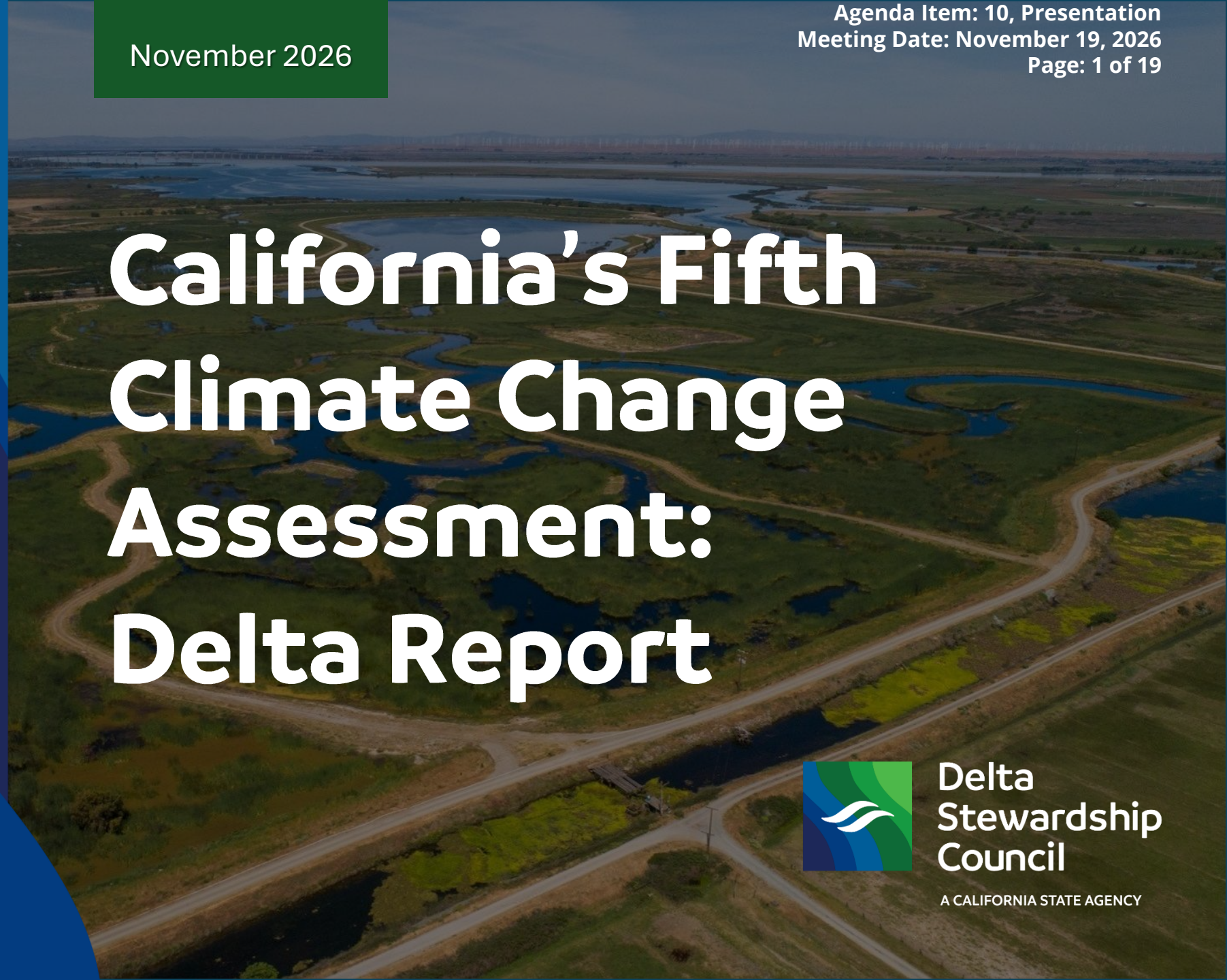
November 2026

# California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment: Delta Report



Delta Stewardship Council
A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

# Presentation outline

- Elea (Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation):
  - What is the Fifth Climate Change Assessment?
- Annika (Delta Stewardship Council):
  - Delta report overview
    - Statewide significance of climate impacts in the Delta
    - Climate vulnerability
    - Social vulnerability
    - Investment and governance needs
- **Main takeaway:** This report is a "one-stop-shop" for understanding climate impacts and adaptation needs in the Delta!

# California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment

CALIFORNIA'S FIFTH
**CLIMATE CHANGE**
ASSESSMENT



# What are California Climate Change Assessments?




California's Climate Assessment is a multi-year research effort with government, academic, tribal, and community partners to generate new data, original research, and syntheses on the ways climate change is projected to impact California's diverse communities.



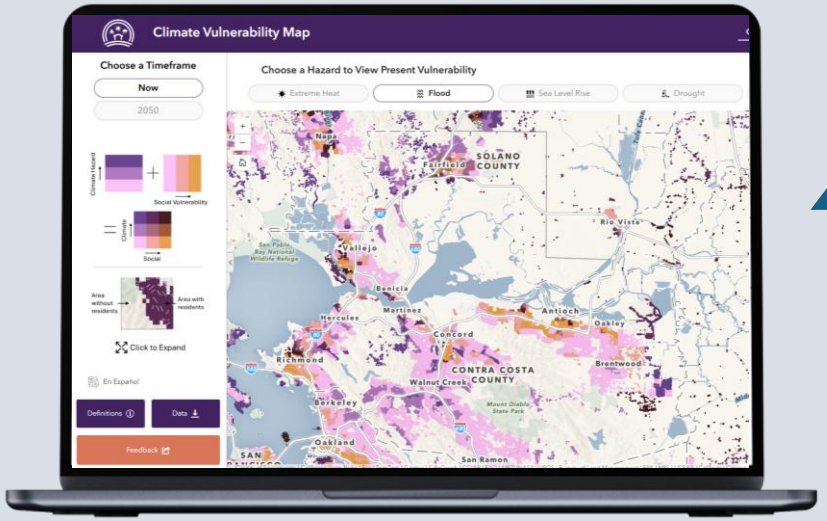

*A suite of research and tools that report the future impacts of climate change to understand the risks to vulnerable communities and inform adaptation action.*

## Key Focus Areas

- Climate Data & Scenarios
- Regional and Statewide Topical Reports
- Tribal Research Program
- Energy Reports
- State Agency Reports
- Core Climate Reports

CA Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

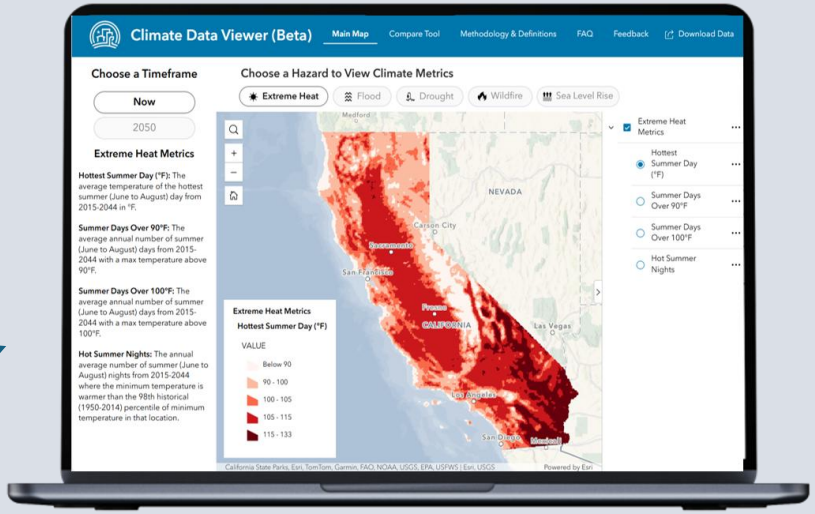
# Climate Data Resources




Vulnerable Communities Platform

Cal-Adapt: ANALYTICS ENGINE

Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine

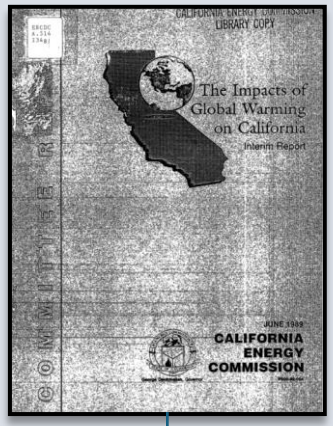



Climate Data Viewer

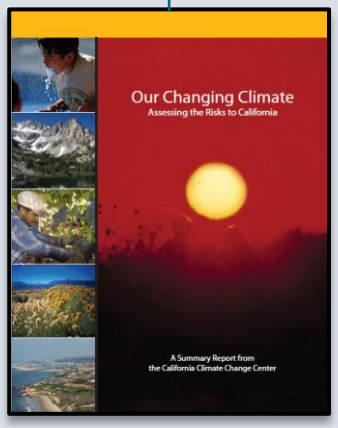
# California's Climate Change Assessments

CALIFORNIA'S CLIMATE CHANGE ASSESSMENT

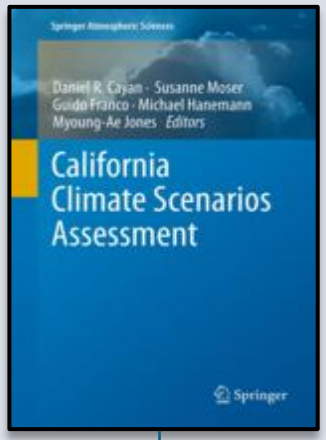




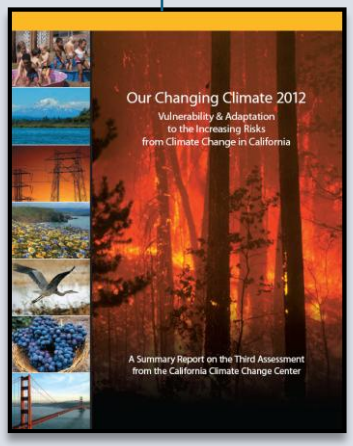

1989




2006




2009




2012



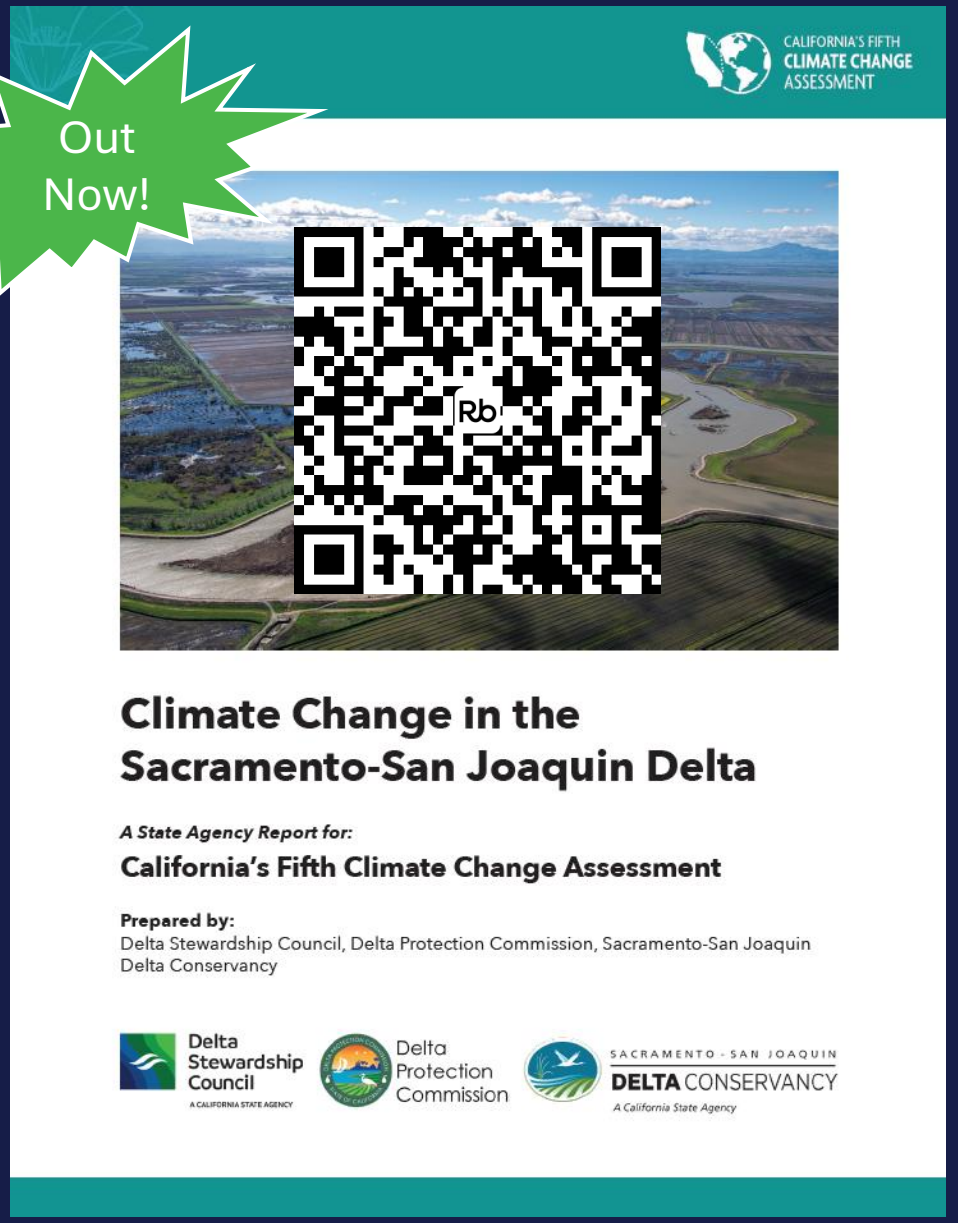

2018

2026

CALIFORNIA'S FIFTH CLIMATE CHANGE ASSESSMENT

# The Delta Report

Out Now!



# Why a Delta report?

- The heart of California's water supply system
- Provides water to approximately two-thirds of Californians and one-third of its farmland
- Direct more attention and resources to the Delta




*Image source: Delta Stewardship Council*

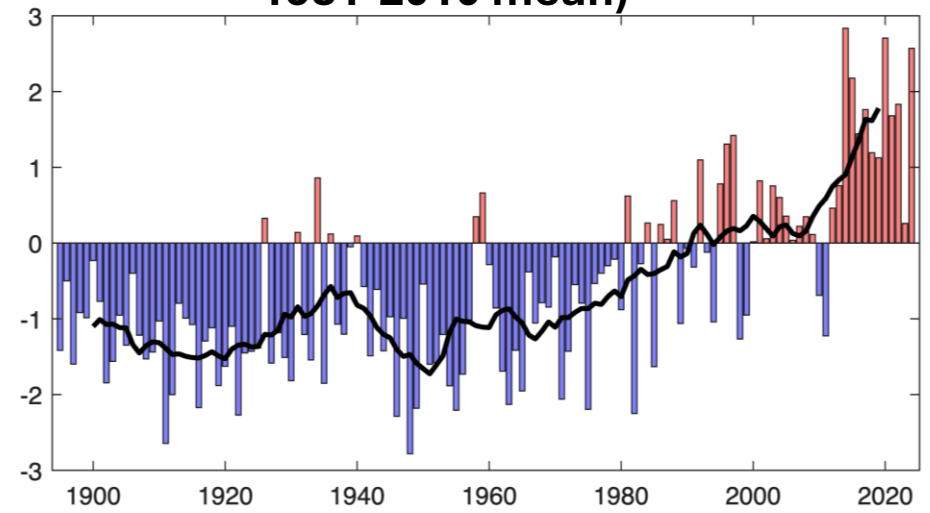
# What are the main takeaways?

1. The Delta's vulnerability to climate change has **statewide implications**
2. The Delta is one of the **most climate vulnerable regions** of the state
3. Certain Delta communities will be **disproportionately affected** by climate change
4. The Delta faces **chronic underinvestment** relative to the need

# New projections

- By late-century, average **annual temperatures** in the Delta are expected to be 3.5 to 7.5°F higher.
- Annual **average precipitation** in the Delta is expected to increase slightly (by 8% by late-century).
- **Variability of precipitation** is expected to increase, with more extremely wet and dry years occurring under all scenarios.

**Annual Mean Temperature (°F departure from 1981-2010 mean)**




**Annual Mean Precipitation (% departure from 1981-2010 mean)**

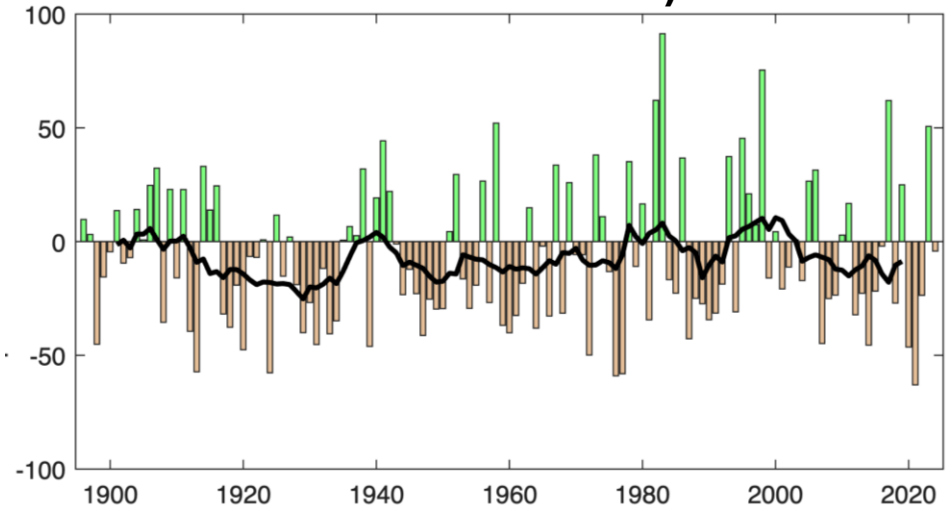



*Image source: Abatzoglou, 2025.*

# Sea level rise and flooding

- Relative sea level rise is higher in parts of the Delta than in San Francisco Bay or along the coast
- The Delta's unique position and conditions make it especially flood-prone

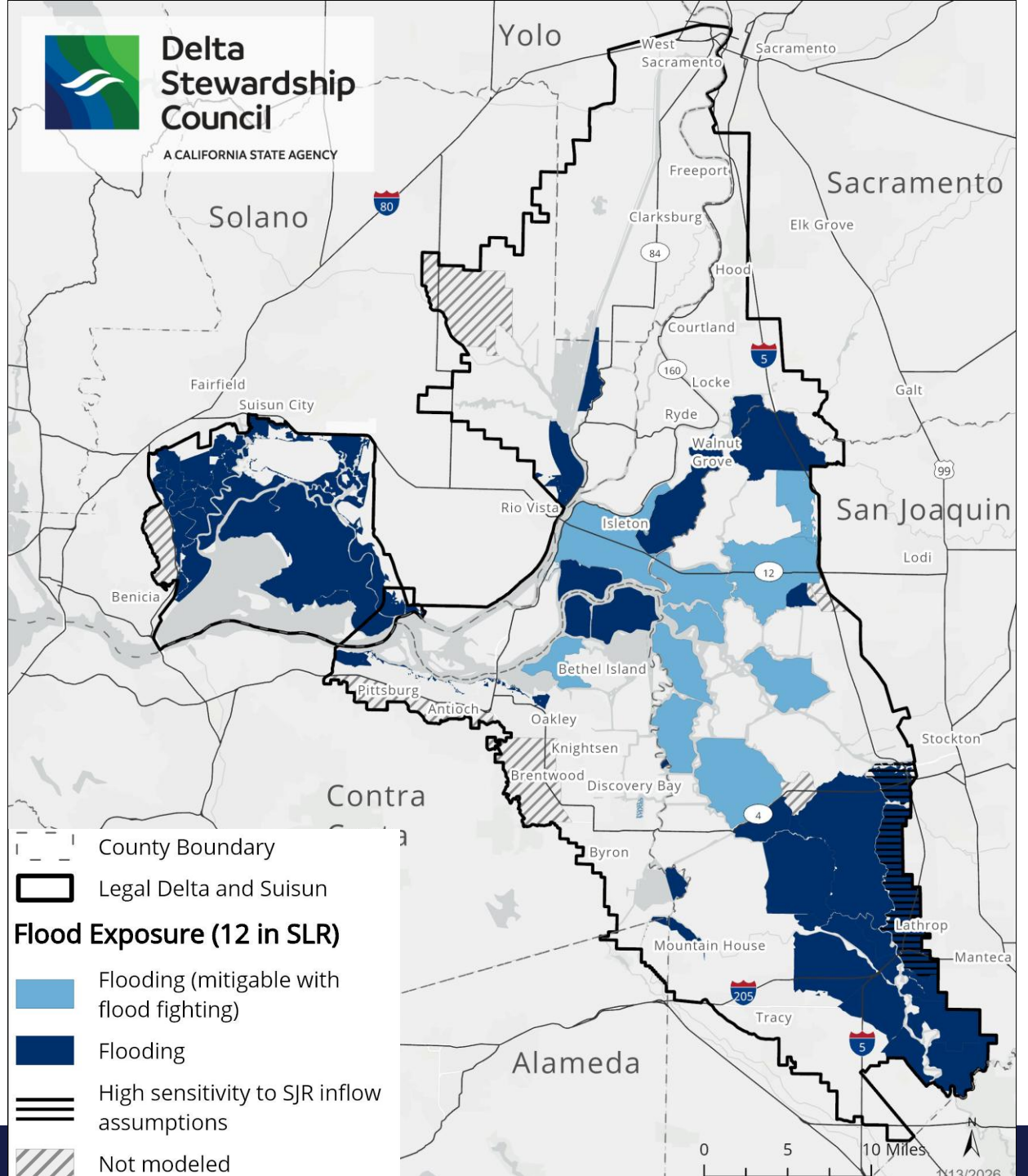



*Image source: Delta Stewardship Council*

# Socially vulnerable communities in the Delta

- Climate change will disproportionately affect certain Delta communities.
- The most vulnerable communities are in Stockton, Antioch, Pittsburg, West Sacramento, Sacramento, and Tracy

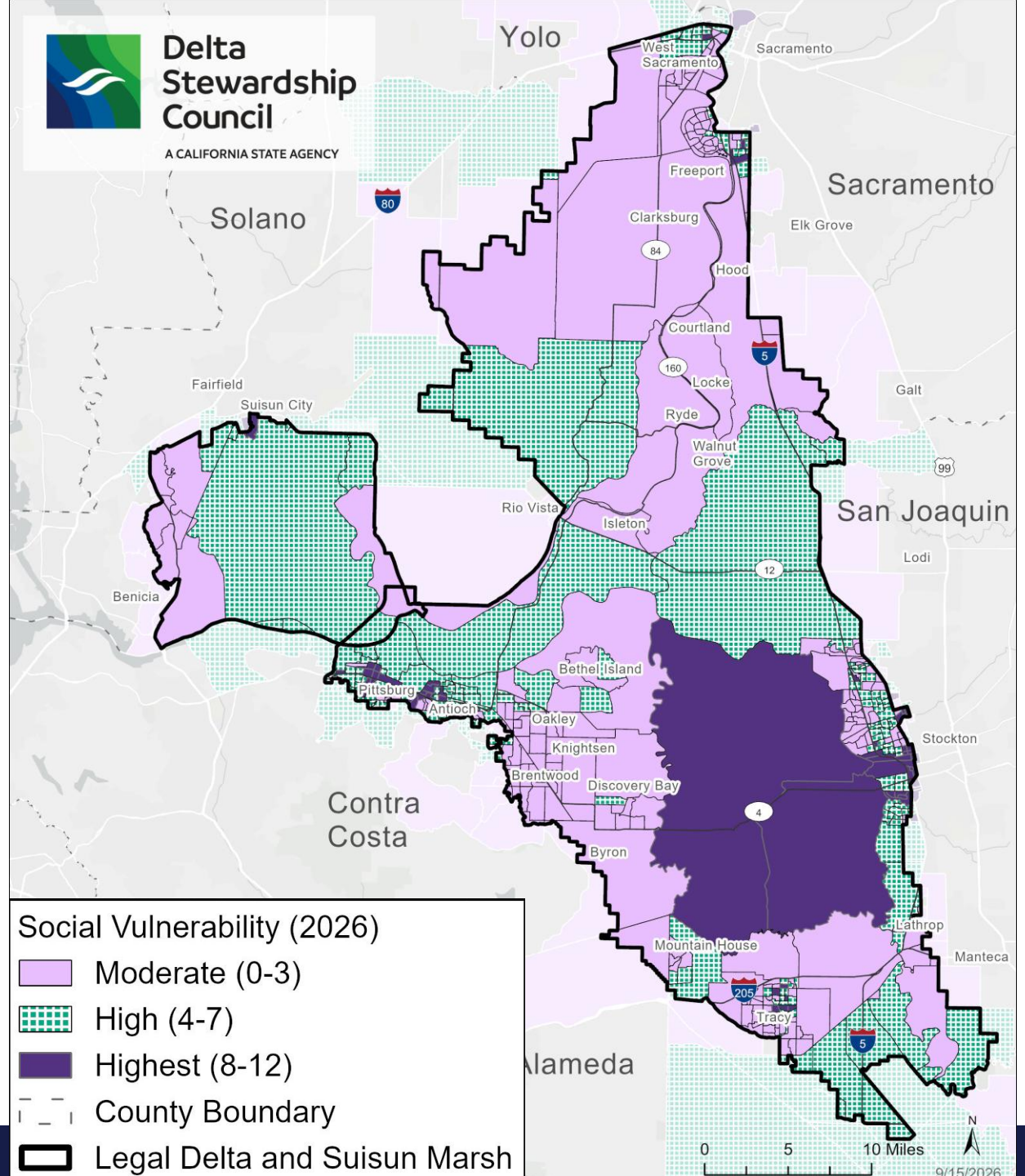
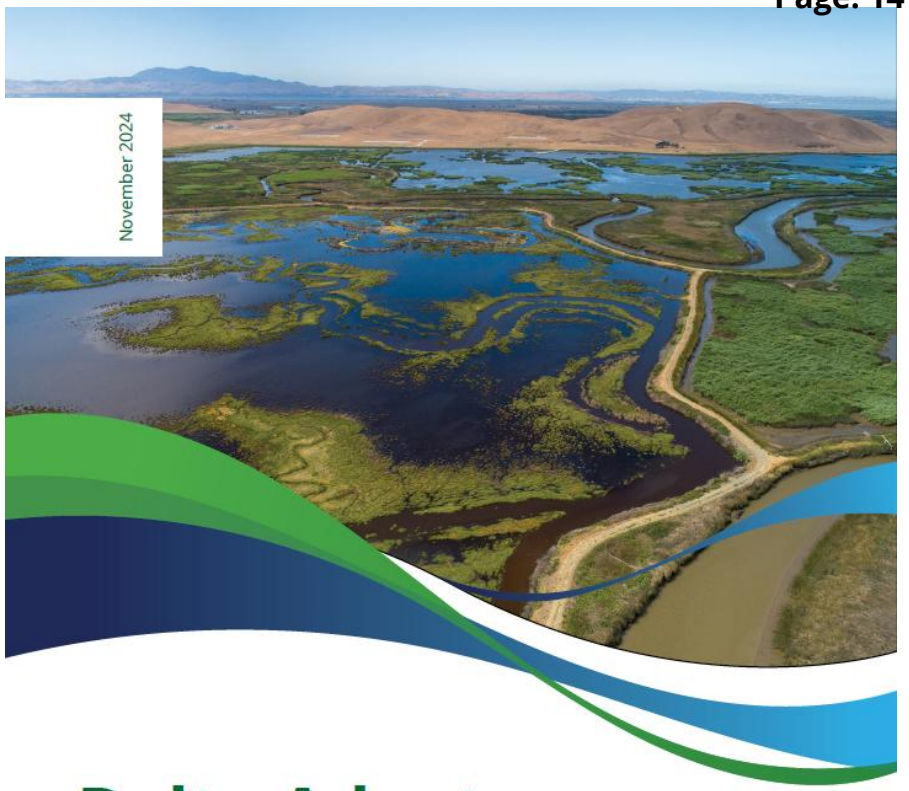



*Image source: Delta Stewardship Council*

# Adapting the Delta to a changing climate

- The report incorporates adaptation strategies from our Adaptation Plan, organized into four focus areas:
  - Flood risk reduction
  - Ecosystem
  - Agriculture
  - Water supply reliability
- Investment needs:
  - $3.2-3.3 billion to adapt our levees
  - $2.5-5.2 billion for ecosystems



# What Comes Next

# Creating a Delta Climate Adaptation Team

- Held a kickoff in June 2026
- Hosted a webinar earlier this week on Proposition 4 funding available in the Delta
- More coming soon in 2027

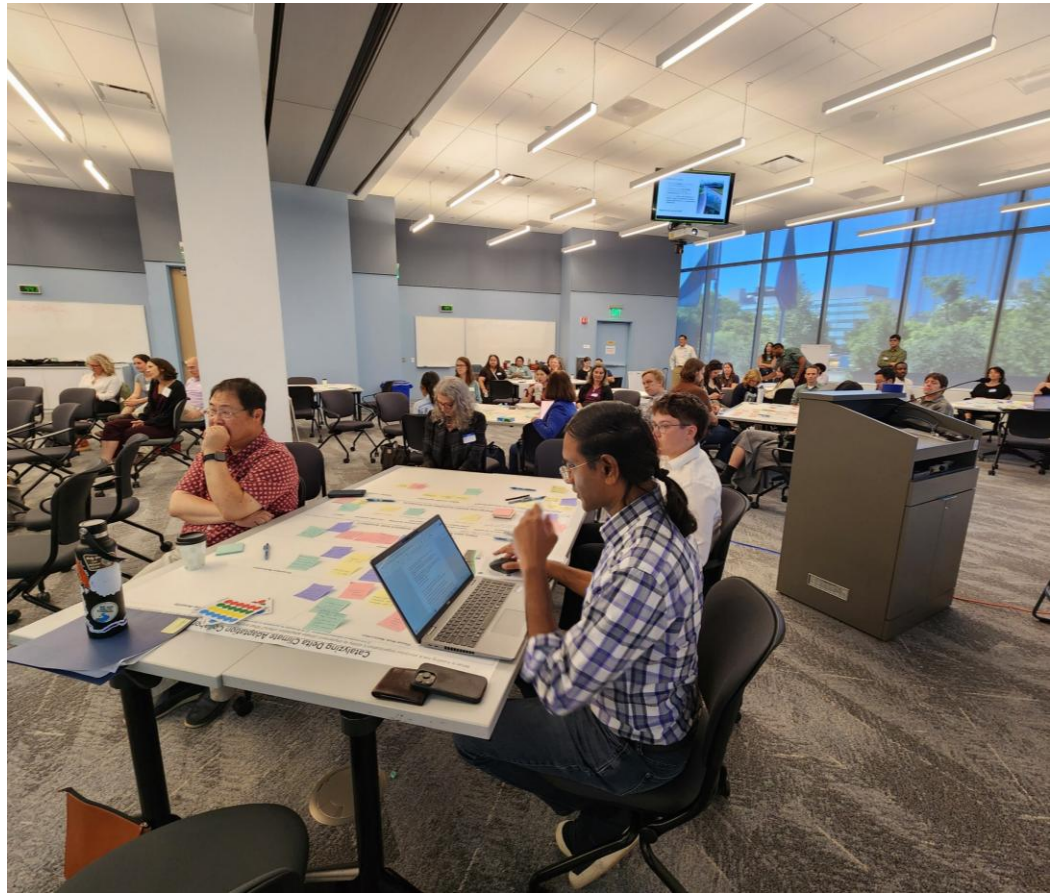


*Image source: Delta Stewardship Council*

# Sharing the Delta report far and wide

- Presented at the **Bay-Delta Science Conference**
- Hosted a Delta panel with the Conservancy and Commission at the **Resilient California Summit**
- Shared on social media and featured in Maven's!







*Image source: Delta Stewardship Council*

# Questions?

# Thank you

## Email us at climatechange@deltacouncil.ca.gov

Visit the CA Climate Assessment Website

Visit the Council's Delta Adapts webpage for more information: **deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/climate-change**

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