



INFORMATION ITEM

2022-2026 Science Action Agenda Update

Summary: The Delta Science Program has begun the process of updating the Science Action Agenda (SAA) for 2022-2026. The SAA is an instrumental document developed collaboratively *with* the Delta community *for* the Delta community that advances the vision of “One Delta, One Science” by identifying the science actions critical to addressing the most pressing management needs. The SAA helps to align strategies, programs, funding initiatives and research across the Delta to maximize synergies and partnerships and reduce inefficiencies.

Background

The Delta Science Program is in the process of updating the Science Action Agenda (SAA) for 2022-2026. As one of three core components of the Delta Science Strategy, the SAA is a science agenda for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that prioritizes and aligns science actions to inform management decisions, identifies major gaps in knowledge, promotes collaborative science, and builds science infrastructure. One of the key values of the 2017-2021 SAA is that it forms the foundation for the Delta Science Program’s focus for science funding, including for the Delta Science Fellowship Program, in addition to the 2019 and upcoming 2020/2021 Delta Science Proposal Solicitations.

The planning process to update the SAA is underway. Like the 2017-2021 SAA, the 2022-2026 SAA will be organized by management needs and associated science actions necessary for the science enterprise to be responsive to those needs. New for this iteration, the SAA will start with a broad list of management questions—as called for by the 2019 Delta Science Funding and Governance Initiative—to better ensure science investments are designed to inform policy and management and to improve coordination across the Delta science enterprise.

The update of the SAA is being conducted in close coordination with the Science Needs Assessment, led by the Delta Independent Science Board and the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee, which aims to identify the science efforts that need to begin now to meet large-scale, strategic management needs in the context of climate change and other rapid changes in the ecosystem.

2022-2026 SAA Development Process

Led by the Delta Science Program’s Collaborative Science and Peer Review unit, key steps in the process of updating the SAA are as follows.

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPECIFICS
SPRING 2020	Initial outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile initial list of management questions • Public review and refinement of management question screening and selection criteria
SUMMER 2020	Scoping of management questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply screening criteria and merge similar questions • Organize management questions by topic • Hold public workshop (September 29) to refine top management questions and publish list
FALL 2020-2021	SAA content creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply selection criteria to identify most relevant questions for SAA • Organize management questions into management needs and publish for public review • Hold public workshop to identify science actions • Release draft SAA for public reviews
WINTER 2022	SAA publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish final 2022-2026 SAA

Science Action Agenda:

<https://scienceactionagenda.deltacouncil.ca.gov/>

Delta Science Strategy:

<https://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/delta-science-strategy>

2019 Delta Science Funding and Governance Initiative:

<https://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/dpiic/meeting-materials/2020-03-03-final-dsfgi.pdf>

Management Questions

The initial list of questions was compiled through discussions with nearly 30 collaborative groups (e.g., Interagency Ecological Program), multiple document reviews (e.g., San Francisco Estuary Blueprint), and an online survey. Since March 2020, managers, scientists, and stakeholders submitted over 1,200 management questions, which Delta Science Program staff are currently working to organize, distill, and review. The list of management questions developed through this transparent process will be refined during a virtual public workshop on September 29, 2020. A subset of the top management questions will be selected for incorporation into the SAA. Registration for the workshop is now open:

Management Questions:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfibR8iLjN59kd23i1Thrxkb2sQs6Nh1nbK13_Hbm-HJM9JOQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda Information Sheet

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