

Delta Independent Science Board Educational Briefing Questionnaire

Please provide short written responses to the following:

1. Program Title: Delta Levees Program
2. Lead Agency/Department for Program: Department of Water Resources in partnership with the Department of Fish and Game
3. Brief Description of Program: The Delta Levees Program consists of the Subventions Program and the Special Flood Control Projects Program (Special Projects.) The Subventions Program provides cost sharing with Local Levee Maintaining Districts in the Delta primarily for levee maintenance. The Special Projects Program provides cost sharing to the levee districts generally for larger levee rehabilitation projects in the Delta under a competitive grant program. The Special Projects Program is also responsible for funding habitat mitigation and enhancement and other special studies.
4. Purpose and Objectives of Program: Primarily flood risk reduction to protect people, property, and water supply.
5. Timeline for Program Objectives: Long-standing program (since the early 1980's) will continue as long as funded by the legislature.
6. Current Status of Program: Active
7. Contact Information for Lead Staff of this Program:

Name	Mike Mirmazaheri
Title	Manager, Delta Levees Program
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8. Associated Total Annual Budget for Program: Variable – currently \$50 million
9. URL, if a Website is Available: <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/dsmo/bdlb/>
10. How does adaptive management play a role in your program? Adaptive management has been used in the past primarily on larger habitat enhancement projects in conjunction with monitoring to improve plant and animal communities, make minor improvements to project area and improve design in subsequent projects.
11. Any additional information that would be helpful to understand the program:

The State, through the Subventions Program and Special Projects Program, has invested over \$200 million in flood control and habitat projects carried out by Local Agencies in the Delta. The Department funding has been dedicated to maintaining and improving the aging Delta levees. Under California Water Code Section 12314, the Program must not only mitigate the habitat impacts of each Project it funds, but must also ensure that the Program creates a result of a net long-term habitat improvement in the Delta.

The Special Projects Program was established in 1988 by Senate Bill 34. It continues to operate under subsequent legislation that extended and provided funding for the program. Originally, the Program was authorized to address flooding on the eight Western Delta Islands and in the towns of

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Thornton and Walnut Grove. In 1996, Assembly Bill 360 expanded the Program to include the entire Delta and to portions of Suisun Marsh (approximately 12 miles of levees on islands bordering the Northern Suisun Bay from Van Sickle Island westerly to Montezuma Slough) as outlined in Section 12311 of the California Water Code. Today, any Local Agency with a Project or Non-Project levee in the Primary Zone of the Delta or a Non-Project levee in the Secondary Zone of the Delta is eligible to submit proposals and apply for the Special Projects funds.

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.