



Delta Science Program

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Stakeholder Views of the Delta Independent Science Board

July 6, 2021

The Delta Independent Science Board, created by the 2009 Delta Reform Act, is charged with providing “oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through periodic reviews of each of those programs that shall be scheduled to ensure all Delta scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs are reviewed at least once every four years.” Since 2010, the Delta ISB has completed nine thematic reviews, along with a myriad of document reviews, memos, and comment letters.

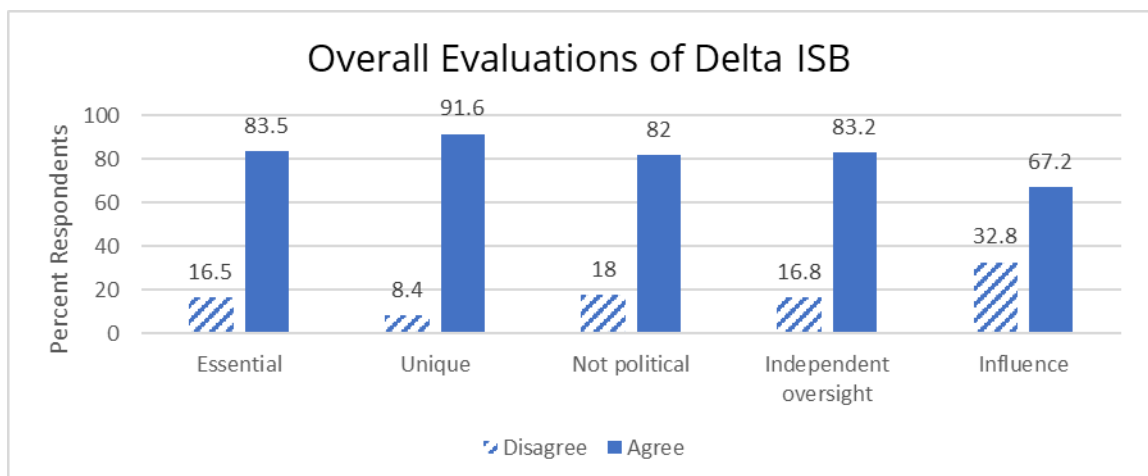
The Delta Science Program conducted a retrospective assessment of the Delta ISB and its reviews to acquire feedback on the first 10 years and inform future planning. The assessment included a survey of Delta stakeholders. The 155 respondents represented a wide range of affiliations in the Delta, including state and federal agencies, local government, environmental organizations, consultants, universities, and private citizens.

Overall evaluations of the Delta ISB

Survey respondents were asked to register agreement or disagreement with a series of statements about the Delta ISB.

- The Delta ISB plays an essential role in the Delta.
- The Delta ISB plays a unique role in the Delta.
- The Delta ISB does not promote specific political agendas.
- The Delta ISB provides independent scientific oversight in the Delta.
- The Delta ISB influences the activities of my organization and/or the collaborative groups in which I actively participate.

Pronounced majorities of respondents agreed with all five statements.



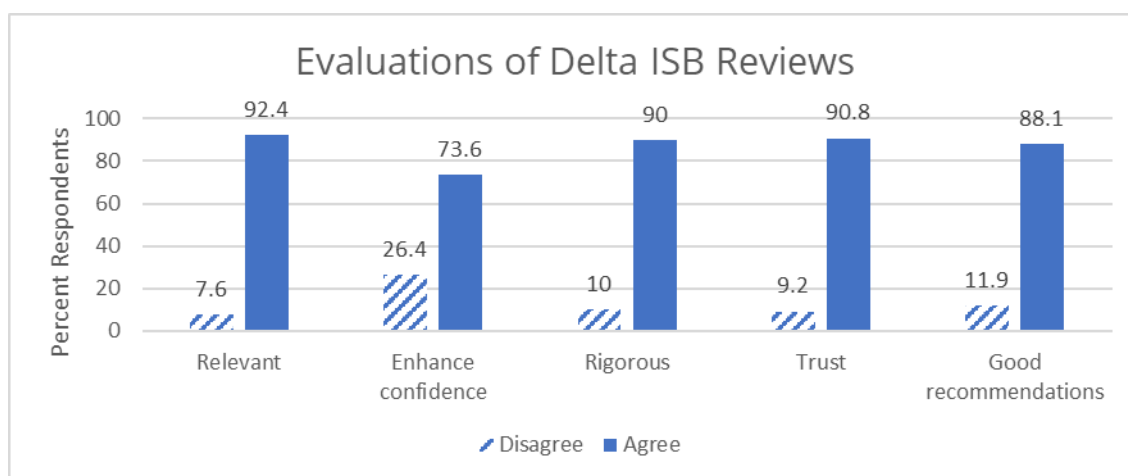
In addition, over 90% of respondents felt there is a high regard for the Delta ISB among Delta managers, decision-makers, and scientists.¹

Evaluations of Delta ISB Reviews

Survey respondents were also asked to disagree or agree with a series of statements about Delta ISB reviews.

- Overall, Delta ISB reviews provide information that is relevant to the Delta management community.
- Overall, Delta reviews enhance my confidence in science-based decision-making in the Delta.
- Overall, Delta ISB reviews are scientifically rigorous.
- Overall, I trust the scientific findings reported in Delta ISB reviews.
- Overall, I think ISB reviews provide good recommendations, even if they cannot be implemented.

Pronounced majorities of respondents agreed with all five statements.



Summary

Survey respondents representing a diverse array of Delta stakeholders expressed strong positive opinions about the Delta ISB and its review products. Most respondents felt the Delta ISB is important and influential. Respondents saw the Delta ISB as a politically neutral source of independent scientific oversight and believed the Delta ISB makes good recommendations. Overall, survey results indicate that the Delta ISB reviews are trusted as relevant and scientifically rigorous and increase respondents' confidence in science-based decision-making in the Delta.

¹ Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the statements, "The Delta ISB is well regarded by Delta managers and decision-makers" and "The Delta ISB is well regarded by Delta scientists."