

Delta Independent Science Board Products

July 23, 2019

The Delta Independent Science Board (ISB) provides oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta by conducting periodic reviews of these programs. To access the Delta ISB products listed below in PDF format, please contact archives@deltacouncil.ca.gov.

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Thematic Reviews

Due to the high number of individual programs to review, the Delta ISB is meeting its mandate by reviewing programs by “thematic” or topical areas. To date, the Delta ISB has completed a total of six thematic reviews (see table below). With the exception of the “levees” review, the Delta ISB has also published a two-page summary sheet for each review to help with public outreach.

Date	Theme	Report Title
July 2018	Water Quality	Water Quality Science in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Chemical Contaminants and Nutrients
May 2017	Delta as a Place	Review of Research on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as an Evolving Place
October 2016	Levees	Earthquakes and High Water as Levee Hazards in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
January 2016	Adaptive Management	Improving Adaptive Management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
August 2015	Fish and Flows	Flows and Fishes in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Research Needs in Support of Adaptive Management
May 2013	Restoration	Habitat Restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh: A Review of Science Programs

Other Reviews

In addition to the review of “programs,” the Delta ISB also reviews specific products (e.g. environmental impact reports/statements, science plans, etc.) related to adaptive management. These reviews can be either self-initiated or based on a specific request from an individual or entity.

Delta Plan

The Delta Plan is the Delta Stewardship Council’s comprehensive, long-term management plan for the Delta. The Delta ISB has provided input to the Delta Stewardship Council during the development, amendment, and implementation of the Delta Plan. Completed reviews or comment letters are in the table below.

Date	Review Title
6/5/2018	Review of the Synthesis Papers to Inform the Delta Plan Ecosystem Chapter Amendment
9/18/2017	Review of the “Delta Plan Amendments for Conveyance, Storage Systems, and the Operation of Both”
9/18/2017	Comments from Individual Delta Independent Science Board Members on the “Delta Plan Amendments for Conveyance, Storage Systems, and the Operation of Both”
9/18/2017	Suggestion on using White Papers when Drafting Delta Plan Amendments
2/14/2017	Response to Performance Measures Presentation at January 2017 DISB Meeting
2/16/2016	Review of the Process for Refining and Updating Delta Plan Performance Measures
12/17/2015	Letter to the Delta Stewardship Council about Review of Delta Plan Amendments

Date	Review Title
12/12/2012	Recommendations from the DISB on the Sixth Staff Draft of the Delta Plan
9/16/2011	Final Synthesis of Recommendations from the Delta ISB on the Fifth Staff Draft Delta Plan
5/8/2011	Comments by Individual Members of the Delta ISB on 3rd Staff Draft Delta Plan
4/22/2011	Report on Delta ISB Meeting of April 7-8 on Adaptive Environmental Management Chapter of the Second Staff Draft Delta Plan
3/22/2011	Review of the First Draft of the Delta Plan
1/26/2011	Addressing Multiple Stressors and Multiple Goals in the Delta Plan

Delta Science Strategy

Led by the Delta Science Program, the Delta Science Strategy establishes a foundation for One Delta, One Science - an open Delta science community that works together to build a common body of scientific knowledge. The Delta Science Strategy is made up of three parts: (1) the Delta Science Plan, (2) the Science Action Agenda, and (3) the State of Bay-Delta Science. The Delta ISB has reviewed and provided comments on various components of the Delta Science Strategy over the years. Completed reviews or comment letters are in the table below.

Date	Review Title
12/31/2018	Review of the Updated Delta Science Plan
6/20/2017	Review of the Draft Science Action Agenda
11/14/2014	Support for the Interim Science Action Agenda
10/8/2014	DISB Review of the Draft Interim Science Action Agenda
11/14/2013	Implementation of the Delta Science Plan
6/24/2013	DISB Comments on the First Draft of the Delta Science Plan

Bay-Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) was a project that was considering large-scale improvements in water conveyance (later California WaterFix) and large-scale ecosystem restoration in the Bay-Delta. Under its legislative mandate, the Delta ISB was charged with reviewing the environmental impact report/statement (EIR/S) for BDCP and providing comments to both the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Delta Stewardship Council on the EIR/S. The Delta ISB's comments were meant to help the Delta Stewardship Council decide whether to incorporate BDCP into the Delta Plan, and CDFW decide whether to approve BDCP as a Natural Community Conservation Plan. However, BDCP/California WaterFix was withdrawn by project proponents and never implemented. Even so, the final

reviews that were submitted to CDFW and the Delta Stewardship Council, along with other comment letters, are in the table below.

Date	Review Title
6/16/2017	Review of the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for California WaterFix
9/30/2015	Review of Environmental Documents for California WaterFix (Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for BDCP/California WaterFix)
5/15/2014	Review of the Draft EIR/EIS for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan
6/24/2013	DISB Comments on Current Administrative Draft of BDCP Documents
5/20/2013	BDCP Chapter 7 and Section 6 of Chapter 3, drafts of March 2013
5/13/2013	Administrative v. Public Draft BDCP Environmental Impact Report/Statement (Request for Red Line Version of EIR/S)
6/12/2012	Initial Recommendations for Integrating BDCP Science and for Improving the Reviewability of Draft BDCP Documents

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is currently in the process of updating the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, which establishes water quality control measures and flow requirements needed to provide reasonable protection of beneficial uses in the watershed. When requested, the Delta ISB has provided input to the SWRCB during the update of this plan. Past reviews and comment letters are in the table below.

Date	Review Title
2/23/2017	Review of SWRCB's "Working Draft Scientific Basis Report for New and Revised Flow Requirements on the Sacramento River and Tributaries, Eastside Tributaries to the Delta, Delta Outflow, and Interior Delta Operations"
3/29/2013	Comment Letter – Bay-Delta Plan SED. Comments on the December 2012 Substitute Environmental Document (SED) on San Joaquin River Flows
5/22/2012	Flow Criteria that Use Percent of Unimpaired Flow

Other Requests

Date	Review Title	Recipients
5/26/2017	Review of the EcoRestore Adaptive Management Program White Paper Draft 3/7/2017	1) California Natural Resources Agency 2) Delta Stewardship Council
4/29/2015	Individual Delta ISB Member Harindra Fernando Comments on Data Summit White Paper, Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information	San Francisco Estuary Institute
4/22/2015	Individual Delta ISB Member Vince Resh Comments on the Data Summit White Paper, Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information	San Francisco Estuary Institute
4/10/2015	Individual Delta ISB Member Brian Atwater Comments on the Data Summit White Paper, Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information	San Francisco Estuary Institute
5/22/2012	Commentary on the National Research Council Report, Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta	Delta Stewardship Council

Comment Letters

The table below is a list of comment letters from the Delta ISB to various entities. Comment letters are usually submitted when the Delta ISB sees an urgent issue that needs to be addressed.

Date	Subject	Recipients
2/11/2019	Urgency and Opportunities for Improving Interagency Science and Technical Integration for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee
2/18/2016	Modeling Barriers and Levee-Break Effects on Delta-Wide Salinity	1) California Department of Water Resources 2) State Water Resources Control Board 3) Delta Stewardship Council
4/22/2015	Drought and Opportunity	Delta Stewardship Council

Date	Subject	Recipients
12/27/2013	Science and the California Water Action Plan	1) California Natural Resources Agency 2) California Environmental Protection Agency 3) California Department of Food and Agriculture
3/14/2012	The Delta Science Program Requires Stable Funding	California State Senate and Assembly
3/14/2012	Key Issues for Delta Science: a Report of the Delta Independent Science Board	Delta Stewardship Council

Comment Letters on the Bay-Delta Science Conference

A long-standing tradition is for the Delta ISB to provide a comment letter to the organizers of the Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference that offers accolades and suggestions to help with the planning of future conferences.

Date	Subject	Recipients
9/27/2018	Accolades, Suggestions, and Comments on the 2018 Conference	Conference Organizers
12/8/2016	Accolades, Suggestions, and Comments on the 2016 Conference	Conference Organizers
11/20/2014	Accolades, Suggestions, and Further Comments on the 2014 Conference	Conference Organizers
12/3/2012	Commendations on the 2012 Conference and Suggestions for Future Conferences	Conference Organizers

Peer Reviewed Articles

The Delta ISB has also published editorials or findings from its reviews in peer reviewed journals. These articles are either submitted by individual members or by the full Delta ISB.

Meyer, J.L. 2013. [Mutual Benefits: Linking Science and Policy in the Delta](#). San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science 11(3). <https://doi.org/10.15447/sfews.2013v11iss3art4>

Norgaard, R.B. 2013. [The Econocene and the Delta](#). San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science 11(3). <https://doi.org/10.15447/sfews.2013v11iss3art9>

Wiens, J.A., J.B. Zedler, V.H. Resh, T.K. Collier, S. Brandt, R.B. Norgaard, J.R. Lund, E. Canuel, and H.F. Fernando. 2017. [Facilitating Adaptive Management in California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta](https://doi.org/10.15447/sfew.2017v15iss2art3). San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science 15(2). <https://doi.org/10.15447/sfew.2017v15iss2art3>.