

Delta Independent Science Board Educational Briefing Questionnaire

Please provide short written responses to the following:

1. Program Title: Delta Science Program
2. Lead Agency/Department for Program: Delta Stewardship Council
3. Brief Description of Program: The Delta Science Program was established by statute to develop unbiased and authoritative scientific knowledge directly relevant to Bay-Delta actions. That knowledge must be unbiased, relevant, authoritative, integrated across state and federal agencies, and communicated to Bay-Delta decision-makers, agency managers, stakeholders, the scientific community and the public. The Delta Lead Scientist is responsible for leading, overseeing, and guiding the Science Program. The Program provides independent, scientific peer review of plans, programs and products; hosts workshops to summarize and communicate available scientific information on important topics; awards research grants (\$23 million since 2004); and supports postdoctoral and pre-doctoral fellows carrying out high priority research in the Delta.
4. Purpose and Objectives of Program: The purpose of the Delta Science Program is to provide the best possible unbiased scientific information to inform water and environmental decision making in the Delta. This is done by funding research, synthesizing and communicating scientific information to policy and decision makers, promoting independent scientific peer review, and coordinating with Delta agencies to promote science-based adaptive management. The Program also assists in development and periodic updates of the Delta Plan's adaptive management program.
5. Timeline for Program Objectives: Ongoing
6. Current Status of Program: In 2011, the Program awarded nearly \$8 million to fund 13 new grants and \$1.5 million for 8 new fellowships supporting high priority Delta research topics, and manages an additional 11 previously-funded grants and approximately 10 fellowships. The Program completed its first full year of supporting the Delta Independent Science Board and in 2011, will have hosted four scientific review panels one scientific workshop. The Delta Science Program was also the lead author on three chapters of the Delta Plan: Chapter 2, Science and Adaptive Management for a Changing Delta; Chapter 5, Restore the Delta Ecosystem; and Chapter 6, Improve Water Quality to Protect Human Health and the Environment and made major contributions to other portions of the Plan.
7. Contact Information for Lead Staff of this Program:

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8. Associated Total Annual Budget for Program: \$6-8 million
9. URL, if a Website is Available: <http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program>
10. How does adaptive management play a role in your program? One of the objectives of the Delta Science Program is to "coordinate with State and Federal agencies to promote science-based adaptive management." In addition, the Delta Reform Act (Act) requires the use of science-based, transparent, and formal adaptive management strategies for ongoing ecosystem restoration and water management decisions (Water Code section 85308(f)). The Act requires the Delta Science

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Program to assist in development and periodic updates of the Delta Plan's adaptive management program. Consistent with its objective and the Act, the Delta Science Program was lead author on Chapter 2, Science and Adaptive Management for a Changing Delta, which provides an adaptive management framework to be used by water management and ecosystem restoration actions covered under the Delta Plan. The Program will help covered action proponents develop their adaptive management plans through early consultation, and will evaluate appealed certifications of consistency for consistency with the Delta Plan's AM framework. The Program also will help covered action proponents implement their adaptive management plan.

11. Any additional information that would be helpful to understand the program:

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire. Please return your completed questionnaire to Gina Ford (gina.ford@deltacouncil.ca.gov) no later than October 6, 2011.