

Directed Actions for Critical Science Investigations

Information Sheet



Delta
Science
Program

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

- Funding science is key to the [Delta Science Program's mission](#) of providing the best possible unbiased scientific information to inform water and environmental decision-making in California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
- [Directed Actions](#) are critical science investigations that the Delta Science Program awards through a non-competitive process *when time is of the essence*.
- The Delta Science Program also funds science through *competitive* means, including research calls (i.e., proposal solicitations) and fellowship opportunities.

When are Directed Actions awarded?

Usually, in circumstances in which investigations require immediate funding and cannot wait or are not appropriate for competitive research calls.

What are the types of Directed Actions?



Rapid Response Directed Actions enhance understanding and support decision-making relevant to rapidly emerging critical conditions (e.g., levee breach, wildfire, flood, drought, novel species invasion) or management actions in the Delta.



Collaborative Science Directed Actions respond to critical needs identified through collaborative science groups or workshops.



Novel Technology or Expertise Directed Actions require unique expertise that can only be fulfilled by one research group.



Directed Actions for **Broadening Opportunity** are specifically targeted by the Delta Science Program to increase science funding equity.

What is the Directed Action funding process?

Selection

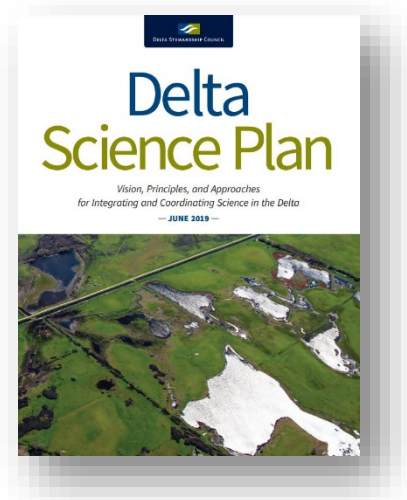
The [Delta Lead Scientist](#) identifies potential Directed Actions and decides who is best suited to do the work within the timeframe required and when the work needs to happen.

These Directed Actions are generally two years or less in duration, must be consistent with the [Science Action Agenda](#) or [Delta Science Plan](#) or address a key uncertainty or need that is identified by one or more collaborative science venues, and ideally will create synergies with projects already underway or with a committed funding source in place.

Review

Directed Action proposals are reviewed in accordance with Appendix K and L in the Delta Science Plan. The Delta lead scientist will review the submitted proposals and decide whether the urgency and topic merit further consideration. The Delta lead scientist will then select proposal reviewers, with at least one from each of the following categories:

1. A member of the Delta Science Program
2. One discipline-relevant scientist
3. A governmental agency manager with direct knowledge of the relevance of the activity



Reviewers must declare any conflict of interest per the Delta Science Plan (Appendix L). Reviewers use a standardized form for completing their review, and the entire review process takes about three to five weeks. Based on the reviews, the Delta lead scientist may request major proposal revisions from the Principal Investigator(s), approve it with specific conditions, or reject the proposal.

Learn More

For more information on funding opportunities, visit the [Delta Science Research Funding and Fellowships web page](#) or email sciencefunding@deltacouncil.ca.gov.