

From: Ben Wallace [mailto:ben@solanolandtrust.org]
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 9:03 PM
To: McGee, Jill@DeltaCouncil
Cc: Nicole Byrd
Subject: RE: Delta Independent Science Board Scientific Program Reviews

Dear Ms. McGee,

Unfortunately, both Nicole Byrd and I will be out of the office when your meeting takes place. Therefore, I have provided brief responses in red to the questions in the attached document.

1. Current and planned restoration efforts

- What are the current and planned habitat restoration efforts in which you (your management agency, research team, etc.) are involved?
 - Lindsey Slough Freshwater Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project at the DFG Calhoun Cut Ecological Reserve, in the Cache Slough Ecological Management Zone. SLT manages this project in collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Game.
 - Goat Island Marsh Tidal Restoration Project & Spring Branch Creek Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project at SLT's Rush Ranch Preserve, in Suisun Marsh
- How do past restoration efforts and scientific research inform these actions?
 - We frequently review and reference scientific research, and review literature associated with prior restoration projects, when we develop conceptual models and set objectives for restoration projects and management plans
- How are these efforts likely to be affected by climate change, sea-level rise, or other environmental drivers? (i.e. are current and planned activities likely to be effective in 10-80 years, given the projections for environmental change?)
 - Our projects happen to be at the interface between tidal, fluvial, and upland systems, consequently they have a relatively good chance of being effective 80 years down the road, however, if the accelerated rate of environmental change comes to pass as predicted, it may overwhelm even the most optimally situated project
- How are modeling, monitoring, and adaptive management incorporated into current and planned habitat restoration efforts, and are these designed to facilitate adaptation to climate change?
 - SLT hired Wetlands and Water Resources, Inc. to prepare an in-depth existing conditions report and conceptual model for Rush Ranch that examines 10 of the major drivers of environmental change. This informed the restoration designs. The resulting management plan also incorporates adaptive management in order to address future uncertainty.

2. Collaboration, communication, and synthesis

- How are your habitat restoration activities shared or coordinated with other public agencies, universities, and private organizations?
 - We partner with the California Department of Fish and Game on the Lindsey project and SF Bay NERR on the Rush Ranch projects.
- How are the potential effects of climate change being incorporated into collaborative efforts?
 - In addition to the analysis conducted above, SF Bay NERR is planning to establish China camp and Rush Ranch as "sentinel sites" for climate change and sealevel rise, within the nationwide National Estuarine Research Reserve System.
- How are the results of collaborative work used to inform adaptive management and decision-making?
 - SLT has worked with numerous scientists associated with SF Bay NERR to develop a greater understanding of resource issues, such as Suisun Thistle (an endangered species) and perennial pepperweed (an exotic weed)
- How is key information (monitoring data, field observations, research results, the status of restoration efforts, etc.) communicated among the collaborators, to multiple stakeholder groups, and to the general public?

3. Policy and decisions

- How are priorities established about what to restore, where, and when?
 - Conceptual models, site analysis
- How are models or decision-support tools used to set priorities?
- What policies drive or constrain the restoration work?
- Are current policies or decision processes appropriate for habitat restoration in a rapidly changing environment? If not, what policies or processes are needed?

Benjamin Wallace, Solano Land Trust
707-432-0150 x203, ben@solanolandtrust.org