

Delta Plan Performance Measures

Summary: Staff will present a brief update on the status of performance measures efforts since the Council's December meeting, describe next steps, and ask the Council and public for feedback on recommended refinements and additions to the Delta Plan's output and outcome performance measures. Depending on the comments received, the Council may be asked to adopt these performance measures at its February meeting.

Background

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 requires the Delta Plan to include performance measures that enable the Council to track progress in meeting its objectives. These performance measures are to include quantitative or other "measureable assessments of the status and trends" of the health of the Delta, as well as the reliability of the state's water supply exported from the Sacramento and San Joaquin river watersheds (Water Code sections 85211 and 85308).

In compliance with the Act, the Council's Delta Plan includes a suite of performance measures (160 total) organized by Delta Plan goal and strategy. Measures are in three types: 1) administrative performance measures (118) used to track various actions recommended by the Delta Plan; 2) output performance measures (21) used to track results of administrative actions; and 3) outcome measures (21) included for tracking the impacts of those actions.

As stated in the Delta Plan, the initial set of performance measures were to be expanded and refined after adoption of the Delta Plan and considered for inclusion in subsequent updates of the Delta Plan.

Refining the Plan's Performance Measures

Since adoption of the Delta Plan in May 2013, the Council has accomplished the following critical milestones related to assessing and refining performance measures:

- December 2013 – Staff reported to the Council that a full assessment of Delta Plan performance measures for implementation readiness was underway. A description of the assessment framework and approach was provided.
- July 2014 – Staff reported interim project status to the Council, including highlights of implementation challenges, improvements applied to online tracking tools, and opportunities/next steps.

- December 2014 – Staff provided an end-of-year report including detailed reporting status spanning all 118 administrative measures and reporting highlights of a select two output measures.
- August 2015 – Staff reported the results of a complete assessment of all 160 performance measures with expanded performance reporting by Delta Plan goal and strategy as well as proposed refinements to various existing measures, and suggestions for possible additional output and outcome measures.
- December 2015 – Staff presented the Council with updated recommendations for refinements to the Delta Plan's output and outcome performance measures as well as 10 new performance measures developed to address gaps in tracking the Delta Plan's goals and strategies. Additionally staff briefed the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) on the methodology and process used to refine existing performance measures and develop new ones and requested an independent review of this methodology. The Delta ISB agreed to conduct the review and following the December Council meeting, staff provided the Delta ISB with materials to conduct their review.

Extensive engagement with subject matter experts and the public has been conducted as part of refining existing measures and developing new measures. Examples of these activities include:

- Internal Subject Matter Expert Review – Recommended changes presented in August underwent iterative reviews and refinement, through a series of internal meetings with planning and science staff including the Lead Scientist, Dr. Cliff Dahm. These meetings resulted in clarifying updates (and great improvement) to the existing Delta Plan performance measures including improved metrics for some measures and identification of baselines and targets for the majority of existing measures. These revisions are included in Attachment 1.
- External Subject Matter Expert Review and Online Survey – Updated recommendations were then provided to a select subset of 65 external subject matter experts representing state and local agencies, stakeholders, and others who were invited to review and comment on the recommended revisions. These interactions included meetings, conference calls, and the use of a tailored online survey to solicit input on individual output and outcome measures. Information received from these interactions was incorporated, as appropriate, into updating the performance measures and are also included in Attachment 1.
- Public Comment Periods and Workshop – Refined recommendations were then made available online for public comment from November 5-19. During this time, a public workshop was held on November 9 to review staff recommended revisions to performance measures and to solicit input from stakeholders and the public. Public comment was provided in writing primarily through the use of the

online survey. Immediately following the December 2015 Council meeting, a second public comment period ran December 21 and January 22. Comments received as part of this second round will be incorporated, as appropriate, and will be presented to the Council at its February meeting.

- Science Consultation – Refinements to the Delta Plan’s performance measures were developed in coordination with or reviewed by the Delta Lead Scientist and Delta Science Program staff to ensure appropriate metrics and the incorporation of best available science and information.
- Delta Independent Science Board Review – The Delta Independent Science Board is currently reviewing the methodology used to develop/refine the Delta Plan performance measures (expected for completion early February 2016).

Today’s Briefing

For today’s briefing, staff will update the Council on the status of this effort since December and will request input from the Council and public on the performance measures (included in Attachment 1) so that changes may be incorporated by the February meeting, where staff will seek the Council’s direction/approval of the refined and new output and outcome performance measures to be incorporated into an update of the Delta Plan.

Attachment 1 contains information on output and outcome performance measures and is organized by Delta Plan chapter, and strategies within each chapter. Key information related to each performance measure includes:

- Delta Plan strategy(ies) tracked by the specific performance measure
- Delta Plan policy or recommendation related to the performance measure
- Type of performance measure (e.g. output or outcome)
- Existing Delta Plan performance measure language
- Staff-recommended language to update the existing Delta Plan performance measure (with notes as needed for context)
- Metric, baseline or reference point, target, and data source information

Recommended performance measure refinements consist of adding ten new performance measures, which were developed to address gaps in tracking the Delta Plan’s goals and strategies. Additionally, of the 51 output and outcome performance measures listed in Attachment 1, six measures are recommended to be reclassified to an administrative performance measure and another six are recommended for removal from the Delta Plan, which results in a total of 39 output/outcome performance measures.

Next Steps

Next steps for this effort include:

1. Delta ISB completes its review of methodology for refining existing and developing new measures and provides recommendations, as needed, for enhancing the methodology (February 2016)
2. Council receives the Delta ISB's recommendations, considers these recommendations along with staff suggested refinements to performance measures and provides staff with direction on revising methodology, if needed, to respond to the ISB's review and where appropriate, approving refined and new performance measures. (February 2016)
3. Staff continues to provide regular reporting to the Council and stakeholders (ongoing, approximately six-month intervals)
4. Staff begins developing public reporting tools such as online dashboards, scorecards, etc. (spring 2016)

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Delta Plan Performance Measures – Staff Recommendations

Attachment 2: Delta Plan Policies and Recommendations

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