



INFORMATION ITEM

A Quick-Start Guide to the Council's Delta Plan Performance Measure Dashboard

Summary

Council staff will present how the Delta Plan Performance Measure Dashboard tracks progress towards Delta Plan targets and addresses frequently asked questions regarding Delta Plan implementation. Performance measures translate Delta Plan policies and recommendations into measurable outcomes. The Council developed the Delta Plan performance measures over multiple years with input from state, federal and local agencies, scientists and other partners.

Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act (Wat. Code, § 85000 et seq.; Delta Reform Act.) requires that the Delta Plan include “quantitative or otherwise measurable assessments” associated with achieving the objectives of the Delta Plan. (Wat. Code, § 85211.) To fulfill this requirement, the Delta Plan includes 158 performance measures that track and evaluate physical, environmental, and program-based changes resulting from implementation of Delta Plan policies and recommendations. Council staff evaluate the performance measures and present findings to the Council annually as a ‘pulse-check’ on Delta hydrological, ecological, and human characteristics, informing the Council about how Delta Plan strategies are working.

The Council designed, developed, and launched an online tool in 2019 to provide a publicly accessible platform to view performance measure status and trends and monitor progress toward the Delta Plan targets. It can be accessed at viewperformance.deltacouncil.ca.gov. This presentation will demonstrate the capabilities of the tool by walking through how it can be used to answer some frequently asked questions.

How are we progressing toward Delta Plan goals?

The most commonly asked question is how much progress we have made and how much do we still need to do to reach Delta Plan targets. The Council defines and tracks progress using performance measures that rely on monitoring data collected throughout the Delta and technical reports prepared by trusted, vetted sources. Staff review, update, and evaluate the performance measures annually, displaying notable changes on the dashboard. An overview of each year's findings is summarized on the dashboard's *Year in Review* section. The findings discussed below are drawn from recent performance measure data updates.

Is Delta ecosystem restoration progressing?

To achieve a healthy Delta ecosystem, the Delta Plan establishes a target to restore 60,000-80,000 acres of natural habitat, and to reconnect 50,000 acres of land to tidal and freshwater flows, emphasizing social benefits, tribal engagement, and compatibility with existing land uses. As of 2026, 12,000 acres have been restored, and about 15,000 additional acres are in progress or planned. Together, these 27,000 acres of restored habitat represent about **one-third** of the overall target.

To view progress toward these ecosystem targets, the dashboard displays locations and details about completed, ongoing, and planned habitat restoration projects, and tracks changes in acreage of natural communities over time. Interactive maps show locations of habitat restoration projects categorized by key habitat type restored, implementation status, and size ([Performance Measure M 4.15](https://rebrand.ly/illsxo6) (<https://rebrand.ly/illsxo6>)). Interactive tables allow users to sort and search projects by name, completion year, habitat type, and acres restored. Similarly, vegetation changes over time are tracked and summarized by habitat type ([Performance Measure 4.16](https://rebrand.ly/60xx8at) (<https://rebrand.ly/60xx8at>)).

Monitoring locations, acres, and timing of natural habitat restored informs understanding of habitat gains and the spatial and temporal distribution of ecosystem restoration activities. This in turn informs how many more acres need to be restored where, by when, to reach the acreage goals.

Is statewide water supply reliability improving?

To support improved water supply reliability, the Delta Plan establishes a statewide conservation target of 20% reduction in water use. As of 2026, urban water users

on average used 50 gallons less per person per day than in 2010, achieving the overall 20% reduction target.

To show progress toward the water use reduction target, the dashboard displays performance measures derived from urban and agricultural water management plans. For example, users can access maps of California hydrologic regions and associated graphs that compare per capita water use and document progress toward regional water conservation targets ([Performance Measure 3.1](https://rebrand.ly/3zcjus3)(https://rebrand.ly/3zcjus3)).

Monitoring and tracking statewide and regional urban water conservation is an effective way to determine changes in regional self-reliance. Improved water use efficiency reduces demand for and use of Delta water.

[Are the unique values and characteristics of Delta being protected?](#)

The Delta Plan establishes a range of performance measures describing the Delta as an evolving place, from protecting Delta land and communities, to promoting recreation and tourism, to improving the Delta economy. Protecting Delta farmland from conversion to non-agricultural use is fundamental to maintaining the Delta's economic foundation. Approximately 28,000 acres of agricultural land is projected to convert to future urban development under city and county general plans in place when the Delta Plan was adopted in 2013. Since 2014, approximately 2,817 acres of farmland have been converted to urban development.

The dashboard features a map that shows farmland conversions over time, pinpointing spatial and temporal land use changes within designated development zones identified in city and county plans ([Performance Measure 5.9](https://rebrand.ly/f7y938a)(https://rebrand.ly/f7y938a)). Users can readily see which locations underwent conversion and track these trends visually.

Tracking farmland conversions to urban development allows us to directly assess the effectiveness of Delta land protections. Preserving farmland strengthens Delta agriculture, which supports the region's rural character, levees, communities, and culture.

Are Delta levees being improved?

Delta levees play a major role in flood risk reduction, protecting the Delta's low-lying islands and holding back water year-round, all day. As of 2026, about 31% of Delta islands are protected fully by levees that meet applicable design standards for rural and urban flood protection, compared to 26% of Delta islands protected fully in 2018. While this illustrates modest progress over a few years' time, it also shows the amount of work left to be done to meet the Delta Plan target of 100% of Delta islands protected by levees that meet applicable design standards.

The dashboard includes a map illustrating the protection level provided by levees for each Delta island, as well as an interactive table detailing improvements in levee safety over the past decade ([Performance Measure 7.3](https://rebrand.ly/u3tmx44)(<https://rebrand.ly/u3tmx44>)).

By identifying Delta islands where portions of levees do not meet the required design standards, we can strategically identify specific sections for improvement and strengthen the Delta's overall level of flood protection. This approach clarifies what actions are needed to reduce flood risks to people, property, and state interests.

How is my agency contributing to achieving Delta Plan goals?

Partner agencies frequently ask about their role in achieving Delta Plan targets. The Delta Plan identifies the agency or group of agencies charged to lead implementation of recommended administrative actions. Often these actions involve developing new plans and programs and identifying resources to support them.

The dashboard monitors administrative performance measures that indicate how partner agencies implement Delta Plan recommendations. Through this interactive tool, users can view, search, and filter relevant measures, as well as access information about implementation activities, related products, and links to the Delta Plan.

Tracking each agency's progress against Delta Plan recommendations enables users to assess and understand the scope and specifics of partner-agency

responsibilities. This is essential because transparency and accountability in government actions foster public confidence, institutional commitment, and trust.

How are performance measures informing Delta Plan review?

The Delta Reform Act requires the Council to review the Delta Plan every five years and revise it as necessary. (Wat. Code, § 85300.) As part of each review, performance measures are evaluated and rated according to the proportion of their targets that has been achieved.

In 2024, the Council completed its most recent *Delta Plan Five-Year Review*, which included performance-based report cards. The assessments, along with the review's other findings, helped guide the Council's priority management actions for the following five years.

Conclusion

At today's meeting, Council staff demonstrated an interactive, web-based tool that enables users to review performance-measure data, assess status and trends across the Delta Plan targets, and evaluate the effectiveness of related actions. The tool supports monitoring the progress of Delta Plan implementation, documenting achievements, and identifying priorities for advancing the collective effort toward the Delta Plan targets and coequal goals.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

Not applicable.

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A recording of the presentation will be available on the Delta Council's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/@DeltaCouncil>.