



A Social Science Strategy for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Reference Sheet

March 2020

A Report from the Delta Social Science Task Force (Task Force)

What was the Task Force created to do?

The independent Task Force was charged by the Delta Science Program to develop a strategy for strengthening and integrating social sciences into the science, management, and policy landscape of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Task Force published its Draft Strategy in December 2019 for public comment.

What is social science?

“In relation to the Delta, social science disciplines seek to understand social processes, social phenomena, or individual human attributes that are critical to the effectiveness of management decisions, including those on environmental restoration...” (pg. 15).

Why do we need social science in the Delta?

The social sciences can help in understanding how people interact with the Delta, how the Delta impacts their well-being, and how their actions impact the Delta environment – all of which contribute insight into protecting and restoring the Delta.



Findings and Recommendations

Finding 1: There is a lack of social science capacity and investment

- R1. Invest in building an external network of social scientists.
- R2. Invest in internal social science capacity.
- R3. Invest in a broad array of social science studies.

Finding 2: Research activities are ongoing, but there is no long-term vision for social science integration

- R4. Invest in a collaborative process to develop a conceptual framework for the Delta that includes social science.
- R5. Invest in the collaborative development of social and natural indicators for the Delta Ecosystem.
- R6. Develop a plan for integrating social science into the Delta science enterprise.

Finding 3: Social science does not currently inform adaptive management structures or learning processes

- R7. Continuously evaluate institutional and cultural barriers to learning.
- R8. Evaluate and reduce institutional factors that limit adaptation.

Next steps for the Task Force

After collecting and implementing feedback on its draft strategy, the Task Force expects to publish its final strategy in March 2020. Additional details are available at deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/delta-social-science-task-force.