

Contaminants Monitoring Review: Revised Draft Interview Questions

11/10/2025

Delta Independent Science Board

The Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) is proposing a review to assess current contaminant monitoring programs in the Delta with a focus on data collection, synthesis, interpretation, and emerging scientific methodology. The review will discuss aspects of the monitoring programs that are presently effective and aspects that would benefit from further consideration (see [prospectus](#)). Part 1 of the review will consist of a series of interviews with experts involved in water quality regulation, contaminant monitoring, and risk assessment in the Delta.

The Delta ISB aims to gain an understanding of the regulatory landscape driving contaminant monitoring and the thresholds or triggers prompting management action. In addition, expert opinions will be obtained on approaches and design of current programs, how data are managed, synthesized and communicated, and on key gaps and barriers that may exist.

Below are the draft interview questions that have been revised based off the discussion at the Delta ISB's [October 22 meeting](#).

Review Goal	Interview Questions
Introduction	1. Do you need any additional background on what we do and the current review? 2. Who are you and what do you do currently (or in the past) with regard to contaminants monitoring in the Delta? 3. Which Regulatory requirements and laws apply to your work? 4. Which contaminant monitoring programs are you involved in or are important for your work?

Review Goal	Interview Questions
	5. What are the current sources of funding for your monitoring program?
1A. Assess current contaminant monitoring programs to determine the strengths and areas for improvement	6. *Are there any important data or information gaps in current monitoring? 7. *Do you see any ways to improve contaminant monitoring?
1B. How can the data provide the information needed by managers to make informed decisions regarding the ecological risk of contaminants.	8. How does your agency use contaminant monitoring data? 9. How are the monitoring data managed, synthesized, and communicated? 10. *Do you think that the monitoring data you work with or have access to is adequately informing decisions about ecological risk of contaminants? a. Is the timing of when monitoring data are available or when QA/QC is completed a challenge for informing decisions? 11. What are the management decisions or regulations that are informed by the data? 12. Do you think that the monitoring data you work with or have access to is adequate to satisfy the regulatory requirements?
2. Understand how monitoring informs decision making, i.e. how monitoring data are used in designing and taking management actions.	13. *Are there additional data needs that will inform management decisions? 14. What challenges do you see for decision makers to effectively use

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	monitoring data, particularly for taking key management actions on ecological risks, on contaminants in the Delta?
3. Review promising advanced and emerging methods and approaches that are candidates for advancing the current monitoring programs.	15. *What promising or emerging methods do you consider worth examining? 16. Do you have suggestions regarding the methodology applied to contaminant monitoring and/or risk assessment?
Conclusion	17. Who else should we interview?

*denotes priority questions