



Delta Science Program

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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November 19, 2025

Delta Independent Science Board
715 P Street, 15-300
Sacramento, CA 95822

Delivered via email: disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov

RE: Request for review of draft 2026 Delta Science Plan

Dear Members of the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB):

The Delta Science Program would like to formally request a review of the draft 2026 Delta Science Plan. The Delta Science Plan, produced by the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Science Program, provides the vision, principles, and approaches for conducting, coordinating, and communicating science in the Delta. Developed through extensive engagement with the Delta science community, the Delta Science Plan represents a shared commitment to improving how science is done and used in the region.

The draft 2026 Delta Science Plan includes 24 Actions that collectively strive to tackle the four "grand challenges" in Delta science, detailed within the draft. Each Action features an associated example (referred to as "Current Momentum") to showcase existing or planned initiatives that are making progress in addressing the Action. The draft 2026 Delta Science Plan also includes two Appendices and eight Resources that provide practical and useful information to the Delta science community. Here, we define the Delta science community as any entity actively participating in science and management actions in the Delta, including federal, state, and local agency scientists, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academic researchers, and interested members of the public.

Regarding Draft 2026 Delta Science Plan, Delta ISB members, November 19, 2025

The Delta ISB is requested to review the entirety of the draft, including the 24 actions and their associated current momentum, the two Appendices, and eight Resources. The questions below may be useful in guiding the review.

Guiding Questions:

1. Is the draft 2026 Delta Science Plan bold, flexible, and forward-looking, as recommended by the 2019 Delta ISB Memo?
2. With the overarching goal of galvanizing collective action across the science enterprise to address the Delta's grand challenges, are the Actions in the draft 2026 Delta Science Plan appropriate, actionable, and feasible?
3. Are Delta ISB review and product findings sufficiently leveraged in the draft 2026 Delta Science Plan?
4. How would you recommend progress toward achieving the 2026 Delta Science Plan Actions be tracked and shared?
5. Do the Current Momentums accurately reflect ongoing or planned efforts in the Delta, and are there any Actions, Current Momentums, or Resources that you feel are missing from the draft 2026 Delta Science Plan?

Review Material

1. [Draft 2026 Delta Science Plan:](https://deltascienceplan.deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2025-11-18-draft-2026-delta-science-plan.pdf)
(<https://deltascienceplan.deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2025-11-18-draft-2026-delta-science-plan.pdf>)
2. [2019 Delta Science Plan](https://deltascienceplan.deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/Delta-Science-Plan-FINAL.pdf)
(<https://deltascienceplan.deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/Delta-Science-Plan-FINAL.pdf>)
3. [2019 DISB Memo](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/isb/products/2019-02-11-isb-letter-to-dpiic.pdf) to DPIIC on 2019 Delta Science Plan review
(<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/isb/products/2019-02-11-isb-letter-to-dpiic.pdf>)

We look forward to your comments, if possible within 60 days of transmitting this letter (by January 20, 2025). The Delta Science Program is requesting this review from the Delta ISB concurrently with the public review period. This will allow for all comments to be thoroughly considered before the final draft is completed. If you have any questions, please contact: collaborativescience@deltacouncil.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Lisamarie Windham-Myers

Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers, Delta Lead Scientist