Public Participation Plan Update
Public Participation Program

• Council is based on a public involvement model
• Part of overall communications strategy
• Will take survey results and evaluate where we can continue to improve
• New future of public meetings
Public Participation Plan
How We Got to the Plan

- Guide for how any stakeholder or member of the public can inform Council decision-making
- Suite of public involvement activities
- “No one size fits all”

2019
- Internal review, research, outreach to established groups, and public survey opened

3/2020
- Draft Plan Released
  - Held “roadshow” and virtual workshop

4/2020
- Revised Draft Plan
  - Response to COVID-19 emergency

6/2020
- Final Plan
  - Endorsed by Council
Foundations

• Communicate how public comments are used
• Understand impact of decisions
• Clear process to participate
• Continuous evaluation
• Value and promotion of equity, inclusion, and diversity
Since Endorsement

• Collaborating more closely with CBOs
• Expanding use of advisory groups
• Utilizing and exploring opportunities for compensating community partners
• Implementing environmental justice and community outreach training
• Analyzing public comment trends
• Expanding virtual participation
02. COUNCIL MEETINGS AND EVENTS
The Council has been busy since the Plan’s Endorsement (June 2020)...

- 13 Council Meetings
- 15 Delta ISB Meetings
- 4 DPIIC Meetings
- 9 Delta Science Program multi-day workshops or symposia
- 6 Council Public Workshops or Community Meetings
  - 2021 PSN, Delta Adapts, EJ Issue Paper
- 11th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference
  - 672 people per day!
Average Attendance ...

- Morning: 78 participants
- Afternoon: 71 participants
- Evening: 37 participants

51 Council, ISB, or DPIIC Meetings

119 Lookout Slough Certification Hearings

39 Council workshops

121 Delta Science Program events
03. SURVEY RESULTS
The Survey

Available from July 19 – August 17

Sent to:
- Council email list
- Direct email to partners, past public commenters, and event attendees
- Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

Responses received:
- 95 in 2020
- 86 in 2019
Who responded?

- Delta Proper, 26%
- Northern CA, 49%
- Southern CA, 4%
- Central Valley, 19%
- Outside of CA, 2%
Who responded?

- Private Individual, 38%
- Government Agency, 12%
- CBO/Non-Profit, 21%
- Water Agency/Contractor, 4%
- Native American Tribe, 2%
- Business, 4%
- Academic, 2%
- Other, 17%
Since the Council has gone to fully virtual meetings as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, have you found that you...

- Attend more, 26%
- Attend the same, 59%
- Attend less, 15%

"The virtual meetings have been extremely important for my ability to participate in DSC activities. Please keep them!"

"I myself have simply been less involved with the Delta for a variety of reasons."
Since the endorsement of the Council's Public Participation Plan in June 2020, have you noticed a difference in how the Council interacts with the public?

- Yes, positively, 33%
- Yes, negatively, 6%
- No, 61%

“I recently became aware of this council in recent months so I cannot provide extensive background.”

“I am unfamiliar with the Council's Public Participation Plan.”

“Can’t tell the importance of one thing over another.”
Overall, how would you rate the Council's efforts to engage the public?

2019
- Excellent: 10%
- Good: 40%
- Fair: 30%
- Poor: 20%

2021
- Poor: 15%
- Excellent: 13%
- Fair: 17%
- Good: 54%

“Staff cares.”

“I think there is a good effort. I also think it is difficult for the public to understand the effect and relevance of the Council's actions to their lives.”

“Most people don't seem to know about the Delta Stewardship Council.”

“Inputs never seem to change the DSC's overall strategy.”
What does the Council do well when engaging the public?

• Effective public engagement
• Pleasant and prompt communication
• Easy access to virtual meetings and information on website
• Local community collaboration and small group meetings
• Timely access to materials

“Website has a lot of good resources/information.”

“I do like the web based platform usage for informing the public of meeting and webinars”

“Staff working with local groups to address concerns.”

“Your emails have been very easy to understand. I did reach out to someone and they were responsive and friendly via email. Being friendly, engaging, and open-minded is important. Passing no judgment to others when they have questions or concerns. Having humility when working with others.”

“Surveys”
What could the Council improve when engaging the public?

- Increased advertisement
- Responding to and valuing input
- Continued use of virtual access to meetings
- Engagement early in the process
- Making info easy to understand and find
- Work with more underrepresented communities

“Communicating exactly the type of input it is looking for. Some questions are too open-ended.”

“Make sure ALL public meetings continue with a Zoom-type option so members of the public don’t have to travel to participate.”

“Actively seek stakeholder input during the development of programs, rather than at the end once the ability to make changes is limited.”

“Making issues... understandable to... “newbies” [of] the water topic and government meetings and procedures in general.”

“Make all products of Council-funded projects, including progress and final reports [...and data], readily available to interested agencies and the public.”
What **barriers** do you encounter when attempting to engage with the Council?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrier</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awareness of Activities</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Participating</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness and Relevance</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Busy</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Info</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of Issues</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of Day</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost to Attend</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Access</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Out of all the Council's activities, are there any that need more improved public engagement than others?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Adapts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLIS</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Engagement</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta ISB</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Plan Amendments</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEQA Process</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPIIC</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covered Action Early Consultation Process</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Meetings</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Science Program Events</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covered Action Certifications and Appeals</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What **mechanisms** for information-sharing and engagement do you find useful?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanism</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maven’s Notebook</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Communication with Staff</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings with Staff</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Workshops</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Reports</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Meetings</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Email List</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPIIC Meetings</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyers at Community Locations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sending a Letter</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tables at Community Events</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Email List</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When/if in-person meetings resume, will you primarily attend Council meetings or events in person or online?

- In-Person, 31%
- Online, 69%

“I think I would go in person if there was an agenda item of special interest that I wanted to comment on, otherwise, I may use a virtual meeting format.”

“Actually, I'd like to have both in-person and online options b/c conflicts can come up.”

“Don't know right now.”
What other recommendations do you have to improve public involvement, and is there anything else we should know?

- Concerns about Delta Conveyance Project
- Language Translation
- Earlier posting of presentations for meetings
- Explain considerations of decisions
- Council staff on tour in different communities
- More videos
- Confusion about roles of Delta agencies
- Appreciate efforts
- Delta ISB funding concerns
- Public access concerns
- Virtual access and participation in meetings
NEXT STEPS
Where do we go from here?

• Work to reduce barriers and expand outreach

• Continue to expand partnerships

• Continued website, tracking, and planning improvements

• Hybrid meetings

Other ideas?
Connect with us
We want to hear from you!

Delta Stewardship Council

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