Delta Independent Science Board: Recent Accomplishments and Current Activities

Dr. Elizabeth Canuel
Delta Independent Science Board

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Statutory Role

- 85280. “...provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management in the Delta through periodic reviews of each of those programs....”

- Review programs by themes and specific science documents (e.g., Delta Science Plan)

- Thematic reviews presented to the Council:
  1) Restoration (2013)
  2) Fish and Flows (2015)
  3) Adaptive Management (2016)
  4) Levees (2016)
  5) Delta as an Evolving Place (2017)
  6) Water Quality (2018)
  7) Interagency Ecological Program (2019)
Recent Activities:
Since August 2019

2. Completion of the Initial Phase on the Monitoring Enterprise Review – March 2020
3. Delta Science on Rapid Change Panel Discussions – April 2020
4. Letter to DWR on Notice of Preparation – April 2020
1. IEP Review – Outreach Phase

- Working with IEP leadership to implement recommendations
- Poster for IEP Workshop (meeting materials)
2. Monitoring Enterprise Review (1)

- The Delta ISB is assessing how well monitoring programs are meeting the information needs of management agencies.

- **Component 1** - development of a comprehensive inventory of monitoring programs in the Delta by a contractor under the direction of the Delta ISB. (handout in meeting materials)
2. Monitoring Enterprise Review (2)

Next Step: Component 2

Findings and recommendations based on information collected in the inventory and other information collected for the review.
3. Delta Science During Rapid Environmental Change (1)

- Delta ISB reviewed early drafts of the 2019 Delta Science Plan – State’s overall portfolio of science and technical activities for the Delta is substantial and useful.

- Scientific enterprise must become **better organized and accelerate efforts to address rapid environmental change** (e.g., climate change, new invasive species, and the decline of native species).

- The Delta ISB – letter to DPIIC suggesting Science Needs Assessment (DPIIC endorsed).

- To help inform the Science Needs Assessment, the Delta ISB explored the implications of rapid environmental change on Delta science.
3. Delta Science During Rapid Environmental Change (2)

Activities:
- Preparation of a draft discussion paper (Fall 2019)
- Panel discussion with leading experts from across the United States (January 2020)
- Memo that was submitted to the Council and Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) – April 2020 (see meeting materials)

Conclusions:
- Delta science and management need to employ existing methodologies and develop new ones for looking ahead to anticipate changes and thresholds
4. DWR Letter on the Delta Conveyance Project

- As part of its legislative mandate, the Delta ISB provided consultation to DWR on BDCP/California WaterFix and provided comments on the EIR/S to the Council and CDFW.

- Plans to review the EIR for the Delta Conveyance Project.

- Submitted letter as part of the comment period for the NOP.
  - Invited DWR to a meeting of the Delta ISB.
  - Shared highlights from the 2017 review of the California WaterFix EIR/S (e.g. adaptive management, scientific information, communication, uncertainties and risk).
Upcoming Activities

• Completing current reviews on monitoring, non-native species, and water supply reliability

• Delta ISB Membership Change
  ▪ Dr. Joy Zedler leaves at the beginning of June 2020
  ▪ The original five Delta ISB members leave at the end of August 2020
Questions?