

DRAFT

Approaches to Future Delta ISB Reviews

April 28, 2021

disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov

On May 4, 2021, the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) will begin a discussion on the scope and format of future reviews. The number and types of reviews and timelines the Delta ISB can complete will vary based on time allocation by Delta ISB members and their support staff. Here are some approaches to stimulate discussion:

Current Basic Approaches

- **Thematic Program Reviews** (This is what the Delta ISB has traditionally focused on, organized by chapter topics in Delta Plan, other identified topics, etc.). Current process is outlined in [the Delta ISB's operating guidelines](#). The Delta ISB could outline a more formal process to seek agency and stakeholder input for topics and expand or define outreach responsibilities. The Delta ISB last sought input via [questionnaire](#) in November 2019, which resulted in the [current list of future thematic review topics](#).
- **Agency document reviews** (Delta Conveyance Project Environmental Impact Report, Science Action Agenda, Delta Science Plan etc.)
- **Interagency program reviews** ([Interagency Ecological Program](#))
- **Problem-focused memos** (shorter, more focused thoughts; examples of this include the [letter to the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee](#) that resulted in the Science Needs Assessment)

New Possible Approaches

- **Agency science program reviews** (A normal agency practice, where every major program is reviewed every four years). This will include State agencies (Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Water Resources Control Board, Delta Stewardship Council, etc.), and Federal agencies (United States Bureau of Reclamation, United State Geological Survey, Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, etc.)? The Delta ISB can review a certain number of agencies each year with a standard template. Approach can be less-time intensive for Delta ISB members if significantly more staff time is used to gather documents, arrange panel presentations, organize interviews, administer a standard questionnaire, etc. Approach would be to ask agencies for their science goals and plans and review the science and make recommendations. An advantage of this approach is that it uses well-established protocols and the audience is clearly defined.
- **Problem-focused reviews** (hydrodynamics and water quality modeling, sea level rise, review of agency science review processes, etc.)
- **Other types of reviews?**
- **Mix of types**