Interim Science Action Agenda

A collaborative road map for addressing science questions

One Delta, One Science

The Interim Science Action Agenda helps achieve the vision, "*One Delta, One Science*" – which means an open Delta science community that works together to build a shared state of knowledge with the capacity to adapt and inform current and future water and environmental decisions in the Delta.

Problem Statement

While every agency has mission-specific science needs, many commonalities exist. However, there is no shared science agenda that lays out common priority science needs, questions, and actions for the whole Delta. This makes comprehensive and efficient science planning, funding, coordination and integration difficult, while critical science gaps persist.

Goals

- A shared science agenda in pursuit of *One Delta, One Science*
- A collaborative road map for addressing "grand challenges" associated with increasing water supply reliability and resilience of Delta ecosystems
- Leveraging resources to accelerate learning and achieve shared science and information needs
- Better, more efficient science work plans

Immediate Next Step

The Delta Science Program, working with others, will develop an initial list of shared science needs, questions, and actions to catalyze conversation in the near term and make immediate progress toward a full Science Action Agenda.

What is the Interim Science Action Agenda?

- A shared list of near-term common priority science needs, questions, and actions from existing documents to be addressed within a 2-year time frame (targeted completion - Summer 2014)
- Identification of Delta-wide science needs and gaps to inform policy and management
- A shared agenda for science collaboration among agencies and programs
- The basis for the full Science Action Agenda that will cover a four-year time frame as called for in the Delta Science Plan (see back page)

How will the Interim Science Action Agenda be developed and used?

Step 1: Identify science needs, questions, and actions in existing plans and documents.

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Step 2: Synthesize science needs, questions, and actions. Identify synergies and gaps.

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Step 3: Use the list of priorities to inform and coordinate science work plans across the Delta and build our science community.

How do I get involved?

1. Help develop the Draft Interim Science Action Agenda
2. Use the final Interim Science Action Agenda to inform my organization's science work plan and collaborate with others
3. Join the discussion by emailing science@deltacouncil.ca.gov

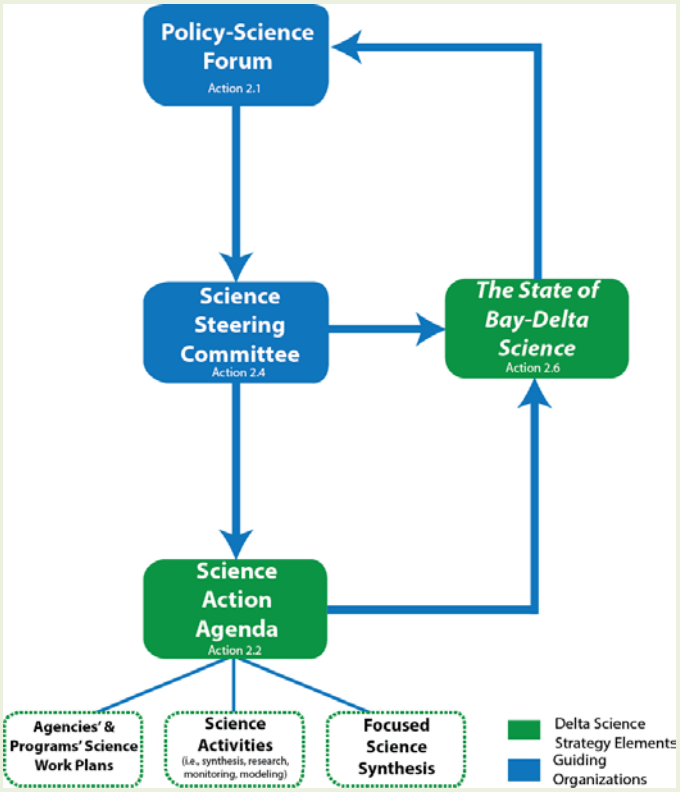
Transforming the way we do science in the Delta through a three-part Delta Science Strategy

The Science Action Agenda is one element of a three-part planning, implementation, and reporting science strategy. The overall Delta Science Strategy includes:

1. ***The Delta Science Plan*** – A shared vision for Delta science and a living guide for organizing, conducting, and integrating science in the Delta. It establishes the major elements, organizational structures, and key actions for improving the efficiency, utility, and application of Delta science across many agencies and institutions and for assuring its credibility, relevance, and legitimacy. The Delta Science Plan was completed in Dec. 2013.

2. ***The Science Action Agenda*** – This prioritizes and aligns near-term science actions to inform management decisions and achieve the objectives of the Delta Science Plan. The Science Action Agenda identifies priorities for research, monitoring, data management, modeling, synthesis, communication, and building science capacity. Under the leadership of the Delta Science Program, the Science Action Agenda will be developed collaboratively with federal, State, and local agencies; science programs, academic institutions, stakeholders, and a Science Steering Committee. *An expedited and scaled-back version of the Science Action Agenda, the Interim Science Action Agenda, will be completed in 2014.*

3. ***The State of Bay-Delta Science (SBDS)*** – A synthesis of the current scientific knowledge for the Delta. Specifically, *SBDS* communicates the state of knowledge to address the grand challenges, including progress made on key research questions and remaining knowledge gaps, which are used to guide updates to the Science Action Agenda. It is updated by relevant science experts with guidance from the Science Steering Committee. An updated *SBDS* is expected in early 2015.



A schematic of the key elements described in the Delta Science Plan and their relationship to one another (Delta Science Plan 2013).

What they're saying about the Delta Science Plan

"The Delta Science Plan provides a meaningful framework to aid CDFW and others to more effectively address the complex challenges we face in the Delta."

Charlton Bonham, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

"It is clear that we are on a path toward collaboration and mutual benefit."

CA Water Quality Monitoring Council

"By adopting bold steps to implement a 'One Delta, One Science' approach for a new Delta Science Plan, California can become a leading example of how to tackle the global problem of rapid ecological change and biodiversity loss."

James E. Cloern, United States Geological Survey
Ellen Hanak, Public Policy Institute of California

"The work you've done has changed the conversation. I've never been as optimistic as I am now about our collective science effort."

Jason Peltier, Westlands Water District

For more information about the Delta Science Plan visit:
http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program/delta-science-plan