

SEPT 2026

Lead Scientist Report

Agenda Item: 8, Presentation
Meeting Date: September 24, 2026
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**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY



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<https://www.baydeltascienceconference.com/>



Highlighted Events

Event	Time
Plenary Session (Including talk by Lisamarie)	Monday, Sept. 28, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Art and Poster Reception	Monday, Sept. 28, 5:15-7:15 pm
Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Meeting	Tuesday, Sept. 29, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Delta Trivia Showdown	Tuesday, Sept. 29, 12:10-1:30 pm
Poster Art Exhibit Hall	Sept. 28-29, all day Sept. 30, 8:00 am-2:00 pm

Sharing the Science We Fund



At least 11 talks, posters, or workshops feature science funded by the Council from 2025-2026

“Optimizing monitoring tools for cyanobacterial harmful blooms in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta”
– *Poster by Holly Bowers*

“Community and Citizen Science as a Bridge Between Science and Community: Insights from the Youth-Engaged Salmon Monitoring Program”
– *Talk by Becca VanArnam*

“Exploring California water futures through interactive scenario learning and data visualization”
– *Workshop by COEQWAL*

“Improving Subsidence and Carbon Emissions Modeling”
– *Talk by Savannah Haas from HydroFocus*

Relevant Panels and Sessions

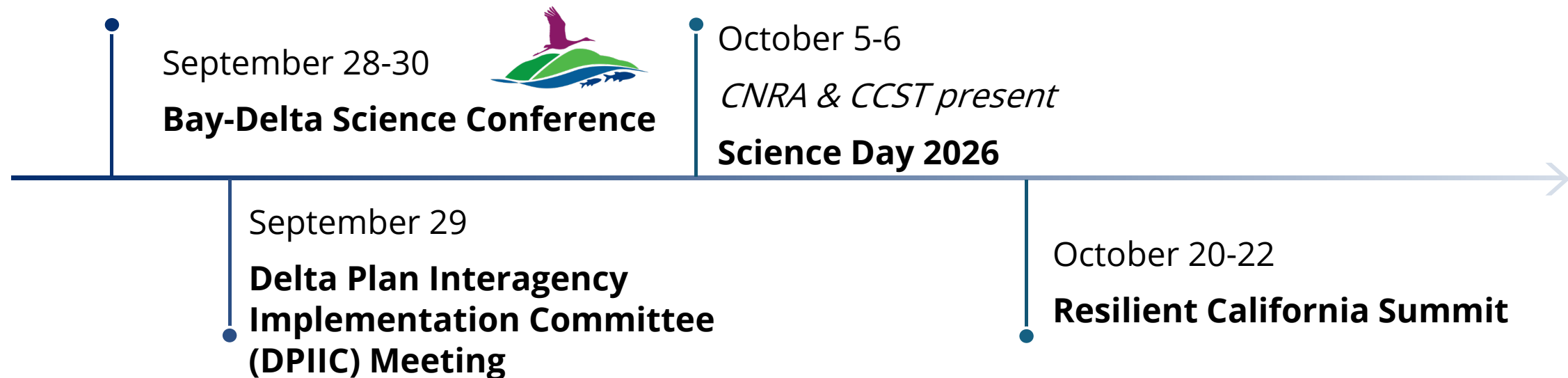


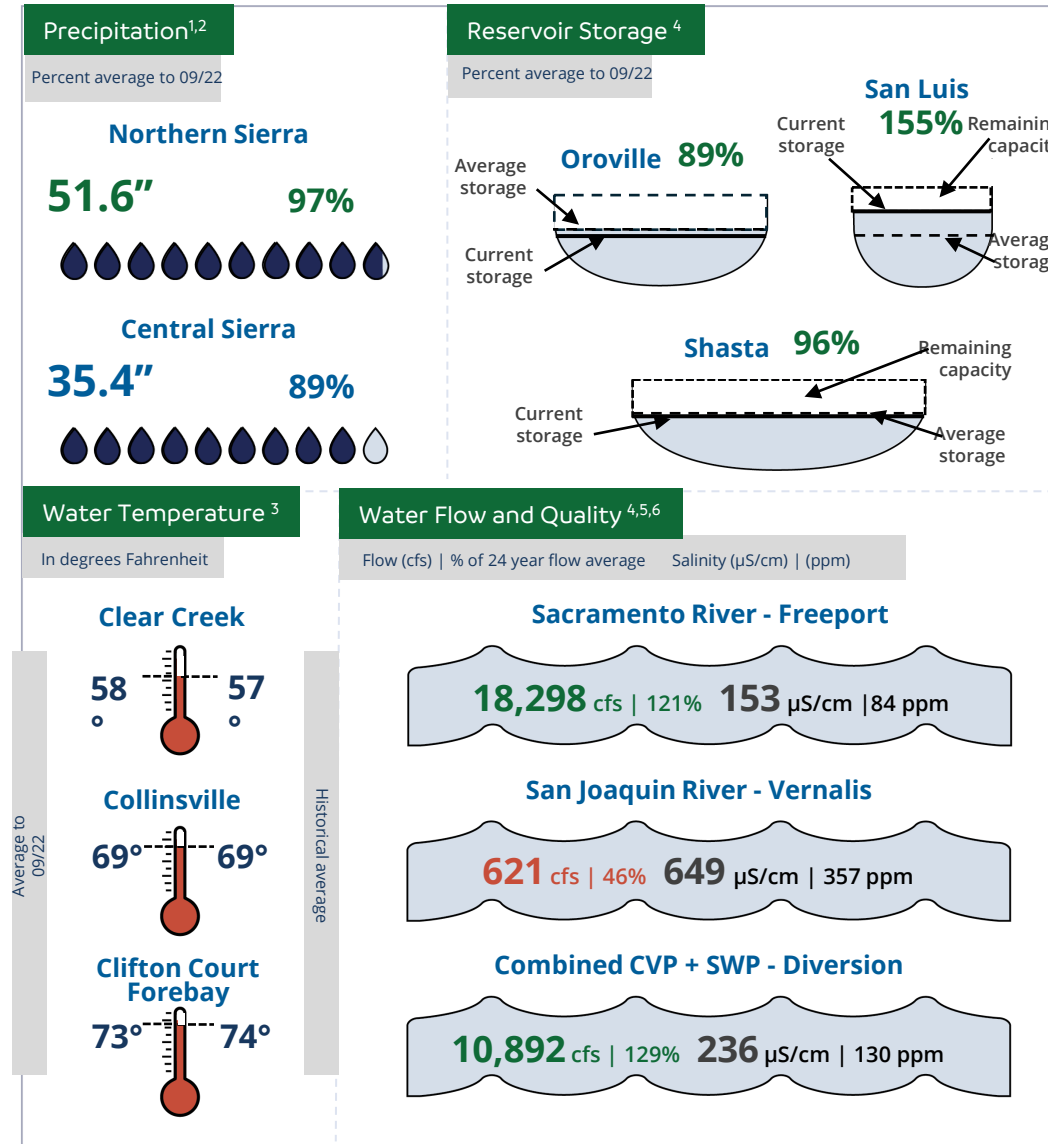
Event	Time & Location
Policy & Management Showcase 	Throughout the conference
Session: The 2026 Delta Science Plan: Advancing social science, governance, and Traditional Knowledge to tackle the Delta's grand challenge	Monday, Sept. 28, 1:30-3:10
Session: Science for Communities: Community-driven research projects	Monday, Sept. 28, 3:30-5:10 pm
Policy panel: Lost in translation: Connecting water policy and science through a common language	Monday, Sept. 28, 3:30-5:10 pm
Policy panel: Research to results: Re-envisioning scientists as policy partners	Wednesday, Sept. 30, 8:30-10:10 am

DSP activities

US Bureau of Reclamation Peer Review
Research Impact Assessment report release
COEQWAL website launch

On your radar





¹ <https://go.usa.gov/xQsUc> ³ <https://go.usa.gov/xURFU> ⁵ <https://go.usa.gov/xQsU2>
² <https://go.usa.gov/xQsUa> ⁴ <https://go.usa.gov/xQsUr> ⁶ <https://go.usa.gov/xQsUT>

By The Numbers: Temperature Stations

Clear Creek

- Managed reservoir releases
- Coldwater Chinook and Steelhead habitat

Collinsville

- Confluence of Sacramento and San Joaquin
- Delta water enters Suisun
- Important habitat for Delta Smelt and other native fishes

Clifton Court Forebay

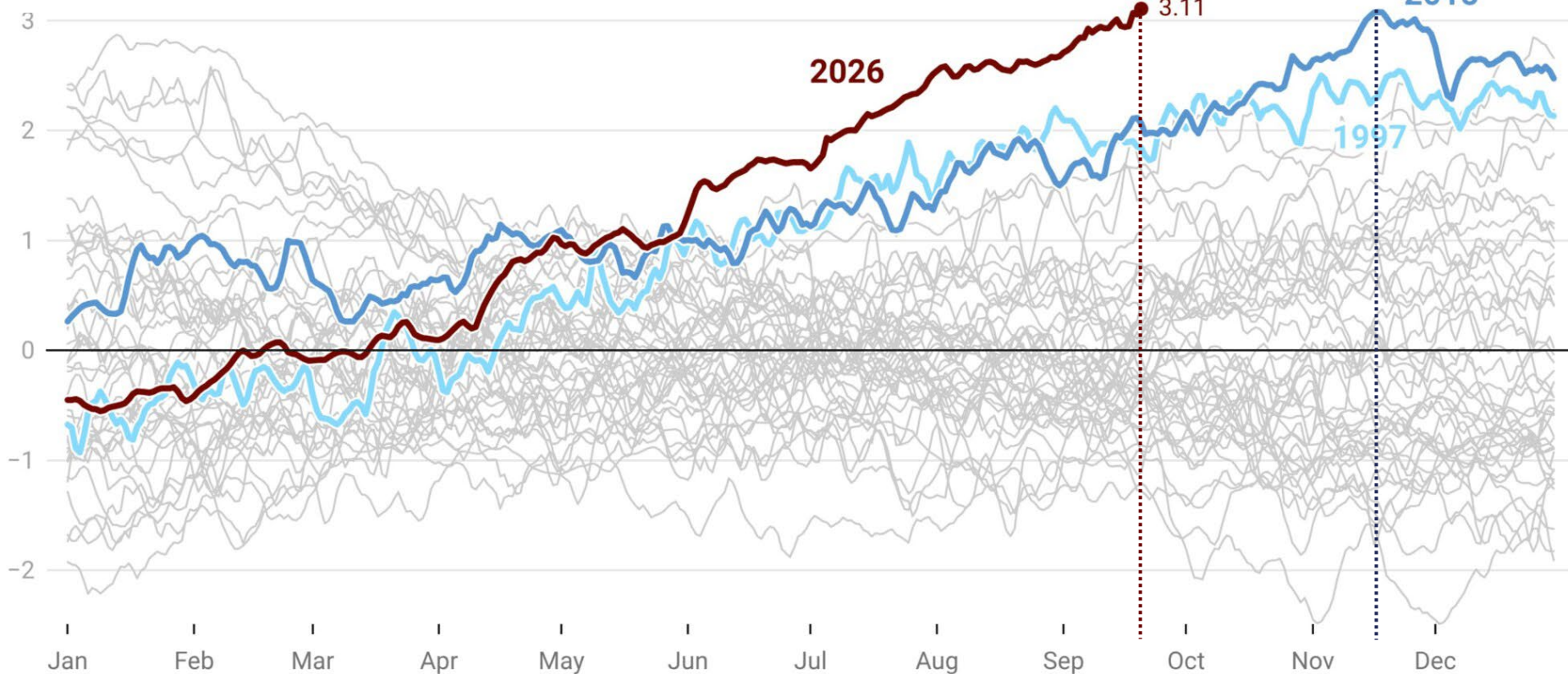
- State Water Project exports
- Regulatory requirements related to temperature and endangered species



The 2026 El Niño has hit an all-time record for daily strength

Niño 3.4 anomaly (°C)

(how much warmer the sea is than normal)



Record-breaking anomaly, **two months earlier** than previous record in 2015

Previous “very strong” El Niño events

CarbonBrief

Carbon Brief analysis of NOAA OISSTv.2.1 data (2026)

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