
- Andy Voong
- Edmund Yu