

DEC 2022

Delta Stewardship Council Environmental Justice Work



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

Community Events

- Restore the Delta's Where the Future Flows: Next Generation Visioning for the Delta
- Filipino American History Month (FAHM Fest)
- Delta Stewardship Council's Science for Communities
- Delta Protection Commission's Delta Heritage Forum

The screenshot shows a Google Slides presentation with a header containing several participant names: Annie Merritt, Morgan Chou, Eva Pitts, Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, Mariah Looney (she/her), and Danielle Frank. The slide content includes:

- Objectives of EJ Issue Paper**
- Build a network** of community leaders and organizations to inform and support the Council's EJ work;
- Identify environmental justice issues** impacting communities in and around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; and
- Identify options** to address those issues.

The screenshot shows an interactive 'EJ Input Board' interface. It features a blue header with the title 'Where the Future Flows: Next Generation Visioning for the Delta' and 'EJ Input Board'. The interface is divided into several sections:

- STEP 1:** Think and reflect on one (or more) of the following questions. Below this are three green sticky notes with questions: 'What issues presented do you find more directly impacts your community? And/or there any issues that were not addressed, but should be included?', 'What's a positive change that your environment has experienced?', and 'What would you like to see your state or local government prioritize to improve your community? This could include a variety of actions including policies, laws, funding, etc.'
- STEP 2:** Choose a question to answer. Pick a corresponding colored sticky note to answer the question and include your name for the raffle. To add new sticky notes, right click and select 'duplicate'.
- STEP 3:** Once the question is answered stick it in on the Sticky Note Canvas below; then choose another question to answer. The more you answer, the more entries into the raffle to answer!
- Sticky Note Canvas:** A grid of colored sticky notes (green, blue, yellow) where users place their answers. Several sticky notes are visible with text such as: 'Inputting modernized and efficient water technologies & policies that rely less on the Delta and in turn improving regional water resiliency. MacKenzie Owens', 'Letting is making the SJ River levees higher and steeper but failing to enlarge the flood plain of Paradise Cut to act as a bypass for flood water to enter the delta without flooding Manteca, Lathrop, and South Stockton. They are turning the River into a steep and high-walled canal whereby flooding will be catastrophic. What can we do?', 'I live in Sacramento and there are a number of unhoused people who were clearly struggling with the recent heat waves Malcolm Flint.', and 'Accessibility of waterways for Delta communities for individuals with disabilities'.



Environmental Justice: The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Types of Justice

Representational Justice: Impacted communities are represented in the policy process

Procedural Justice: A fair and transparent planning and policy process

Distributive Justice: Environmental issues fairly benefit and impact all communities

EJ Issues in the Delta Identified by Stakeholders

Representational Justice	Procedural Justice	Distributive Justice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delta towns/ communities Disadvantaged communities (DACs) EJ communities Terminology Tribal sovereignty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language access Meaningful involvement Meeting support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change impacts Cultural resources Drinking water supply Flood risk Food access Harmful algal blooms Human right to water Job access Levee investments Public health Subsistence fishing Tribal cultural resources Urban development Water affordability Water quality



Scan this QR code to learn more about the Council's EJ initiative.

This has become agencies telling the Tribes what they intend to do, but not providing opportunity for free and prior informed consent to the actions.

Tribal and Indigenous Justice

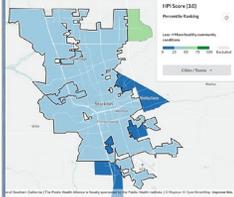
Tribal and Indigenous Justice deals with the three categories of justice:

- Recognition: Failure to recognize Tribal sovereignty and repression of Tribal culture led to reduced health and well being in Indigenous communities
- Procedural: Lack of meaningful consultation and exclusion from policy processes
- Distributive: Indigenous communities exposed to contaminated water and other environmental hazards



Park and Recreation Access

- Minority and low-income communities are less likely to have access to parks and recreation areas
- Entrance and parking fees, lack of transportation limit the access to these areas
- Lack of availability of green and open spaces can impact a person's health



Climate Change

A distributive justice issue that impacts...

- Unhoused communities: Higher exposure to heat and wildfires, colder temperatures, and air quality
- Low-Income: Less likely to have AC and air filters
- Disability, youth, and elderly: Trouble evacuating
- Low-Income Minorities: Do not have secondary places to stay during evacuations

Other uneven impacts of climate change include:

- Adequate preparedness and response to evacuations for floods, fires, droughts, and increased temperature
- Wildfire smoke impacts in poor air quality communities

Examples of EJ in the Delta

Based on interviews with EJ organizations in and around the Delta and an analysis of past public comments received by the DSC in the last 10 years

Water

- Water Supply:**
 - Water management decisions exclude Tribal and disadvantaged communities
 - Unequal amount of water and uneven distribution of its benefits
 - Delta communities experience insufficient flows and low water supply
- Water Quality:**
 - Lack of freshwater flows and pollution has contaminated the water and created harmful algal blooms (HABS)
 - HABS are linked to poor groundwater and can worsen air quality
- Water Affordability:**
 - Many Delta communities cannot afford their monthly water bills or adequate water treatments to address the issue of poor water quality

Human Right to Water violations in the Delta



Across 5 Delta counties, 99 Community Water Systems, serving population of 1.8M people are falling, at risk or potentially at risk of failing HCRW standards

- 13 systems (89,000 people) falling
- 39 systems (17,000 people) at risk of failing
- 41 systems (62,000 people) potential at risk of failing

We need more oversight where housing development is happening [...] There's a one lane road in and out and lots of vulnerable folks... elderly, many without a personal vehicle. These are the same people who are going to flood and then face redevelopment or clean up costs.

Pollution,

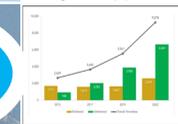
Public Health, and Flooding

- Flooding is a public health issue as polluted floodwater creates high pollution exposure in agriculture, water quality, and air quality
- The Delta has been polluted through agricultural pesticides and industrial waste
- Low-income communities are at a higher risk of flood exposure due to these populations being located near levees

Food Insecurity and Housing

- Less than 20% of public restrooms available to the unhoused, which leads to human waste in public waterways
- The unhoused population lack of refrigeration has impacts on food security
- Food insecurity impacts Indigenous communities, low-income, the unhoused, and minority communities
- Food insecurity leads to poor nutrition that can have more severe health impacts

Increasing unhoused population in Sacramento



• Early 2022 survey estimated 8,178 individuals experiencing homelessness throughout Sacramento County
 • 82% increase in nightly homelessness since the last survey count in 2019
 • Highest estimate of need of unhoused individuals per capita in Sacramento County

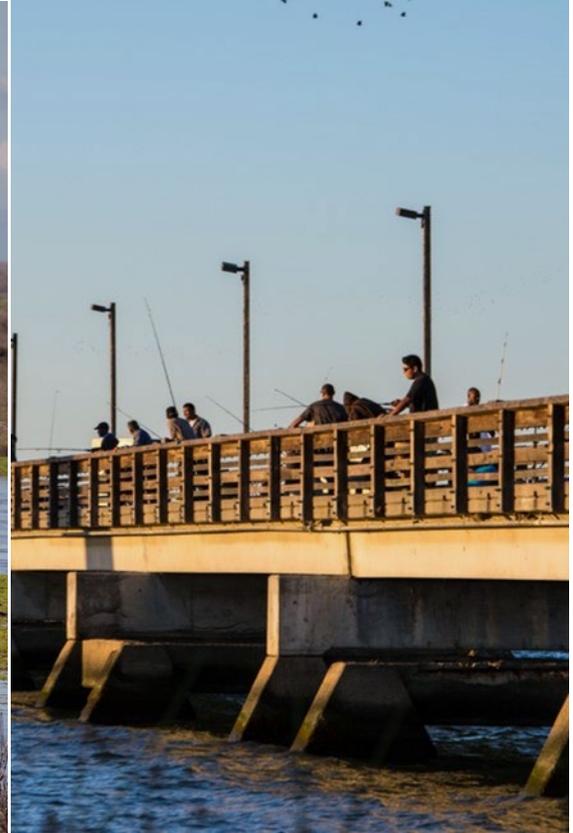
...[We] send water away from the Delta, while communities in the Delta...[have] water barely above acceptable standards for drinking.

What are your ideas on some possible solutions?

- How do environmental issues impact your everyday life?
- What other issues are you facing that stop you from prioritizing environmental issues?
- Which of the issues above do you find most directly impacts your community?
- Are there any issues that were not addressed, but should be included?
- What's a positive change you have seen in your environment?
- What would you like to see your state or local government prioritize to improve your community?
- What policies should be implemented to create the most change for your community?

Share your thoughts!

How can we build a more healthy & just Delta?



Learn more at: <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/environmental-justice>

Visit our booth or breakout room during the break:

<https://app.mural.co/t/practice9612/m/practice9612/1662655984368/797d0b2cd11bd4809ec2f90d77d280f6cb65327a?sender=u3084892c0dbb7c5436241351>

Follow up with us over email: environmentaljustice@deltacouncil.ca.gov



Next Steps and Timeline

FALL 2022

- Develop recommendations based on interview data and Expert Group
- Create robust public outreach plan for release of draft issue paper

WINTER 2023

- Drafting of issue paper in collaboration with Expert Group
- Release of public review draft

SPRING 2023

- Finalize issue paper, Council consideration of options

The Environmental Justice Expert Group is also continuing to meet.

Thank you

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Deltacouncil.ca.gov



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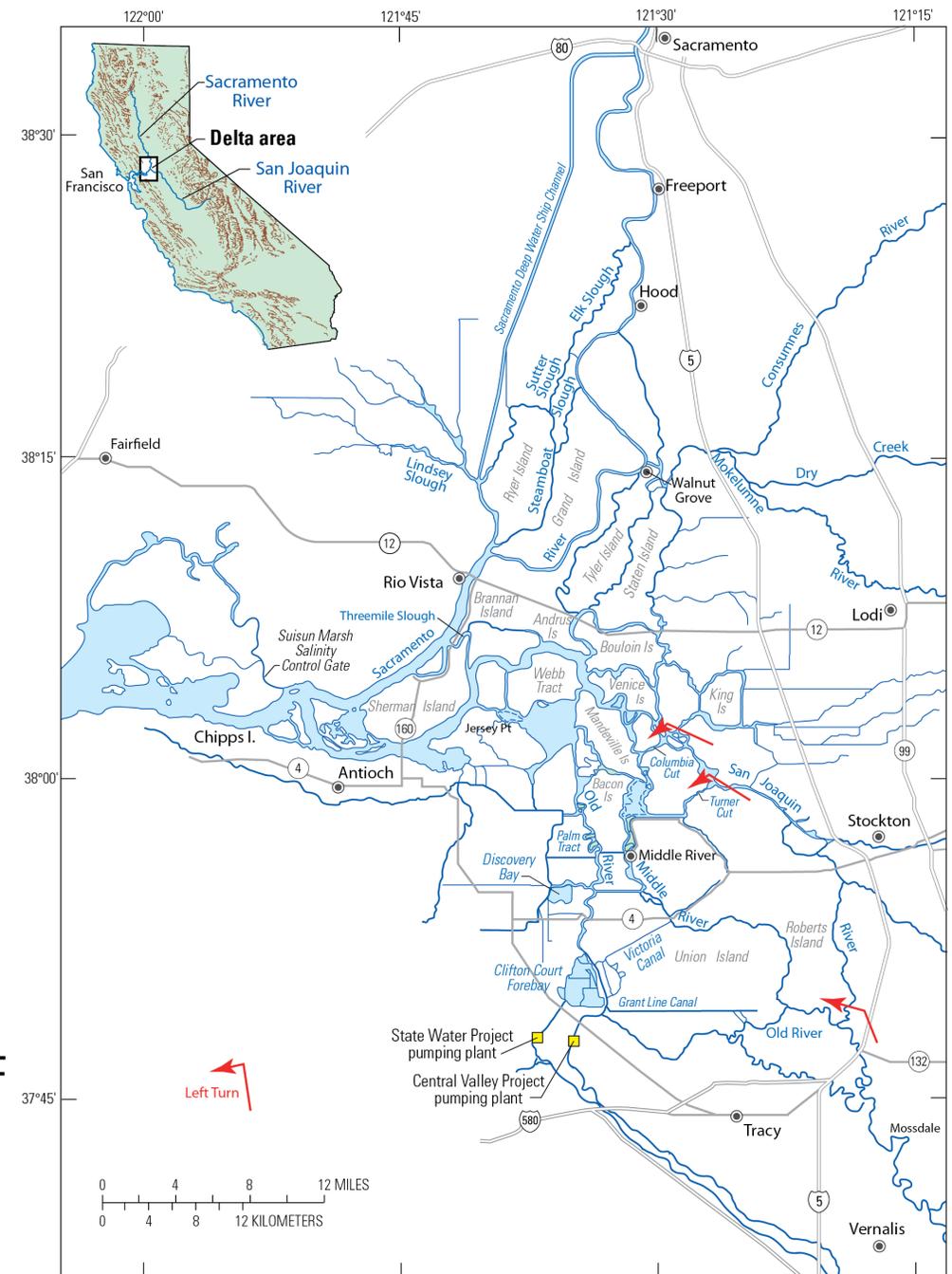
[Delta Stewardship Council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Delta-Stewardship-Council)



[@delastewardshipcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/delastewardshipcouncil)

Importance of the Delta

- **Home to ~600,000 people**
 - Rural & small-town communities
 - Metropolitan areas of West Sacramento, Stockton, Pittsburg, Antioch, Oakley
- **Largest estuary on American west coast**
 - Habitat for hundreds of fish and bird species
 - Supports livelihoods, cultural values, ecosystem services
- **Water hub for California**
 - Water flows out of Sierra Nevada mountains through Delta and pumped to Southern CA and SJ Valley or out through SF Bay
 - 2/3 of Californians & millions of acres of farmland rely on water from Delta



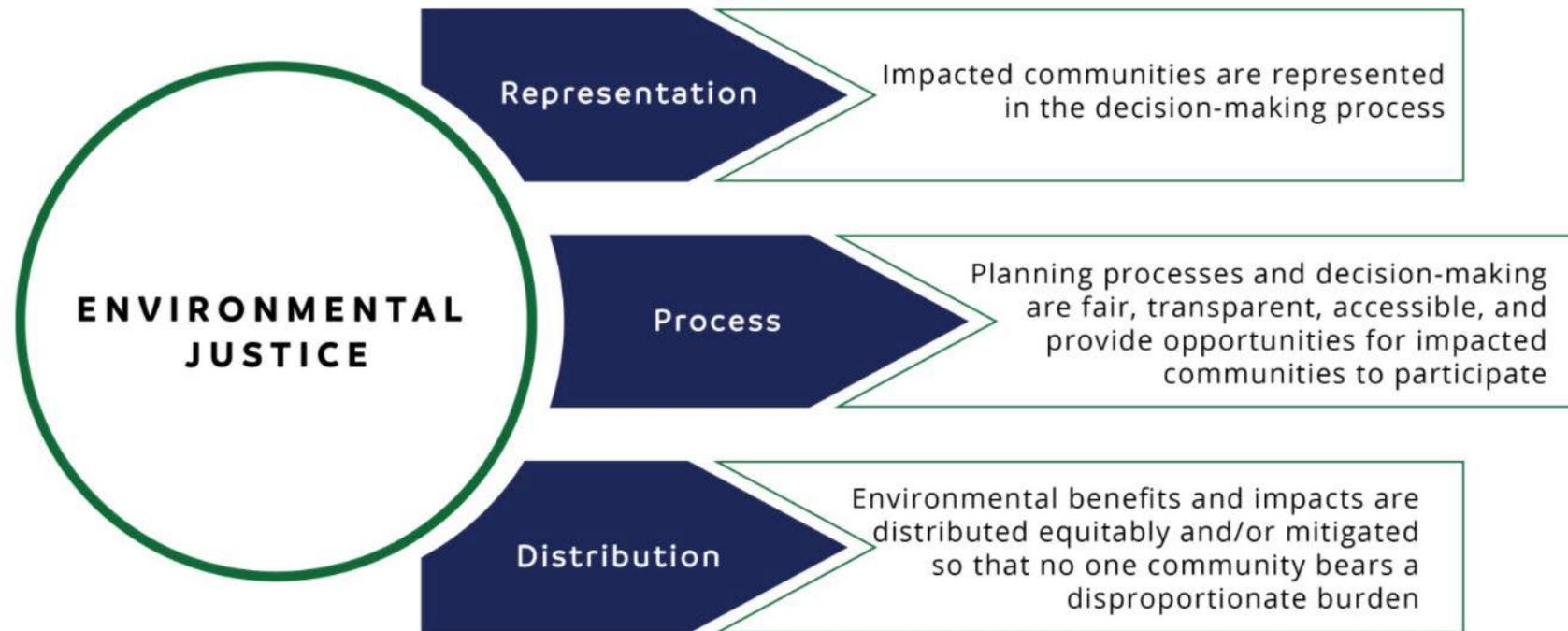
Delta Stewardship Council Overview

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 created a new **CA state agency**, the Delta Stewardship Council, charged it with providing direction for the long-term future and management of the Delta and achieving the **coequal goals**: A long-term reliable water supply and protection and restoration of the ecosystem



Environmental Justice (EJ)

- The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. (Gov. Code, § 65040.12, subd. (e)).



Objectives of EJ Issue Paper



Build a network of community leaders and organizations to inform and support the Council's EJ work;



Identify environmental justice issues impacting communities in and around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; and



Identify options to address those issues.

EJ issues are wide-reaching and very interrelated

“Everything is **connected**. When you change one thing, it will change another. We must use that **intersection** to build [broader] community with groups that are **not explicitly focused on the issue at hand.**”

