

Presentation of Draft Interim Science Action Agenda and Next Steps

Summary: This report is an informational overview of the Draft Interim Science Action Agenda (posted September 9, 2014) and summarizes the next steps in its development.

Background

The Interim Science Action Agenda takes an initial step in implementing the Delta Science Plan (completed December 2013), which 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*. The Interim Science Action Agenda being prepared by the Delta Science Program and others, is the initial step toward the full Science Action Agenda.

The Interim Science Action Agenda is a 2014 priority of the Delta Stewardship Council. In addition, the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee has acknowledged the Interim Science Action Agenda as a priority for implementing the vision of the Delta Science Plan – *One Delta, One Science*. That means an open Delta science community that works together to build a shared state of knowledge with the capacity to adapt and inform current and future water and environmental decision in the Delta.

Draft Interim Science Action Agenda

On September 9, 2014 a Draft Interim Science Action Agenda (Attachment 1) was posted on the Council's website for public review. This collaborative road map for addressing the science needs of policy makers and managers in the Delta includes 17 priority science action areas. These action areas are organized into two main categories, 1) Science Actions that Address Knowledge Gaps (organized by the policy areas/ chapters in the Delta Plan), and 2) Science Actions that Build the Infrastructure and Capacity to Achieve *One Delta, One Science* (organized by the chapters in the Delta Science Plan). These 17 science action areas are a summary and synthesis of 315 individual science actions identified through focused interviews with agencies and organizations that produce/and or use scientific information in the Delta and the Delta Science Program's review of existing documents. An Excel workbook with detailed

information about the 315 individual science actions included in the synthesis is posted with the Draft Interim Science Action Agenda here:

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/interim-science-action-agenda>.

Written public comments on both the Draft Interim Science Action Agenda and associated Excel workbook are being sought through Tuesday, October 7, 2014. Details on how to provide public comment are outlined on page ii of the Draft Interim Science Action Agenda.

During the presentation or in follow up discussion, the Council may wish to consider these questions:

- Draft measures of success are listed on page 3 of the Interim Science Action Agenda. How will the Delta Science Program, the Council, and the implementing agencies track the success of the Interim Science Action Agenda?
- How will information from the listed science actions be useful for Delta decisions?
- How will Delta Science Program transition from the Interim Science Action Agenda to the Science Action Agenda described in the Delta Science Plan?

Next Steps

Over the next two months, several actions will be taken to receive and incorporate comments leading to the completion of the Interim Science Action Agenda. The following is a summary of these next steps:

- October 2014: Delta Independent Science Board review; incorporate public comments received; presentation at the Bay-Delta Science Conference
- November 2014: Final Interim Science Action Agenda; presentation to the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Draft Interim Science Action Agenda (September 9, 2014)

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