

Delta Independent Science Board Report

Summary: Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) Chair Dr. Tracy Collier will report on the Delta ISB's July public teleconference and September two-day public meeting.

Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB)

Dr. Collier will brief the Council on the Delta ISB's public teleconference held on July 12, 2013 and the public meeting held on September 12-13, 2013.

During the July 12 teleconference, the Delta ISB discussed and approved its comment letter on the first draft of the Delta Science Plan (Attachment 1). The ISB supports the overall approach taken by the Stewardship Council's Delta Science Program in developing the draft. The Delta Science Plan is a first concrete step toward a science framework that brings together a wide array of past, present, and future science activities. The ISB sees a need for a Science Plan and Program that provides greater scientific unity and synthesis to support Delta management decisions and policies. The letter offers additional suggestions to help guide revision of the draft Science Plan including:

- Give more emphasis to synthesis and integration.
- Say more about resolving conflict.
- Highlight improved ways to provide scientific information.
- Offer details on structuring science to support adaptive management.
- Develop data and tools for meeting grand challenges.
- Sketch out funding needs and associated interagency partnerships.

On September 12, 2013, the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB) took a boat tour of habitat restoration projects in the Delta including Liberty Island and Little Holland Tract, parts of Cache and Lindsey sloughs, Prospect Island, and Yolo Ranch. On the following day, September 13, the Delta ISB reviewed and approved comments on the second draft of the Delta Science Plan (Attachment 2). In general the ISB found the second draft to be responsive to its comments on the first draft and more comprehensive, but expressed concern that the plan seemed to lack detail on the financial support and agency motivation needed to be successful. The Board also felt that, when implemented, the Delta Science Plan will significantly improve the quality of science in the Delta and how science is communicated, translated, and incorporated into policy decisions. The ISB comments include several recommendations for improving the next draft of the Plan.

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Other topics of discussion at the September meeting included the previous day's boat tour, progress on the Fish and Flows program review, and continued preparation for its review of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (DEIR/S).

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: DISB Comments on the First Draft of the Delta Science Plan
Attachment 2: DISB Comments on the Second Draft of the Delta Science Plan

Contact

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