

Approval of USGS as a Member of Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee

Requested Action: Approve the addition of the U. S. Geological Survey to the core membership of the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the addition of the US Geological Survey (USGS) to the core membership of the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) to increase the policy-science interface and strengthen state-federal coordination critical to Delta issues and Delta Plan implementation.

Background

In accordance with Water Code Section 85204, Chapter Two of the Delta Plan, and supported by the California Water Action Plan, the Delta Stewardship Council has established and convened "a committee of agencies responsible for implementing the Delta Plan".

On December 19, 2013, the Council identified a core group of 10 state and six federal agencies to compose the DPIIC. Initial core membership was based on each agency's Lead Agency status within the Delta Plan, responsibility for multiple areas of the Plan, and ability to provide leadership, resources, staff and funding for collaborative implementation efforts. This included specific federal agencies with relevant interests in the Delta (and responsibilities under the Delta Plan) whose participation on the DPIIC would continue the essential state-federal partnership so critical to lasting success (Water Code Section 85082).

The core membership includes the following agencies:

State/Delta Agencies:

Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Chair, Delta Stewardship Council (DPIIC Chair)
Vice Chair, Delta Protection Commission
Director, Department of Water Resources
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Executive Officer, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
President, Central Valley Flood Protection Board

Federal Agencies:

Deputy Secretary, US Department of the Interior
Regional Director, Mid-Pacific, Bureau of Reclamation
Regional Director, Pacific Southwest, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Regional Administrator, West Coast, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Regional Administrator, Pacific Southwest, US Environmental Protection Agency
South Pacific Division Director of Programs, US Army Corps of Engineers

The Council also provided direction that the DPIIC would serve as a forum to discuss, consider and orchestrate the timely and orderly implementation of actions consistent with the policies and recommendations outlined in the Delta Plan and with the annual priorities set by the Council.

California Water Action Plan:

In January 2014, the Administration, through the Secretaries of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, and Agriculture, released the California Water Action Plan directing:

... all of its relevant agencies to fully participate in the Implementation Committee established by the Delta Stewardship Council and to work with the Delta Science Program, the Interagency Ecological Program and others to implement the Delta Science Plan to enhance water and natural resource policy and management decisions. (p. 8)

Since that time, Council staff has been working closely with the Natural Resources Agency and others on coordinating actions and organizing financing in support of Water Action Plan implementation.

Federal Investments in the Bay-Delta Region:

The California Water Action Plan was complemented by the federal government's February 2014 release of the report Federal Investments: California Bay-Delta Region. From this report and through federal agency participation on the DPIIC, the federal government reconfirmed its commitment to the Delta "as an ecosystem of national significance and the hub of the nation's largest water delivery system".

In addition to highlighting the many federal programs being implemented in the Delta, the report specifically stated the need for coordinated federal-state Delta science planning:

... An integrated federal and state approach to coordinating the numerous monitoring and research tasks in the Delta would facilitate a consistent framework for research, monitoring, and adaptive management that can directly inform water management objectives and goals. (p.9)

Strengthening Federal-State Partnership – USGS:

To more fully formalize and strengthen our existing connections with the federal government and one of its leading science agencies, staff recommends the Council approve the addition of USGS to the DPIIC core membership. This action will further the reach of the DPIIC through its core membership to better integrate implementation of the California Water Action Plan and federal activities in the Delta with the ongoing implementation of the Delta Plan and Delta Science Plan.

Contact

Taryn Ravazzini, Coordinator
Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee

Phone: (916) 445-0134