Delta Stewardship Council - 2014 Priorities Update

LEVEE INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Council Role: ➔ Plan ➔ Coordinate ➔ Inform

Policy Objective:
Propose priorities for state investments in Delta Levees, including an island-by-island economics-based risk analysis, and a recommended allocation of costs among beneficiaries.

Guiding Language:
Water Code 85305 (Emergency preparedness and response) and 85306 (Delta Plan recommendations for state investment in levees)

TASKS	Council Briefing	Task Complete	MILESTONES	SCHEDULE	Division Lead: Cindy Messer
1. Interagency Agreement with DWR	✓	✓	Council delegated authority to the Executive Officer to enter into this agreement.	Dec-2013	Planning - Dustin Jones, You Chen Chao
		✓	Finalized interagency agreement for consultant funding.	Jan-2014	
2. Consultant Contract		✓	Solicit and select project consultant.	Spring - 2014	Communications - Keith Coolidge
	✓	✓	Council delegated authority to the Executive Officer to approve the contract.	May-2014	
		✓	Complete contract with project consultant, ARCADIS.	Jul-2014	
3. Independent Peer Review		✓	Delta Science Program Lead Scientist will select peer review panel members, develop charge for panel.	Aug-2014	Science - Marina Brand
	✓	✓	Staff will finalize peer review panel members and charge.	Oct-2014	
4. Levee Investment Strategy Issue Paper		✓	Staff will develop a paper outlining the state-level policy framework for levee investments and risk reduction.	Sep-2014	
	✓	✓	Staff will present draft document.	Sep-2014	
	✓	✓	Staff will present proposed final draft issue paper.	Dec-2014	
5. CEQA Compliance		✓	Complete evaluation of CEQA requirements.	Fall - 2014	
6. Levee Investment Prioritization Methodology		✓	**Staff/consultants will develop methodology for prioritizing investments in Delta islands/tracts based on assets, beneficiaries, benefit/cost ratio, tolerable risk, etc.**	**Ongoing-2014**	
	✓	✓	**Staff will provide regular updates to the Council.**		
7. Communications & Outreach Strategy		✓	Staff will develop a comprehensive communication strategy.	Oct-2014	
	✓	✓	Initiate public outreach.	Fall - 2014	
			Implement Communication Strategy.	**Ongoing**	
8. DPIIC: Engagement and Update		✓	**Support interagency coordination efforts and continue engagement of implementing agencies through DPIIC channels.**	**Ongoing-2014**	
		✓	**Provide update to Committee on project progress and report to Council on any Committee input.**		
9. DPC Assessment District		✓	Assist DPC with selection of project consultant.	Dec-14	

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INTERIM SCIENCE ACTION AGENDA (ISAA)

Council Role: ➔Coordinate ➔ Inform

Policy Objective:
A list of priority science actions to be addressed by the science community within a two-year time frame.

Guiding Language:
Water Code 85280(b)(4) (Delta Science Program)

TASKS	Council Briefing	Task Complete	MILESTONES	SCHEDULE	Division Lead: Rainer Hoenicke
1. ISAA workshop		✓	Held workshop for science community to acquire feedback to improve content development of Interim Science Action Agenda. Engaged DPIIC member agencies.	May-2014	Science - Lindsay Correa
	✓	✓	Staff provided an update to the Council on the workshop and development of the ISAA.	May-2014	
2. First draft of ISAA		✓	Complete targeted agency and key stakeholder outreach and application of substantive feedback on Interim Science Action Agenda.	Jul-14	
		✓	First draft of ISAA distributed to stakeholders.	Aug-2014	
3. Final draft of ISAA			Issue Interim Science Action Agenda.	Sep-2014	
	✓	✓	Present Final Draft ISAA to Council.	Sep-2014	
4. DPIIC: Engagement and Update		✓	Provide a briefing on the final ISAA to the Committee and further advance science integration among agencies.	Nov-2014	

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HABITAT RESTORATION

Council Role: ➔Coordinate ➔ Ensure Consistency ➔ Inform ➔Ensure Accountability

Policy Objective:
Achieve progress towards Biological Opinion acreage targets of restoring 8,000 acres of tidal marsh and 17,000 – 20,000 acres of floodplain rearing habitat while improving coordination of permits and regulatory requirements and use of adaptive management and best practices for land acquisition and easements.

Guiding Language:
ER R2 (Prioritize and implement projects to restore Delta habitats)
ER P2 (Restore habitats at appropriate elevations)
ER P3 (Protect Opportunities to Restore Habitat)

TASKS	Council Briefing	Task Complete	MILESTONES	SCHEDULE	Division Lead: Rainer Hoenicke, Cindy Messer
1. Habitat Restoration Issue Paper	✓	✓	Presented Draft Issue Paper for Council comment.	Jan-2014	Planning - Jessica Davenport Daniel Huang
		✓	Revised draft issue paper to reflect Council input and communications with stakeholders.	Jul-2014	
	✓	✓	Presented Proposed Final Draft Issue Paper.	Aug-2014	
		✓	Finalized Issue Paper.	Sep-2014	Science - Lauren Hastings Marina Brand
2. Adaptive Management and Best Available Science in Restoration Planning and Design Efforts		✓	Hired Council Adaptive Management Liaisons.	Fall - 2014	
			Inform Delta Restoration Network deliberations and collaborate with Delta Conservancy on proposal for Restoration "Hub".	**Ongoing-2014**	
			Co-chair meetings of Suisun Marsh Adaptive Management Advisory Team with Department of Fish and Wildlife.		
3. Habitat Restoration Activities and Flood Management Activities with Restoration Elements			***For purposes of Delta Plan consistency and implementation:***	**Ongoing-2014**	
			• Continue to track, review and comment on relevant environmental documents.		
			• Continue to provide early consultation, as requested for potential covered actions.		
			• Continue to participate in ongoing Delta Restoration Network meetings.		
4. Development of Comprehensive Monitoring Framework (permits)			**Continue tracking and advising various monitoring program development and integration efforts to facilitate adaptive management.**	**Ongoing-2014**	
	✓	✓	Staff provided a briefing on monitoring program integration in service of adaptive management.	Oct-2014	
5. Communications & Outreach Strategy		✓	Complete and begin implementing communications strategy in support of Issue Paper.	Jun-2014	
		✓	**Continue to host Brown Bag Seminars.** (Fall-Winter 2014 series focused on habitat restoration.)	**Ongoing-2014**	
6. Integration Activities		✓	Staff supported implementing agencies in exploring options related to land acquisition.	Fall - 2014	

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FLOWS & ASSOCIATED STRESSORS

Council Role: ➔ Inform

Policy Objective:

Updating management of Delta flows:
- Facilitate planning decisions that are required to achieve Delta Plan objectives,
- Help to restore more natural functional Delta flows, and
- Improve predictability of water exports from the Delta.

Guiding Language:

Water Code 85086(b-c) (Develop new flow criteria) and 85280(a)(3) (Delta Independent Science Board oversight)
ER R1 (Update the SWRCB's Delta flow objectives)

TASKS	Council Briefing	Task Complete	MILESTONES	SCHEDULE	Division Lead: Rainer Hoenicke
1. Collaborative Adaptive Management Team - Oversight of Scoping and Implementing Special Studies	✓	✓	Staff and CAMT Co-Chairs updated Council on court extension of BiOps.	Mar-2014	Science - Lauren Hastings Sam Harader
			Finalization of Scopes of Work to narrow information gaps related to Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives in the Biological Opinions for Delta Smelt and salmonids.	Fall - 2014	
			Track Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), in accordance with U.S. District Court requirements.	**Ongoing**	
2. Independent Science Panel Reports to SWRCB		✓	Recommendations for Determining Regional Instream Flow Criteria for Priority Tributaries to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.	Spring - 2014	
		✓	Summary report of Delta Outflows and Related Stressors Panel Workshop.	May-2014	
		✓	Finalize summary report on Interior Delta Flows and Related Stressors Panel Workshop.	Summer 2014	
	✓	✓	Present Independent Panel Reports to Council.	Fall 2014	
3. Independent Science Board Review and Report on Fish and Flows			ISB review of scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of Delta flows affecting fish.	Early 2015	
			Report to Council.	Upon Completion	
4. Track and Advise on Science Activities on Associated Stressors			Continue tracking invasive species investigations (aquatic weeds, non-native fishes, clams).	Ongoing	
			Steering Committee participation and advice on SF Bay Regional Water Board's nutrient strategy.		
			Participate in implementation of the Central Valley Regional Water Board's nutrient strategy.		
			Continue tracking Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plans (Central Valley and SF Bay Regional Boards) for methylmercury, pesticides, salts, and selenium.		

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LAND USE & LOCAL PLAN COORDINATION

Council Role: ➔ Coordinate ➔ Ensure Consistency ➔ Comment

Policy Objective:

Coordination among local governments, Councils of Governments, the Delta Protection Commission and the Delta Stewardship Council to ensure consistency between and among local and State plans, including the Delta Plan.
Promotion of recreation and agritourism in the Delta, including efforts to revitalize legacy communities.
Collaboration with the CA Energy Commission and the CA Public Utilities Commission to address energy facilities in the Delta.

Guiding Language:

Water Code 85212 (Regional Planning), 85022 (Land use actions consistent with Delta Plan), and 85057.5(b)(4) (Sustainable communities strategy consistency with Delta Plan)
DP P1 (Locate new development wisely)
DP P2 (Respect Existing Land Uses)
DP R1 (Support Delta as Place initiatives)
DP R3 (Track and support efforts to revitalize legacy communities)
DP R9 (Promote recreation and public access in habitat restoration areas)
DP R19 (Addressing energy needs for the Delta)

TASKS	Council Briefing	Task Complete	MILESTONES	SCHEDULE	Division Lead: Cindy Messer
1. Track, review and comment on general plan updates, development projects, and Sustainable Communities Strategies		✓	**Staff reviewed numerous projects and sent ten comment letters in 2014 related to general plan updates, Sustainable Communities Strategies, and ecosystem restoration projects and grant programs. Staff provided and will continue to provide early consultation, as requested, for potential covered actions.**	**Ongoing**	Planning - Jessica Davenport
	✓	✓	Staff briefed the Council on Sustainable Communities Strategies and their consistency with the Delta Plan.	Mar-2014	
	✓	✓	Staff briefed the Council on transportation issues in the Delta.	Jun-2014	
2. Delta Protection Commission's Land Use and Resources Management Plan Update			**Coordinate with DPC staff on this project to ensure consistency between this plan and the Delta Plan.**	**Ongoing-2014**	
3. Draft work plan for Delta Energy Facilities		✓	Council staff has initiated meetings with CA Energy Commission staff to begin development of a work plan.	Jun-2014	
			Council staff will also initiate meetings with the CA Public Utilities Commission, local utilities and other stakeholders to discuss this work plan.	Winter - 2015	
4. Support efforts to develop and implement Good Neighbor Policies for restoration projects		✓	Participated in drafting Good Neighbor policies under Agriculture and Land Stewardship framework for restoration projects that could adversely affect farmlands.	Spring - 2014	
			Continue to attend Agriculture and Land Stewardship Workgroup and track progress of agencies (e.g., DWR) vetting draft policies with stakeholders.	**Ongoing-2014**	

CORE FUNCTIONS: ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION - 2014

DELTA PLAN INTERAGENCY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (DPIIC) Council Role: Implement, Coordinate, Inform, Ensure Accountability	**Division Lead:** **Taryn Ravazzini** **Planning -** Cindy Messer Science - Rainer Hoenicke
Ongoing Tasks **Oversee Interagency Implementation Committee** • Council oversight of committee through regular reporting. • Secure active engagement from the implementing agencies, establish or support associated work groups on specific issue areas, particularly levee investment strategy, (Interim) Science Action Agenda, and habitat restoration. • Work closely with Delta Science and Planning Division staff to continue successful coordination of Delta Plan implementation efforts, Council priorities, and committee priorities. • Report developments to the Council. **Conduct Twice-Yearly Meetings** • Schedule and conduct two DPIIC meetings annually.	
Scheduled Tasks 1. **Inaugural meeting** ✓ Held inaugural committee meeting; identified committee priorities. — Apr-2014 ✓ Staff reported meeting outcomes. — May-2014 2. **Conduct Twice-Yearly Meetings** ✓ Second meeting held, and staff reported meeting outcomes. — Nov-2014	
COVERED ACTIONS Council Role: Ensure Consistency	**Division Lead:** **Cindy Messer** **Planning -** Kevan Samsam Jessica Davenport Daniel Huang Dustin Jones You Chen Chao Anthony Navasero
Ongoing Tasks **Provide early consultation on potential covered actions** • Staff has provided and continues to provide early consultation sessions as requested. **Provide online system for submitting certificates of consistency and appeals** • Staff continues to maintain online certification and appeals system as needed.	
Scheduled Tasks 1. **Communications & outreach: workshops and training for the covered action process** ✓ Staff provided workshops for state and local agencies. — Fall 2013 - Summer 2014 ✓ Staff held three additional workshops with about 45 attendees from reclamation districts, local water agencies, county staff, and the public. — Summer - Fall 2014	

CORE FUNCTIONS: ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION - 2014

OTHER DELTA SCIENCE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION - DATA SUMMIT Council Role: Inform, Ensure Accountability		**Division Lead:** **Dr. Peter Goodwin, Rainer Hoenicke**
Ongoing Tasks		
Partnership Development		
• Develop innovative public-private partnerships to implement identified data management, accessibility, integration, and exchange mechanisms. In progress.		
Scheduled Tasks		
1. **Enhance Data Sharing among Agencies, Institutions and Others**		
✓ Design, coordinate and host Data Summit to focus on the Delta Science Plan's objective to build on existing and emerging data management and exchange systems to enhance information synthesis.	Jun-2014	
✓ Present Data Summit outcomes and key messages.	Jun-2014	
✓ Incorporate Data Summit Outcomes into Interim Science Action Agenda.	Jul-2014	
✓ Develop outline and draft issue paper summarizing conclusions and recommendations of the summit.	Dec-2014	
• Present final draft issue paper to Council.	Mar-2015	

CORE FUNCTIONS: ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION - 2014

MAINTAIN THE STATE OF BAY-DELTA SCIENCE Council Role: Inform		**Division Lead:** **Rainer Hoenicke** **Science -** Lauren Hastings
Ongoing Tasks		
Update and Publish *The State of Bay-Delta Science* Report		
• Provide status report to Council as part of the Lead Scientist Report . Anticipated for February 2015.		
Scheduled Tasks		
1. **Establish Science Steering Committee (re-named Science Advisory Committee)**		
✓ Select Science Steering Committee members.	Spring 2014	
✓ First meeting of Science Steering Committee.	May-2014	
2. **Update and Publish *The State of Bay-Delta Science* Report**		
✓ Select Editorial Board for 2014 *The State of Bay-Delta Science* Report.	Jun-2014	
✓ Draft *The State of Bay-Delta Science* Report Outline.	Aug-2014	
• Draft chapters reviewed by Editorial Board.	Dec-2014	
• Provide status report to Council.	Winter 2015	
3. **Produce 2014 Bay-Delta Science Conference**		
✓ Development of conference program in coordination with Science Steering Committee.	Spring/Summer 2014	
✓ Conference Program finalized.	Aug-2014	
✓ Staff reported to Council on the conference and presented outcomes.	Nov-2014	
FEDERAL APPROVAL (CZMA) Council Role: Plan		**Division Lead:** **Dan Ray** **Planning -** Cindy Messer Kevan Samsam Jessica Davenport **Legal -** Chris Stevens
Ongoing Tasks		
Scheduled Tasks		
1. **Project Evaluation**		
✓ Conduct scoping meeting(s) to determine consultant requirements and best approach.		
2. **Hire Consultants**		
• Finalize consultant contract for assistance with acquiring federal approval for incorporating the Delta Plan into the Coastal Zone Management Program.	Jan-2015	
• Incorporating the Delta Plan into the Coastal Zone Management Program.	Winter 2015	
3. **Outreach/Memorandum of Agreement**		
• Pursue state coastal agency support for Delta Plan addition to federally approved coastal plan; confirm support through Memorandum of Agreement.	Winter 2015	
4. **Draft and Final Submittal to NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Management**		
• Engage in all necessary steps to secure federal approval with interim outcomes including a draft submittal and approval by the Governor.	Jan/Feb-2015	

CORE FUNCTIONS: ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION - 2014

PERFORMANCE REPORTING Council Role: Implement, Inform, Ensure Accountability		**Division Lead:** **Cindy Messer** **Performance -** John Ryan **Communications -** Keith Coolidge
Ongoing Tasks		
Scheduled Tasks		
1. **Update Council's Delta Plan Implementation Tracking System (Delta View)**		
✓ Finalized technical revisions required to update existing project tracking and reporting system *(formerly Council's Project Performance Information System (CPPIS)).*	May-2014	
✓ Complete evaluation of existing programs and projects in the tracking and reporting system to determine relevancy to Delta Plan implementation activities.	Aug-2014	
✓ Complete technical revisions to the project tracking and reporting system.	Dec-2014	
• Provide training to implementing agencies on use of the project tracking and reporting system. (Agencies not required to input data until July)	Dec-April-2015	
✓ Two presentations prepared for the Council.	July/Dec-2014	
2. **Begin Implementation of Delta Plan Performance Measures**		
✓ Assess Delta Plan performance measures for implementation readiness.	Jul-2014	
✓ Initiate pilot effort for analysis of select output/outcome performance measure to assess near-term effectiveness.	Aug-Dec-2014	
• Complete report on revisions to Delta Plan Performance Measures, including future implementation recommendations.	Jul-2015	
✓ Two presentations prepared for the Council.	July/Dec-2014	

CORE FUNCTIONS: ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION - 2014

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN (BDCP) Council Role: Comment, Inform		**Division Lead:** **Day Ray** **Planning -** Kevan Samsam **Communications -** Keith Coolidge
Ongoing Tasks		
Consult With BDCP Agencies Regarding Council Comments		
• Monthly coordination meetings with BDCP agencies.		
Scheduled Tasks		
1. **BDCP draft EIR/S Review and Submission of Comment Letter**		
✓ Review BDCP and draft EIR/S.	May-2014	
✓ Requirements for incorporation of BDCP into Delta Plan and Council's roles and responsibilities (8/23/12), Council's approach to EIR/S Review and charge to ISB (11/15/12), BDCP implementation structure (2/21/13), BDCP overview (8/22/13), BDCP adaptive management and governance (9/26/13), BDCP implementation costs and funding sources (10/24/13), coordination of reviews of the BDCP by the ISP and ARCADIS (11/21/13), BDCP's environmental effects in the Delta (12/19/13), BDCP's regulatory assurances (2/27/14), and reviews and comments on BDCP Draft EIR/EIS (5/29/14).	May-2014	
✓ Staff and consultant team provided briefing on EIR/S; ISB and Independent Science Review panel presented on Effects Analysis and EIR/S. Council adopted the letter with amendments and included incorporation of ISB comments.	Jul-2014	
✓ Submit Draft EIR/S comment letter to lead agencies.		
2. **Review Draft Implementation Agreement**		
✓ Complete review and if needed, submit comments to lead agencies.	Jul-2014	
3. **Consult With BDCP Agencies Regarding Council Comments**		
✓ BDCP agencies and Council will consult on responses to Council comments.	Dec-2014	

CORE FUNCTIONS: ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION - 2014

COMMUNICATIONS
Council Role: Implement, Coordinate, Inform, Ensure Accountability

Division Lead:
Keith Coolidge

Ongoing Tasks

Council Meeting Support

- Solicit and contract for appropriate venues for Council, ISB, DPIIC meetings and special workshops.
- Solicit and contract for webcasting services for FY15 and FY16.
- Oversee webcasting with timely posting of meeting video.
- Produce thoroughly researched, well written staff reports and meeting materials for Council, ISB, and DPIIC.
- Arrange and handle logistics for Council and ISB field trips.

Annual Report

- Implementation of work plan.

Newsletter

- Produce monthly newsletters; content includes stories about the Council, its Delta Science Program, and the people and actions leading the efforts to implement the Delta Plan.

Develop Themes and use Council meetings to highlight issues

- Ensure Council meetings adequately address Priority issues.
- Develop public awareness of – and media coverage for – priority issues presented at Council meetings.

Develop Themes and use Council meetings to highlight issues

- Maintain contact with reporters and editors to inform them about the Delta Plan and its relationship to current events, key Council decisions, and pending issues/actions.
- Prepare fact sheets and other informational materials.

Speaking Engagements

- Support for external speaking engagements about the Council, Delta Plan and Science Plan including speechwriting, PowerPoints and handout materials.

Scheduled Tasks

1. **Council Meeting Support**
   - ✓ Solicit and contract for webcasting services for FY15 and FY16. — Jul-2014
2. **Website Redesign**
   - ✓ Release Request for Offer (RFO) and contract in place for redesign team. — Jun-2014
   - ✓ Plan for improvements to website for ease of access and readability, including stakeholder and in-house interviews. — Sep-2014
   - ✓ New website in place. — Nov-2014
3. **Annual Report**
   - ✓ Determine publication schedule including content outline, chapter authors and draft deadlines. — Jun-2014