



DELTA ADAPTS: CREATING A CLIMATE RESILIENT FUTURE

Information Sheet | April 2020

California relies on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in many ways. It supplies a portion of the drinking water for 27 million Californians, fuels California's \$3 trillion economy, and is a biodiversity hotspot for more than 750 plant and animal species. Changes in climate put statewide water supply, economy, and biodiversity at risk—decreasing water quality and increasing stress on levees that protect residents, farmland, and the state's network of public utilities from mass flooding, and the species who thrive in the region's ecosystems.

As the world continues to feel the pressures of climate change and experiencing hotter temperatures, regional *adaptation rooted in science-based decision-making is more critical than ever*. We have to move quickly, and we have to move together to both plan and respond.

DELTA ADAPTS

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) is taking action in the Delta in response to climate change. Through its two-part Delta Adapts initiative, the Council is preparing:

- 1 a *vulnerability assessment* to improve understanding of regional vulnerabilities due to climate change in order to protect the vital resources the Delta provides to California and beyond with state interests and investments top of mind, followed by
- 2 an *adaptation plan* detailing strategies and tools that state, regional, and local governments can use to help communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems thrive in the face of climate change.



THE COUNCIL

As an agency of experienced planners, engineers, scientists, and communicators, the Council is uniquely equipped – and authorized – to steward the region toward resiliency. The Council regulates actions to ensure their support of a reliable statewide water supply and resilient Delta ecosystem, and has the resources needed to guide climate adaptation in the region. Through its strong working relationships with government agencies on the federal, state, regional, and local levels, the Council has the ability to influence action in the Delta and has the scientific and planning expertise to improve its resilience over time.

The Council's role in Delta Adapts has three core elements: it is the convener bringing various partners together to work as part of a broader team, the initiator of the regional planning process, and an active participant collaborating with a diverse group of experts and interested stakeholders.

DELTA ADAPTS COMPONENTS

1

Vulnerability Assessment

Characterizes climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea level rise • Precipitation and runoff pattern changes • Air and water temperature changes
Gauges risks to a variety of regional assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents, including vulnerable communities • Agriculture • Community facilities and services • Water management and flood control • Parks and recreation • Transportation • Water supply • Ecosystems

2

Adaptation Strategy

Develops an adaptation strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies a range of policy and management actions that could be taken, both by the Council and others, to improve regional resilience to climate change
Considers economic feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzes costs of implementation and prioritization of actions

Together, these components create a comprehensive, regional approach to climate resiliency – which requires cutting across regional boundaries and committing to collaboration across the state, local, and regional levels. While some individual cities and counties in the Delta have made progress in planning for climate change, its impacts will span jurisdictional boundaries. Effective planning requires a comprehensive approach.

DELTA ADAPTS GOALS

- Inform future implementation of amendments to the Delta Plan— California’s comprehensive roadmap for the Delta region
- Provide local governments with a toolkit of information to incorporate into their regulatory documents
- Integrate climate change into the state’s prioritization of future actions and investments
- Serve as a framework to be built upon by the Council and others in years to come

ENGAGE

The Council established a Stakeholder Work Group (SWG) to promote the exchange of information between members - including state agencies, local and regional government agencies, and environmental nonprofit organizations - and foster understanding across stakeholder interests. SWG members reflect the broad range of stakeholder interests in the Delta.

To learn more about Delta Adapts, its SWG, or other ways to engage in our process, visit deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/climate-change or contact climatechange@deltacouncil.ca.gov.