

Update on Interim Science Action Agenda

Summary: This report provides an update on the status of activities underway to develop an Interim Science Action Agenda. The presentation will highlight, 1) progress to date, including the completion of a preliminary summary of science needs and actions from existing plans/reports and the results of a public workshop including examples of priority actions and strategies suggested by agencies and stakeholders, and 2) the next steps the Delta Science Program will take to develop and complete the Interim Science Action Agenda.

Background

The Interim Science Action Agenda takes an initial step in implementing the Delta Science Plan (completed December 2013). The Delta Science Plan lays out a shared vision for Delta science and provides a guide for organizing, conducting and integrating science in the Delta. The Delta Science Plan calls for a Science Action Agenda to prioritize and align specific science actions to inform management decisions and inform updates to our scientific understanding of the Delta as reflected in the *State of Bay-Delta Science*. To make immediate progress toward a full Science Action Agenda, the Delta Science Program, working with others, is developing an Interim Science Action Agenda.

The Interim Science Action Agenda is an initial list of shared priority science needs, questions, and recommended or proposed actions from existing documents and expert input to be addressed within a two-year time frame. Building on existing efforts, it will serve as a shared agenda for science collaboration among agencies and programs, enable leveraging resources and guide funding decisions to accelerate learning to meet shared science and information needs. It will be the basis for the full Science Action Agenda that will cover a four-year time frame and prioritization of actions.

Progress to Date

An Interim Science Action Agenda Workshop, sponsored by the Delta Science Program, was held on May 6, 2014. More than 40 participants from federal, state and local agencies, non-governmental agencies and the private sector gathered to learn about and provide input on the development of the Interim Science Action Agenda. Participants commented on the preliminary synthesis of 26 plans representing the science needs, questions and actions of 25 single- and multi-agency programs (Attachment 1). Examples of common science actions proposed by workshop participants include a web-based tracking tool of science activities in the Delta, landscape-scale conceptual models, and collaborative and transparent data evaluation processes. The Delta Science Program also listened to participants' ideas about how to proceed (Attachment 2). The Delta Science Program will be following up

on a number of recommendations, including specific advice to build on existing collaborative efforts and suggestions to conduct expert interviews to streamline work and obtain the most relevant and up-to-date information.

Next Steps

The Delta Science Program will build on the recommendations of workshop participants by taking the following next steps:

- May-Jun. 2014: Conduct targeted interviews to streamline the identification and summarization of shared science needs and actions;
- Jul. 2014: Develop and post a Draft Interim Science Action Agenda
- Aug. 2014: Obtain public feedback and Delta Independent Science Board review
- Sep. 2014: Complete the Interim Science Action Agenda
- Nov. 2014: Present the Interim Science Action Agenda to agency leaders at the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee meeting

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: [Preliminary Synthesis to Inform the Interim Science Action Agenda](#)

Attachment 2: Summary of Interim Science Action Agenda Workshop Evaluation Responses

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