

Dear Colleagues,

An Environmental Data Summit was hosted by the Delta Stewardship Council on June 5th and 6th to explore challenges identified by the [Delta Science Plan](#) and resulted in a vision document, *Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information*. This is a preliminary synthesis of ideas explored during the Summit based on initiatives, current programs and the experiences of individuals from State and federal agencies, academia, private and non-governmental entities. The authors represent this diversity of organizations and contributors to the summit.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we invite your review of this preliminary draft that seeks to advance California's information technology infrastructure. The primary goals include supporting and advancing California's existing data systems, ensuring alignment with national technology trends, as well as laying the foundation for more consistent and robust access to data and metadata across organizational boundaries.

Through a focused exploration of the challenges facing California's information stewards, the document identifies some common obstacles. It also assembles a list of key recommendations that are designed to address the challenges and leverage available opportunities.

Your feedback is very important to us, and we hope that you are able to contribute. Please send your comments to datavisiondocument@deltacouncil.ca.gov. We also welcome preliminary ideas of small-scale initiatives that could be initiated as pilot programs in 2015 to demonstrate to decision-makers and scientists the value of the concepts expressed in this white paper.

Thank you for consideration and we look forward to your comments.

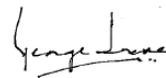
Sincerely,



Peter Goodwin
Lead Scientist
Delta Science Program



Tony Hale
Co-Lead Editor
San Francisco



George Isaac
Co-Lead Editor
Delta Science Program