

# Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future

## Information Sheet



**Delta  
Stewardship  
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

- **Climate change poses great risks** to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh.
- **The Delta Stewardship Council is addressing climate change through its two-phase Delta Adapts initiative**, which assesses climate vulnerabilities and identifies options to strategically adapt.
- The [Vulnerability Assessment](#) was published in 2021. The Adaptation Strategy is expected to be available for public review in 2023.

## Background

**California relies on the Delta.** Did you know that the Delta supplies a portion of the drinking water for 27 million Californians? It is also a biodiversity hotspot for more than 750 plant and animal species and home to more than 627,000 people. Changes in climate put the state's water and food supply, biodiversity, land and agriculture, economy and infrastructure, and public safety and utilities at risk.

The Council decided to act in response to climate change in 2018, directing staff to begin a two-phase effort:

1. a vulnerability assessment, completed in 2021, that improved understanding of regional vulnerabilities in order to protect the vital resources the Delta provides to California and beyond with state interests and investments top of mind, followed by
2. an adaptation strategy, expected for public review in 2023, detailing strategies and tools that State, regional, and local governments can use to help communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems thrive in the face of climate change.

**Together, these two phases from the Delta Adapts initiative create a comprehensive, regional approach to climate resiliency** that cuts across regional boundaries and commits to collaboration across State, local, and regional levels.

## Goals of the Initiative

- **Inform** future work at the Council,
- **Provide** a toolkit of information for others to use,
- **Integrate** climate change into the state's prioritization of future Delta actions and investments, and
- **Serve** as a framework to be built upon by the Council and others in years to come.

## The Two-Phase Approach

### Phase 1: Vulnerability

The Vulnerability Assessment **evaluated the vulnerability of the Delta and Suisun Marsh to climate impacts through the end of the century.** It assessed risks to communities and a variety of regional assets, including agriculture, community facilities and services, water management and flood control infrastructure, parks and recreation, transportation, water supply, and ecosystems.

### Phase 2: Adaptation Strategy

The Adaptation Strategy **will identify how we can collectively respond to those vulnerabilities.** It will identify adaptation scenarios and the associated tradeoffs, adaptation costs and potential funding mechanisms, and responsible parties and a general timeframe for implementation.



## Process & Timeline

Through 2023, Council staff will work with a diverse group of interests—including community-based organizations, environmental groups, farmers, landowners, and reclamation districts, as well as local and State partners—to prepare a draft Adaptation Strategy. To do this, staff have convened a cross-sector **Stakeholder Workgroup** and **four technical focus groups** associated with ecosystems, agricultural resources, water supply reliability, and flooding. Through these engagements, staff will gather input on a variety of adaptation approaches and evaluate the impacts of these approaches.

The draft Adaptation Strategy is expected to be released for public review in the summer of 2023, after which comments will be addressed and the Adaptation Strategy will be finalized.



## Learn more

To learn more about Delta Adapts, its Stakeholder Workgroup, or the technical focus groups, contact [climatechange@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:climatechange@deltacouncil.ca.gov) or visit [deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/climate-change](https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/climate-change).