



**Delta  
Stewardship  
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY



— BUREAU OF —  
**RECLAMATION**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **STATE, FEDERAL AGENCIES AWARD OVER \$10 MILLION FOR NEW DELTA SCIENCE**

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are pleased to award over \$10 million to fund 16 critical scientific studies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and Suisun Marsh over the next three years.

“The unprecedented competitiveness of this solicitation illustrates a growing awareness of the scientific challenges we face in the Delta and their importance for natural resource management, with implications that can extend nationally or even internationally,” said the Council’s Delta Lead Scientist Dr. Laurel Larsen, who helped lead the collaborative Delta science proposal solicitation and the review of proposals submitted to the Council and Reclamation.

At its June 24 meeting, the Council voted to approve \$9,611,012.75 to fund 16 projects, with Reclamation contributing over \$3.42 million toward four of these projects. The State Water Contractors will co-fund one of these 16 projects, pushing the grand total awards to over \$10 million. The funded projects are broad in scope, with topics centering on harmful algal blooms, understanding and managing salmon and sturgeon, sea level rise and subsidence, and managing Delta wetlands for multiple benefits.

All 99 proposals submitted to the solicitation went through a rigorous and highly competitive selection process with multiple rounds of review, including three panels of 31 nationally and internationally renowned subject matter experts.

Projects were chosen based on scientific rigor and their potential to fulfill knowledge gaps and needs identified by the 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda and the Sacramento River Science Partnership.

“This competitive solicitation provides a great opportunity for seeking innovative science to reduce uncertainty and inform decision making on significant Central Valley water and fish management challenges,” said Reclamation’s Bay-Delta Office Manager Dr. David Mooney.

The multi-agency proposal solicitation attracted 99 proposals, requesting \$63.9 million in funding. This response reflects both a backlog of critical research needs, and a chronic lack of funding offered for science in the Delta. Biennial proposal solicitations offered by the Council’s Delta Science Program and its funding partners will help to ensure that management and decision-making in the Delta will be based on the best available science.

To learn more, please visit the Council’s [Delta science proposal solicitation web page](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/delta-science-proposal-solicitations) (deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/delta-science-proposal-solicitations).

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#### **ABOUT THE COUNCIL**

*Created by the California Legislature in 2009, the Delta Stewardship Council is composed of members who represent different parts of the state and offer diverse expertise in fields such as environmental issues, science, and public service. Of the seven, four are appointed by the Governor, one each by the Senate and Assembly, and the seventh is the chair of the Delta Protection Commission. For more information visit the [Council’s website](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov) (deltacouncil.ca.gov).*

#### **ABOUT RECLAMATION**

*The Reclamation is a federal agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior and is the nation’s largest wholesale water supplier and second largest producer of hydroelectric power. Our facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation opportunities, and environmental benefits. Visit [Reclamation’s website](http://usbr.gov) (usbr.gov).*