

BAY-DELTA SOCIAL SCIENCE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CoP)

2025 CHARTER

Purpose of CoP:

The purpose of the Bay-Delta Social Science Community of Practice (CoP) is to bring together social science scholars, practitioners, and allies who are committed to advancing applicable and relevant research on the human dimensions of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta). This community aims to facilitate collaborative social science research and transdisciplinary investigation, provide opportunities for the social sciences to inform management and policy, and advance our understandings of the estuary as a complex social-ecological system.

Objectives:

- Grow the body of social science relevant to the Bay-Delta by conducting original data collection and investigation, developing and expanding conceptual frameworks linking the social and ecological dimensions of the estuary, and analyzing, reviewing and synthesizing existing data and relevant comparative data
- Foster collaborative and co-production approaches to social science across academia, agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations and communities across the Bay-Delta
- Communicate social science approaches, theories, tools, methods and results to public, scientific, and governmental audiences to build literacy for the social sciences and understanding of the human dimensions of the Bay-Delta
- Inform management and policy with best available social science, through frequent engagement and participation in decision-making venues across multiple scales in the Bay-Delta
- Provide mentorship and leadership opportunities for students and early career scholars and practitioners interested in working on the social sciences in this region
- Build the social capital needed to thoroughly integrate social sciences into a system that is heavily dominated by natural and biophysical scientists and approaches, ultimately striving for a balanced social-ecological systems approach to management and policy
- Expand partnerships with other estuarine systems around the U.S. and internationally to learn, share and build improved understandings of social science integration and interdisciplinary science-based natural resource management decision-making

Values:

- **Diversity and inclusion in network:** recruit, attract, and support members from diverse backgrounds, stages in career, geographies, disciplines and institutions
- **Equity in network opportunities:** distribute opportunities for leadership and intellectual and creative contributions between early, mid, and late-career network members
- **Boundary spanning:** aim to build relevant, salient and credible projects through co-production approaches; foster collaboration on projects by engaging members from across academia, government, non-governmental organizations and practitioners working in communities; prioritize accessibility in science communication and output products

Community membership and organization:

- **CoP Coordination** is led by the Delta Stewardship Council's Social Science Extension Specialist , Tara Pozzi (tpozzi@ucsd.edu), and Social Science Integration Team member Beck Barger (Beck.Barger@deltacouncil.ca.gov) ; coordinators initiate meetings, send agendas and meeting notes, and provide facilitation, logistical, and financial resource support as possible for CoP activities
- **Steering Committee** is made up of active CoP members who want to take on leadership in driving the CoP strategic focus and activities; steering committee met bi-monthly for the first year (fall 2021-fall 2022) and approximately quarterly thereafter; all meetings are remote; steering committee members take active roles in other CoP activities; a call for the steering committee will be made every year for new or renewed volunteers
- **Project work groups** will be established as relevant with focused objectives, defined resources, and desired outputs
- **Students/ Fellows/ Trainees** are highly encouraged to become involved and active members in the CoP by attending meetings, getting involved in activities and projects, and leveraging the network for mentors and resources to support their research and training. The CoP specifically aims to support trainees in the Delta Science Fellowship and Sea Grant State Policy and Research Fellowship programs who are interested in gaining experiences in the social sciences or interdisciplinary research approaches.
- **General membership** in the CoP is open to anyone interested in participating and committed to the CoP purpose and values; members can join the email listserv where all meetings, activities and initiatives are announced; all members are welcome to initiate projects or activities, start a project work group, or be active participants in any other CoP activities; current membership is cross-sectoral (academic, government agency, NGOs, CBOs, private sector), includes members at all stages of their careers, and is geographically dispersed across the U.S.