

Suggestions for the Scope of the ISB Review of the Delta Science Program (DSP)

Vision:

All Bay-Delta water and environmental policy is founded on the highest caliber science

Mission:

To provide the best possible, unbiased scientific information for water and environmental decision-making in the Bay-Delta system

Requirements of DSP (from Delta Reform Act of 2009: SBX7 1)

1. Funding research

- PSP
- Science Fellows Program

2. Synthesizing and Communicating scientific information

- Science News
http://archive.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta_science_program/publications/sci_news_0212.html
- Online Journal
http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie_sfews
- Meetings and Workshops

3. Promoting independent peer review

4. Coordinating with Delta Agencies to promote Science-Based Adaptive Management

5. Assist with development and periodic updates of Delta Plan's Adaptive Management Plan

Format

1. Review of background materials including metrics prior to review
2. Subset of ISB members meet with DSP staff informally
3. Subset of ISB members meet with DSP Senior Managers
4. Subset of ISB meet with Lead Scientist/Deputy Executive Officer for Science
5. Subset of ISB meet with Joe Grindstaff
6. Subset of ISB meet with Council Chair/Vice-Chair Phil Isenberg and Randy Fiorini
7. Subset of ISB meet with External users of DSP Services
8. Open Discussion at ISB meeting

Specific Questions

1. How can the Draft DSP Strategic Plan 2012-15 be improved? Does it capture the mission of the DSP?
2. Are the performance metrics used to evaluate the DSP Strategic Plan suitable and do they capture the impact of the DSP? Are there other measures that could be used without imposing a large administrative burden on the program?
3. How is DSP performing in each of the five objectives stated in the Delta Reform Act?

3.1 Funded Research

- PSP – Proposal process, contract administration, research outcomes
 - Science Fellows – Proposal process, mentoring, impact of Fellows program
- What are the most significant new contributions to scientific knowledge?

3.2 Synthesize and Communicate Science

The NRC Report emphasized synthesis activities. The DSP is beginning to plan the first synthesis activities. Based on your experiences, what advice do you have for creating an effective process for identifying, prioritizing, funding, communicating, updating these activities.

3.3 Promoting Independent Peer Review

This has been a major activity in the past– what advice do you have for how these reviews are conducted and communicated.

3.4 Coordinating with Delta Agencies to Promote Science-based Adaptive Management

How effective is the DSP in coordinating Delta Science? What additional mechanisms could be employed?

3.5 Assist with Updates of Delta Plan

Are there any other ways DSP could improve outcomes or impact of science not currently being considered?

4. Does the DSP offer adequate opportunities for professional growth and training for staff and managers?
5. In the past, the ISB has articulated the importance of sustaining institutional knowledge through hiring and retaining talented staff. Are there additional actions that the DSP should be considering to ensure retention continue building the intellectual capability of the Program?