



INFORMATION ITEM

Delta Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms Monitoring Strategy Presentation

Summary

Cyanobacteria harmful algal blooms (CHABs) have been a major water quality nuisance in the Delta for decades, and many studies have been conducted to demonstrate their impacts on the ecosystem and public health. However, no regulatory framework for monitoring CHABs exists in the Delta. This Delta CHABs Monitoring Strategy was developed to address this gap and the needs identified by the science community through a Fall 2022 public workshop. The Delta CHABs Monitoring Strategy establishes a community-informed approach to address and advance the management of CHABs in the Delta by: 1) coordinating the collection of priority data, 2) developing collaborative approaches to sharing data, and 3) ultimately implementing CHAB mitigation techniques.

Background

In winter 2021, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife approached the Delta Science Program (DSP) regarding the development of a strategy to address cyanobacteria harmful algal blooms (CHABs).

The DSP hosted a public workshop on CHABs in November 2022 that brought together interested parties from federal, state, and local governments, Tribal governments, community-based organizations, academia, nonprofits, nongovernmental organizations, and general members of the public. This workshop offered presentations and facilitated discussions for the purpose of developing a CHAB monitoring strategy (Strategy) that integrated the needs of varied interests on CHABs in the Delta.

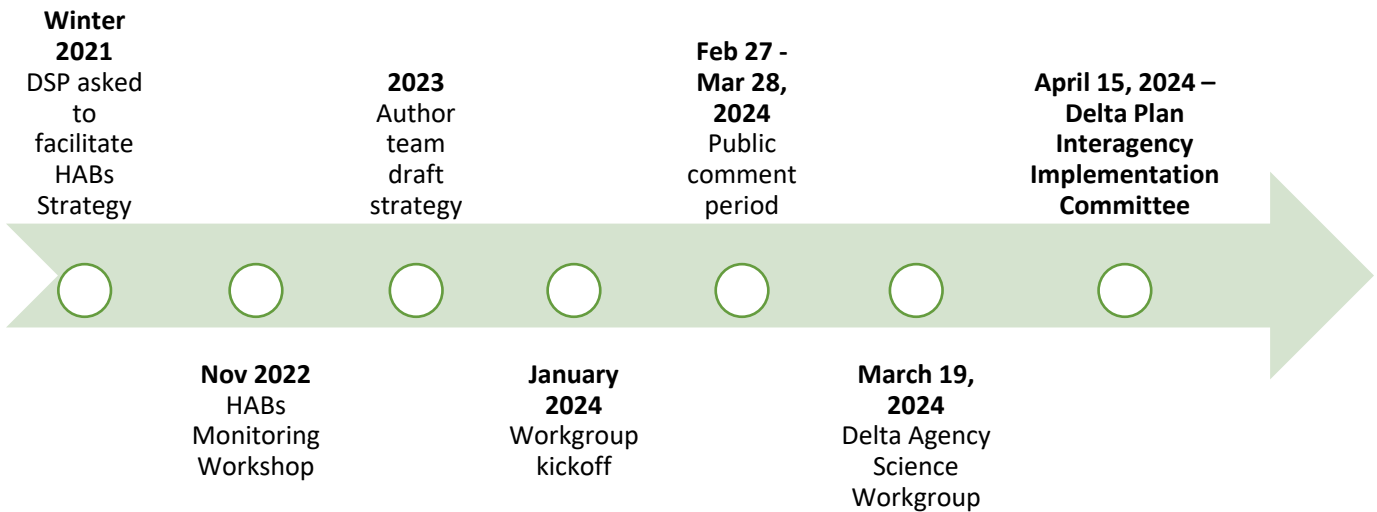


Figure 1, Timeline of Strategy Development.

The authors of the Strategy are Dr. Ellen Preece (Department of Water Resources), Dr. Mine Berg (Environmental Science Associates), Tricia Lee (DSP), Dr. Karen Odkins (Department of Fish and Wildlife), and Jenna Rinde (Department of Fish and Wildlife). The authors worked through 2023 to develop the Strategy, working extensively with interested parties over the course of multiple public meetings. Representatives of Restore the Delta, State Water Board, U.S. Geological Survey, and many others attended and provided input. The draft Strategy was released for public comment in February 2024 and endorsed, in concept, by the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee in April 2024.

The Strategy includes five goals, 15 objectives, and recommendations for 20 special studies. These recommendations primarily focus on enhancing collaboration and data sharing, and informing CHABs-related decision-making in the Delta. The Strategy is now finalized and available on the Delta Stewardship Council’s webpage (available here: <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/collaborative-science>). The Strategy will be implemented through an Interagency Ecological Program Project Work Team led by Ellen Preece (Department of Water Resources), Keith Bouma-Gregson (U.S. Geological Survey), Laura Twardochleb (State Water Resources Control Board), and Tricia Lee (Delta Science Program). Implementation is just kicking off and interested parties can visit the Interagency Ecological Program’s CHABs Project Work Sub-Team webpage (available here:

<https://iep.ca.gov/Science-Synthesis-Service/Project-Work-Teams/Water-Quality-and-Phytoplankton>) for more information.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Final Delta CHABs Monitoring Strategy (*available here:* deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/science-program/2024-10-21-final-delta-chabs-monitoring-strategy.pdf)

Contact

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