



INFORMATION ITEM

Lead Scientist Report

Summary

The Delta Stewardship Council's (Council) Delta Science Program is pleased to announce that the third iteration of the Delta Science Plan is now available. The *2026 Delta Science Plan: Strengthening Science in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta* is structured around four "grand challenges" facing the Delta and is a how-to guide for more collaborative and coordinated science in the region. There are numerous science conferences and summits coming up this fall that involve Council staff participation. These include the Restore America's Estuaries 2026 conference, the California Council on Science and Technology and California Natural Resources Agency Science Day, the inaugural Resilient California Summit, and the flagship Bay-Delta Science Conference co-hosted by the Council and US Geological Survey.

Delta Science Program Activities

Final 2026 Delta Science Plan released

At its May 2026 public meeting, the Council endorsed and authorized the finalization of the draft 2026 Delta Science Plan. Now, we are excited to share that the final *2026 Delta Science Plan: Strengthening Science in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta* is available. Following years of development and extensive engagement with the Delta science community, this long-anticipated third iteration is the Delta's "how to" guide for a more collaborative and coordinated approach to how science is done and used in the region. The 2026 Delta Science Plan comprises 24 actions and eight resources structured around four grand challenges facing the Delta: anticipating new conditions, rapid environmental change, decentralized flows of information, and siloed decision-making. The Council's Delta Science Program will share more about the 2026 Delta Science Plan at the Bay-Delta Science

Conference in September. This will include a presentation to the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee with a potential request for endorsement.

On Your Radar

There are numerous conferences and events coming up this fall that are of interest to the Delta science and management community. Council staff are participating in many ways, including as event organizers, as session chairs and moderators, and as presenters at oral, poster, and art sessions.

Restore America's Estuaries 2026 Coastal & Estuarine Summit

September 22–25, San Francisco (Marriott Marquis)

- National conference taking place this year in San Francisco
- Focused on coastal restoration and how to revitalize coastal resources and communities
- Council staff are presenting on “California’s Resilient Estuaries”
- Learn more about the conference here:
<https://plus.mcievents.com/event/rae2026/summary>

Bay-Delta Science Conference, September 28–30

September 28–30, Sacramento (SAFE Credit Union Convention Center)

- Biennial science conference co-hosted by the Council and US Geological Survey
- A venue to share research to inform management of the Bay-Delta, with focus areas this year including science communication and policymaking
- Numerous presentations by Council staff on topics including adaptive management, collaborative modeling, managing subsidence, the Delta Plan, and invasive aquatic vegetation
- See here for the program:
<https://www.baydeltascienceconference.com/conference/schedule>
- Learn more about the conference here:
<https://www.baydeltascienceconference.com/>

California Council on Science & Technology and the California Natural Resources Agency present Science Day, October 5–6
October 5–6, Sacramento (CNRA Building)

- Annual event at the California Natural Resources Agency headquarters connecting California scientists with policymakers
- Symposium-style panels, breakouts, and posters aimed at driving science-informed policy solutions
- Council staff have submitted abstracts to present posters on the Delta Science Plan, facilitating independent peer review, and the impact of research funding
- Learn more about the event here: <https://ccst.us/scienceday/>

Resilient California Summit, October 20–22

October 20–22, Sacramento (SAFE Credit Union Convention Center)

- Inaugural summit focused on policies, partnerships, and practices needed to build resilience to climate change in California
- Mix of interactive sessions aimed at sparking collaboration, ideas, and tool sharing
- Council staff have partnered with staff from the Delta Conservancy and Delta Protection Commission to submit abstracts for presentations on Delta climate resilience
- Learn more about the summit here: <https://resilientcaliforniasummit.org/>

By the Numbers

Science Program staff will summarize current numbers related to Delta water and environmental management. The summary figures (Attachment 1) will inform the Council of recent counts, measurements, and monitoring data driving water and environmental management issues.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: By the Numbers

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A recording of the presentation will be available on the Delta Council's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/@DeltaCouncil>.