






Summary of Proposed Ecosystem Amendment


The proposed amendments to Chapter 4 (Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem) of the Delta Plan (Proposed Ecosystem Amendment) are grouped into five core strategies. Each core strategy contains proposed ecosystem restoration (ER) policies (P), recommendations (R), and performance measures (PM). The proposed amendment would preserve, revise, or remove existing Chapter 4 policies, recommendations, and performance measures and would also add new Chapter 4 policies, recommendations, and performance measures, as described below.

The version of the Proposed Ecosystem Amendment that will serve as the proposed project for purposes of review under the California Environmental Quality Control Act is the May 2020 draft Ecosystem Amendment available at: <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/amendments>.

Key to proposed amendments: ✓ No change to existing  Revise existing  Remove existing  New










Core Strategy 1: Create more natural functional flows

Adaptive management of freshwater in the Delta to more closely mirror natural functional flows promotes both water supply reliability and native species recovery.

- ✓ ER P1: Delta Flow Objectives
-  ER R1: Update Delta Flow Objectives
- ✓ PM 4.2: Functional flows








Core Strategy 2: Restore Ecosystem Function

An integrated, adaptive approach to ecosystem restoration requires that restoration projects focus on ecosystem function and be designed and located to continue functioning under changing climate conditions. State agencies will require new funding sources in order to implement large-scale restoration projects that go above and beyond mitigation of impacts.

-  New ER Policy "A": Disclose Contributions to Restoring Ecosystem Function and Providing Social Benefits
-  ER P4: Expand Floodplains and Riparian Habitats in Levee Projects
-  New ER Recommendation "A": Increase Public Funding for Restoring Ecosystem Function
-  New ER Recommendation "B": Use Good Neighbor Checklist to Coordinate Restoration with Adjacent Uses
-  ER R2: Prioritize and Implement Projects that Restore Delta Habitat
-  ER R3: Complete and Implement Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan
- ✓ ER R4: Exempt Delta Levees from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vegetation Policy
-  PM 4.14: Increased Funding for Restoring Ecosystem Function
-  PM 4.15: Seasonal Inundation
-  PM 4.16: Acres of Natural Communities Restored











Core Strategy 3: Protect Land for Restoration and Safeguard Against Land Loss

As sea levels rise, opportunities for intertidal and floodplain restoration are shifting toward the upland edges of the Delta. Lands at elevations suitable for current and future restoration must be protected from development, and restoration projects must be designed and located with rising sea levels in mind. State agencies must take action to halt or reverse subsidence and incentivize agricultural land management practices that support native wildlife and counter subsidence.

-  ER P2: Restore Habitats at Appropriate Elevations
-  ER P3: Protect Opportunities to Restore Habitat
-  ER R5: Update the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan
-  New ER Recommendation "C": Fund Targeted Subsidence Reversal Actions
-  New ER Recommendation "D": Funding to Enhance Working Landscapes
-  New ER Recommendation "E": Develop and Update Management Plans to Halt or Reverse Subsidence on Public Lands
-  PM 4.12: Subsidence Reversal for Tidal Reconnection



Core Strategy 4: Protect Native Species and Reduce the Impact of Nonnative Invasive Species

Management actions continue to be necessary to avoid introductions of, and reduce the spread of, nonnative invasive species. In managing native fish populations, reestablishing riparian habitat and in-stream connectivity along migratory corridors supports the reproductive success and survival of native fish. Hatcheries and harvest regulation should employ adaptive management strategies to predict and evaluate outcomes and minimize risks.

-  ER P5: Avoid Introductions of and Habitat Improvements for Invasive Nonnative Species
-  ER R6: Regulate Angling for Nonnative Sport Fish to Protect Native Fish
-  ER R7: Prioritize and Implement Actions to Control Nonnative Invasive Species
-  New ER Recommendation "H": Prioritize Unscreened Diversions within the Delta
-  New ER Recommendation "I": Fund Projects to Improve Survival of Juvenile Salmon
-  ER R8: Manage Hatcheries to Reduce Risk of Adverse Effects
-  ER R9: Coordinate Fish Migration and Survival Research
-  PM 4.6: Doubling Goal for Central Valley Chinook Salmon Natural Production
-  PM 4.10: Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Species
-  PM 4.13: Barriers to Migratory Fish Passage

Core Strategy 5: Improve Institutional Coordination to Support Implementation of Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement

Improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of ecosystem protection and restoration efforts being undertaken by public agencies and private organizations requires institutional commitment to a single, consolidated restoration forum with discretion to guide restoration strategies, plan investments, align individual agency plans and actions, and resolve barriers to implementation.

-  New ER Recommendation "F": Support Implementation of Ecosystem Restoration
-  New ER Recommendation "G": Align State Restoration Plans and Conservation Strategies with the Delta Plan