

2024 Delta Plan Five-Year Review

Information Sheet

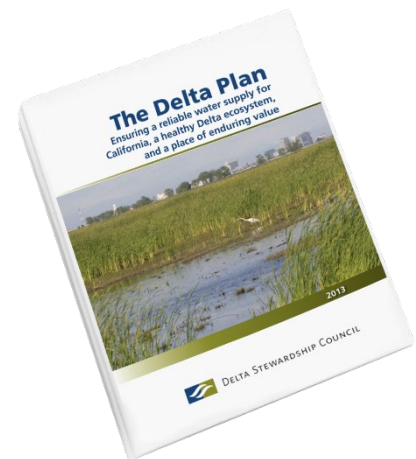


**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

Review Highlights

- **The Delta Reform Act of 2009** requires the Delta Stewardship Council to review the Delta Plan every five years.
- The Council completed its first Delta Plan review in 2019 and its second in 2024.
- The 2024 review provides “**report cards**” rating **ten-year progress** toward Delta Plan targets.



Key Takeaways

- Much is still to be done, from **reducing reliance on Delta water** to **improving state and federal assurances for levees**.
- Improved water **conservation** and use **efficiency** have contributed to reduced demand for Delta water.
- While **restoration projects** have made steady progress, **more work is needed** to slow or reverse overall ecosystem decline.
- Priority *Delta as an Evolving Place* objectives include accelerating **subsidence reversal** efforts and encouraging **tourism** within the Delta.



**Read the report today
by scanning this QR code!**

January 2025

A Critical Look Back to Inform Future Direction

The Delta Reform Act created the Council, granting it the authority to develop and implement the **Delta Plan**, a management plan for Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta water and environmental resources. Every five years, the Council evaluates progress by examining key accomplishments and deficiencies in Delta Plan implementation. **Each review seeks to inform the Council's priorities over the following five years**, to better achieve the coequal goals of ensuring a reliable statewide water supply and resilient Delta ecosystem, in a way that enhances the Delta as a unique place where people live, work, and recreate.



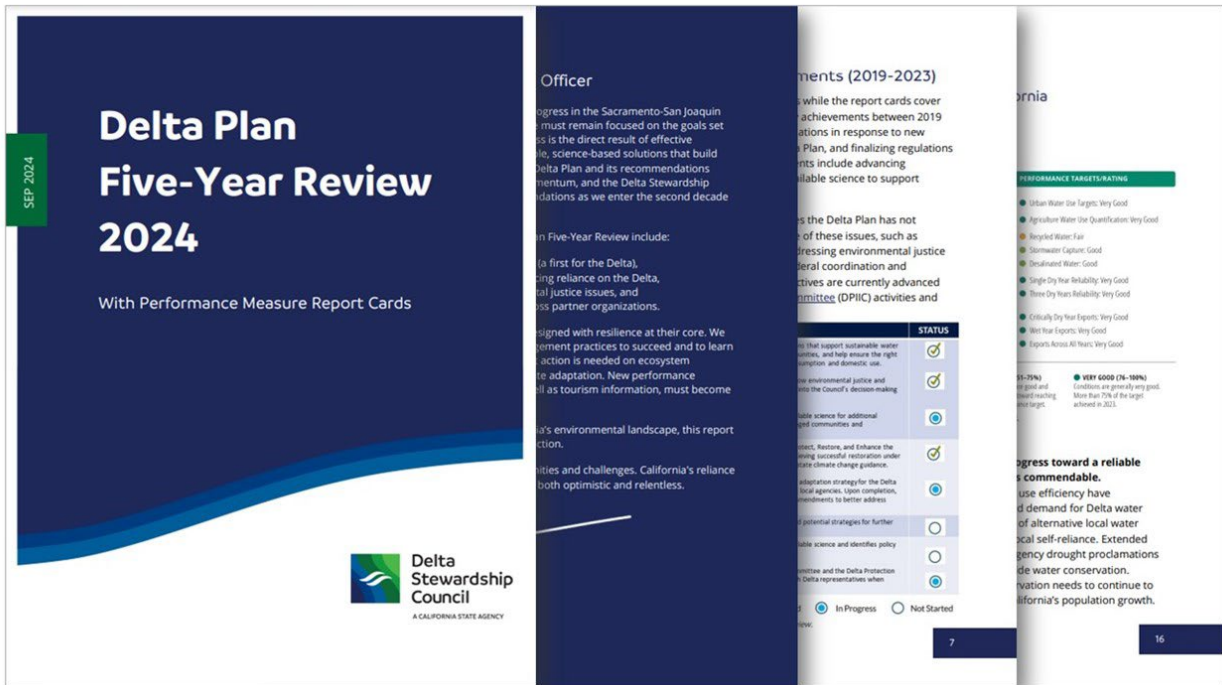
In addition to examining progress toward previous priority actions identified in 2019, the 2024 review is informed by an **evaluation of performance measure progress** as well as a **comprehensive regulatory review**.

Background Insights

Performance Measures: The Delta Plan establishes quantitative, science-based performance measures to track progress toward the coequal goals, as required by the Delta Reform Act. Development of these performance measures was a multi-year process involving agencies, scientists, and stakeholders.

Regulatory Review: The Reform Act granted the Council regulatory and appellate authority over certain actions in the Delta, including state or local public agency plans, programs, or projects to which Delta Plan provisions apply and have a significant impact on the achievement of the coequal goals.





Key Five-Year Accomplishments

The past five years have seen significant progress in the Delta. In those years, the Council:

- Prioritized **levee improvements** (a first for the Delta),
- Adopted a Delta Plan update designed to fill a gap that provides a framework for **protecting and restoring ecosystems**,
- Elevated **tribal and environmental justice** issues,
- **Strengthened relationships** across partner organizations, and
- Allocated **\$20 million to support critical Delta science**, addressing key knowledge gaps.



Five-Year Review Recommendations

1. Reduce reliance on Delta water – work towards **consistent accounting**
2. Accelerate **ecosystem restoration**
3. Accelerate **subsidence reversal** efforts
4. Promote Delta **recreation and tourism**
5. Improve **state and federal assurances** for Delta **levees**
6. Consider and implement **performance measure** updates
7. Implement the **Delta Levees Investment Strategy** (DLIS)
8. Consider the impacts and benefits of **capturing and storing carbon**
9. Conduct covered action **early consultation and post-project updates**
10. Improve the use of the **best available science** in certifications of consistency
11. Enhance **adaptive management** plans
12. Develop “**Delta as an Evolving Place Facing Rapid Change**” Report
13. Implement **new climate adaptation and tribal and environmental justice recommendations** as directed by the Council

A Vision for Collaborative Action

The Delta is a place of high potential and opportunity to build equitable, science-based solutions when faced with rapid change. Each recommendation presented is accompanied by one or more supporting action(s) in the full report. The Council recognizes the urgency of these recommended actions and is committed to using its leadership role to ensure collective progress towards the coequal goals.

The Delta Plan is implemented through partnerships. The Council leads agencies, academia, and organizations to achieve Delta Plan goals collaboratively. Our progress to date is the direct result of these partnerships. This review and the recommendations it contains present a framework of near-term priorities for both the Council and its present and future partners.

deltacouncil.ca.gov | 715 P Street, 15-300 Sacramento, CA 95814 | 916-445-5511

