

## Lead Scientists Report

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**Summary:** This report covers four items:

**Collaborative Science Activities:** (1) An update on the Data Summit vision document.

**Science Communication:** (2) The December issue of the *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science (SFEWS)* journal, (3) An update on El Niño and rainfall projections, and (4) "By the Numbers", a summary of current numbers relevant to Delta water and environmental management.

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### **Collaborative Science Activities**

#### **Data Summit Vision Document**

The draft vision document (Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information) was sent to an initial list of State- and national-level experts in late November for comments. The first round of comments is being reviewed and considered in the preparation of a draft for public review. This document will present a path forward for addressing the many challenges of access to, and use of, the vast amounts of environmental data generated by myriad programs and projects in the Delta and across all of California.

### **Science Communication**

#### **December Issue of the *SFEWS* Journal**

The December issue of *SFEWS* journal is scheduled to be released Dec. 19, 2014. The Lead Scientist will provide a verbal overview of the three papers included in this issue and how they relate to the Council:

*Dispersion Mechanisms of a Tidal River Junction in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California*, Karla Gleichauf, Philip Wolfram, Nancy Monsen, Oliver Fringer, and Stephen Monismith

*Physically Based Modeling of Delta Island Consumptive Use: Fabian Tract and Staten Island, California*, Lucas J. Siegfried, William E. Fleenor, and Jay R. Lund

*An Evaluation of Otolith Thermal Marking at the Feather River Hatchery, California*, Michael Mercer and Ryon Kurth

The *SFEWS* journal is an open access publication available on the web here:

[http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie\\_sfews](http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie_sfews)

### **El Niño Update**

El Niño is characterized by unusually warm temperatures in the equatorial Pacific. The latest data shows the beginnings of El Niño conditions. Ocean surface temperatures are above the temperature threshold for an El Niño in the region of the equatorial Pacific that serves as the basis for the index, but will need to be sustained over the next few months to make it an official El Niño event. Taken alone, however, warm El Niño conditions are no indication that we are in for a wet rainy season. Recent climate projections show that while December is likely to bring above normal rainfall to most of California, longer-term projections are still indicating an “even chance” of above normal or below normal rainfall this water year in the northern half of the state.

### **By the Numbers**

Delta Science Program staff will give a summary of current numbers related to Delta water and environmental management. The summary (Attachment 1) will inform the Council of recent counts, measurements, and monitoring figures driving water and environmental management issues.

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1: By the Numbers Summary

### **Contact**

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