



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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Christina R.G. McCreedy, Chief
Integrated Data & Analysis Branch
901 P Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Ab1755@water.ca.gov

Dear Ms. McCreedy:

Re: Progress Report, Implementing the Open and Transparent Water Data Act

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Progress Report, *Implementing the Open and Transparent Water Data Act with Initial Draft Strategic Plan and Preliminary Protocols* (Progress Report).

The Council is an independent California state agency tasked with furthering the state's coequal goals for the Delta through implementation of the Delta Plan, a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the region guided by the best available science. The Delta Plan includes a recommendation (WR R17) to improve water management information to provide accurate, timely, consistent, and transparent information on the management of California water supplies and beneficial uses. The State needs sufficient information to assess the current reliability of its water supplies.

The Delta Plan includes performance measures to track progress in meeting its goals and objectives including quantitative or other "measurable assessment of the status and trends" of the health of the Delta, as well as reliability of the State's water supply. (See Water Code § 85211.) The Council provides several public-facing database systems to provide information on Delta Plan implementation and is expanding these tools to communicate output and outcome performance measures identified in the Delta Plan.

Reporting on the Delta Plan Output and Outcome metrics, baselines, and targets relies on diverse sets of data sources and data analysis from our partner agencies. Access, discovery, standard quality control, and data curation are relevant principles to the Delta Plan performance measures reporting system, that support our objectives to deliver

"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

useful and usable results from the performance measure assessments to support management decisions and contribute to adaptive management of the Delta.

The Council is also supporting additional efforts relevant to the Progress Report including:

- **Delta Ecosystem Integrated Modeling Steering Committee**, with the objective to integrate Delta ecosystem modeling, model users, and decision makers, and to build capacity by sharing data sets and equations that are required for integrated modeling. The committee hopes that transparent and well-documented models capable of forecasting scenarios affected by multiple, interrelated factors can tap into all necessary data sources. DWR's effort through AB 1755 will make critical data available for ecosystem modeling.
- **Delta Independent Science Board Review of Delta Monitoring Enterprise**, with the objective to recommend improvements to monitoring programs in the Delta to better serve present and expected information needs of the management agencies. The Board's review will cover how individual and larger-scale monitoring programs can be improved through better coordination, and how monitoring data can better support implementation of adaptive management and assessments of performance measures.

The Progress Report culminates a year-long communication and engagement process by DWR and leverages other related efforts. The Draft Strategic Plan outlines a clear mission, vision, and goals, and its strategic actions provide a strong foundation for developing the implementation plan.

Below, we offer additional comments for DWR to consider when developing the final documents:

- **Share known and available data.** Consider adding operational solutions (people, processes to share data) to the proposed technical solutions (platform, protocols). These solutions should include two stages of operations. First, a process to discover what data currently exist and to ensure that these data meet the standards of the technical protocol and can be shared. Second, a process to support ongoing operations that ensures all new public data are shared.
- **Include federal agencies within the data federation model.** Federal agencies gather and publish a wealth of water management related information and should be encouraged and enabled to contribute to the integrated water data platform sooner rather than later.

We are pleased to see the progress made to date and appreciate being included in your ongoing efforts to implement Assembly Bill 1755. The Delta Science Program particularly appreciates integration of the principles put forward in the white paper

Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information within the Progress Report.

We will continue to participate in the Partner Agency Team and seek to align related ongoing efforts. Please contact George Isaac (gisaac@deltacouncil.ca.gov, 916-445-0533) of our staff if there are other areas where we can continue to support your efforts to implement AB 1755.

Sincerely,



Jessica Law
Chief Deputy Executive Officer
Delta Stewardship Council



John Callaway
Delta Lead Scientist