

INFORMATION ITEM

Performance Measures Dashboard and Guidebook

Summary

Council staff and consultants have developed a web-based dashboard that enables visual tracking of the Delta Plan performance measures required by the Delta Reform Act and adopted by the Council in April 2018. Council staff will highlight key features and functionalities of the dashboard and discuss ways it can be used to support the Council's oversight of long-term implementation of the Delta Plan.

Delta Reform Act Guidance

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 requires that the Delta Plan include performance measures to track the Council's progress in meeting Delta Plan objectives. The performance measures stem directly from the Delta Plan's core strategies and actions and are intended to track the degree of effectiveness over time. They are based on best available science and include quantitative or other "measurable assessments of status and trends" regarding the health of the Delta's estuary and reliability of the state's water supply imported from the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds (Water Code sections 85211 and 85308).

Developing performance measures for a complex and large-scale system such as the Delta was accomplished over multiple years with the help of State, federal, and local agencies, scientists, and stakeholders. The original 2013 Delta Plan included an initial set of performance measures. In February 2016, the Council adopted refinements to the performance measures in response to input from the Delta Science Program and Delta Independent Science Board. In April 2018, the Council again adopted further refinements to the performance measures to better enable tracking of Delta Plan outputs and outcomes. This set of refined performance measures was selected based on 'measurable' features that over time will indicate important trends and address whether specific actions are producing expected results. The measures also leverage existing data and monitoring efforts where possible.

Performance Measures Dashboard

In July 2018, the Council entered into an agreement with an information technology consultant to design, develop, and deploy a web-based dashboard that enables visual tracking of the Delta Plan performance measures. The project began by assessing user needs and establishing principles for functionality and an easy-to-use interface. The primary goal of the dashboard is to increase transparency for stakeholders and the public in understanding the Council's oversight of Delta Plan implementation.

The dashboard tracks and reports performance metrics, baselines, and targets for each performance measure and is organized by Delta Plan chapters. Pages for each individual performance measure include a description of the measure, why it is important, and what outcomes the action(s) being measured are expected to achieve. Graphs, maps, and tables

provide interactive visualizations to aid in understanding and interpreting the data. The dashboard is being launched in beta phase to obtain feedback on its functionality, and content improvements, and is available at: <http://viewperformance.deltacouncil.ca.gov/>

Tracking Implementation of the Delta Plan with Performance Measures

Measuring performance requires patience. Several of the Delta Plan performance measures will require a number of years to have the volume and quality of data to reach a scientifically sound understanding of trends and outcomes. As Council staff gather additional performance data, and as we approach performance target dates, Councilmembers, Delta Plan implementing agencies, and stakeholders can use the dashboard to view status changes and emerging trends. Assessment of this data will support adaptive management and Council decision-making regarding implementation of Delta Plan core strategies, policies, and recommendations to further the coequal goals.

Note: A subset of Chapter 4 performance measures are not currently included in the dashboard due to the development of the Delta Plan Ecosystem amendment. Once the Council adopts new or revised measures, they will also be tracked through the dashboard.

Questions Council Members May Consider in Reviewing the Dashboard

The presentation will show key features and functionalities, and explore ways the tool can support Council decision-making. Council members may wish to consider these and other questions during the presentation:

1. What kind of effort is required to populate the dashboard – who collects the data?
2. When will the tool begin to provide meaningful feedback and how will staff bring that information back to the Council?
3. What outreach is needed so that the dashboard is accessible, relevant, and well-used by partner agencies and stakeholders?

Performance Measures Guidebook

The dashboard release is accompanied by a printed guide to the 32 Delta Plan output and outcome performance measures adopted by the Council. The guidebook is intended to be used by Delta managers, stakeholders, and members of the public to better understand the quantitative Delta Plan performance measures and how they can be used over time to determine the effectiveness of the Delta Plan's core strategies and actions.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Delta Plan Performance Measures Handbook (to be provided at the Council meeting)

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