

## Lead Scientist's Report

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**Summary:** This report covers three topics:

**Science Reviews:** (1) SWRCB Delta Outflows Workshop (2) SWRCB Interior Delta Flows Workshop.

**Collaborative Science Activities:** (1) A progress update on the Interim Science Action Agenda (2) Integrated Monitoring Framework for Habitat Conservation and Water Quality (3) CABA Seminar on emerging techniques to quantify the effects of environmental change in Bay-Delta organisms.

**Science Communication:** (1) State Scientist's Day (2) A summary of current numbers relevant to Delta water and environmental management.

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### **Science Reviews**

#### **State Water Resources Control Board Delta Outflows Workshop**

On February 10-11, 2014, the Council's Delta Science Program held an independent science panel workshop for the SWRCB. This workshop was focused on identifying the best available science on Delta outflows and related stressors to inform the SWRCB's update to the Bay-Delta Plan. More information including the panel's report when it is available can be found at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program/workshop-delta-outflows-and-related-stressors>.

#### **State Water Resources Control Board Interior Flows Workshop**

On April 16-17, 2014, the Delta Science Program held another independent science panel workshop for the State Water Resources Control Board. This workshop focused on identifying the best available science on Delta Interior Flows and associated stressors to inform the State Water Board's decisions. Both days of the event were webcasted, recorded, and will be posted on the Delta Stewardship Council Website. More information can be found at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-event/10470>.

### **Collaborative Science Activities**

#### **Progress Update on Interim Science Action Agenda**

The Interim Science Action Agenda takes an initial step in implementing the Delta Science Plan. It is a shared list of near-term common priority science needs, questions, and actions from existing work plans, reviews and other documents to be addressed within a two-year time frame (targeted completion of the Agenda is Summer 2014). On May 6, 2014 the Delta Science Program will hold a half-day workshop (12:30- 4:30pm) that seeks input from the broad Delta science and policy community. Everyone who contributes to and uses science in the Delta is encouraged to help develop the Interim Science Action Agenda.

### **Integrated Monitoring Framework for Habitat and Water Quality**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and State Water Resources Control Board are spearheading a collaborative effort, funded by USEPA, to develop a common framework to satisfy monitoring and assessment needs required to cost-effectively implement Natural Communities Conservation Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans, and Water Quality Control Plans. The Placer County HCP was chosen for this pilot project to test an integrated monitoring and assessment approach that is capable of determining consistency with plan objectives. The project team, which includes the San Francisco Estuary Institute - Aquatic Science Center, will identify compliance questions that must be answered for Clean Water Act, Porter Cologne, HCP, and NCCP purposes and identify the minimum data needed by each of these programs to answer their questions. A review of existing statewide datasets, existing data collection methods, and existing data management and delivery systems will contribute to three key Delta Science Plan actions:

- “Build a comprehensive Delta monitoring strategy for an integrated program”
- “Develop guidelines for data sharing”
- “Develop a joint funding strategy for the Delta Science Plan” (permit conditions could contribute to the standard application of science in adaptive management, as outlined in the Delta Plan)

The pilot project will test-drive the recommended monitoring and assessment guidelines to maximize their value across programs and projects. The Delta Science Program intends to share lessons learned with Delta restoration planning, permitting, and adaptive management partners. A substantive progress report on key milestones (status of draft framework, inventory of relevant data and gap analysis, etc.) is expected to be available by late summer.

### **Seminar on Emerging Techniques to Quantify the Effects of Environmental Change in Bay-Delta Organisms**

The UC Davis Center for Aquatic Biology and Aquaculture will hold a science synthesis seminar on May 12, 2014. The goal of this event is to demonstrate emerging techniques to assess the effects of environmental change in Delta organisms. This event will be forum to discuss ways in which to streamline and strengthen the linkage between existing monitoring/survey programs, and the labs that perform these techniques. More information can be found at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-event/10584>.

### **Science Communication**

#### **State Scientist’s Day**

On May 14, 2014, staff will participate in State Scientist’s Day, an event put on by the California Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS). We will have a youth-friendly display showcasing the Delta Stewardship Council. Activities may include an interactive game about what goes on in the Delta, large maps of California and the Delta for students to place a mark where they are from, and an opportunity for students to write or draw a way that they can become a steward of the Delta, which will be displayed around the booth. More information can be found at: <http://capsscientists.org/ssd/>.

**By the Numbers**

The Sea Grant State Fellow will give a summary of current numbers related to Delta water and environmental management. The summary will inform the Council of recent counts, measurements and monitoring figures driving water and environmental management issues.

**List of Attachments**

Attachment 1: By the Numbers Summary

**Contact**

Dr. Peter Goodwin  
Lead Scientist

Phone: (916) 445-0463