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Delta Independent Science Board
715 P Street, Suite 15-300
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Delivered via [email]: disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov

RE: Comments on Draft Prospectus on Nature-based Solutions Review

Dear Board members:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft prospectus on your review on nature-based solutions (NBS). Overall, the Delta Science Program believes it will be valuable for the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB) to explore the value of NBS as an approach and term compared to existing efforts. The review could also help clarify how NBS encompasses or complements many actions already being implemented across the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh (the Delta).

When the Delta Stewardship Council adopted the Delta Plan in 2013, along with a 2022 amendment to Chapter 4 (Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem), the term, "nature-based solutions," was not in common use by the Delta Science Program staff and the term is not mentioned in the Delta Plan. The review could provide helpful insights with implementation of the Delta Plan. In addition, Delta Science Program staff have enjoyed the panels that the Delta ISB has hosted to date, which have already highlighted important issues and challenges for the Delta region.

Below are a few suggestions, as you finalize the prospectus:

- **Page 2** (Motivation)

  The statement, "California has an extensive history of implementing innovative NBS over the past 50 years with numerous projects…" suggests that the NBS term has been around for 50 years. However, the term was only coined in 2009. We think it is worth exploring this further. How does NBS intersect with habitat restoration or other management/policy actions and statewide priorities (e.g., to restore ecological function) outlined in many regulatory documents?

  This statement may also warrant a citation, and some may feel it is misguided since many projects have been engineered solutions.

  Similarly, it will be helpful to include citations in other sections in the Motivation section:

    - "In this era of long-term warming, sea-level rise, more intense and frequent storm events, severe droughts and overall increased climatic variability and uncertainty, projects must be designed to be robust and adaptable to this new reality." **(Page 2)**

    - "NBS can deliver a wide range of benefits, including flood risk reduction, reduced shoreline erosion, habitat creation, greenhouse gas mitigation, carbon sequestration, and new recreational opportunities. NBS often generate multiple co-benefits beyond their primary purpose." **(Page 3)**

- **Page 6** (Host a series of panels)

  The prospectus was published before the second panel at the Bay-Delta Science Conference, but make sure to update the sentence:

  > The second panel at the Bay-Delta Science Conference was in September 2026 and examined how organizations within and beyond California apply NBS to achieve multiple co-benefits. It also examined how adaptive management triggers and actions can be identified at scale, which were key challenges highlighted during the May discussion."

- **Page 6** (Synthesize information about each type of action)

  Perhaps an additional metric, like "Regulatory Nexus" or "Relevant Management" can be included in the inventory and categorization to make an explicit link between a NBS and other management/policy connections of the project.

- **Page 7** (Previous Review and Relevant Efforts)

  It is important to note that the State Coastal Conservancy has funded a two-year pilot program, the San Francisco Bay Regional Science Consortium, led by the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Scientists, consultants and an agency steering committee work together to evaluate nature-based shoreline adaptation methods that are newer to the Bay. Right now, they are focused on three groups of methods:

  - Methods that keep sediment in the system,
  - Methods that support beach and headland heterogeneity, and
  - Vegetative feedbacks between plants/algae and NBS constructs.
    - For each method, the work is looking at feasibility and knowledge gaps.

  Thank you again for the opportunity to review. We have helped the Delta ISB promote this upcoming review through the Delta Carbon Team, the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee's Restoration Subcommittee, the Interagency Adaptive Management Integration Team, and the Suisun Marsh Adaptive Management Advisory Team. We look forward to hearing what other feedback you receive on the prospectus.

  Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss the Delta Science Program's comments further.

  Sincerely,

  Lisamarie Windham-Myers

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  Delta Lead Scientist