

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

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COUNCIL AWARDS NEARLY \$6 MILLION FOR NEW DELTA RESEARCH

SACRAMENTO – The Delta Stewardship Council has announced that its Delta Science Program will award \$5.9 million to fund eight critical scientific studies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh over the next three years.

In addition to the eight projects selected for Delta Science Program funding, the <u>State Water Contractors</u> will fund two studies that support recovery efforts for endangered fish in the Delta, bringing the total awards to over \$7.8 million.

"Consistent research funding is so important to what we are all trying to accomplish in the Delta," says Council Chair Julie Lee. "It ensures that the best possible science informs our state's environmental decision-making. The Delta is changing rapidly, and these studies will equip us with new and better tools for predicting and adapting to those changes."

The awarded projects address high-priority science actions identified in the collaboratively developed <u>2022-2026 Science Action Agenda</u>, which prioritizes and aligns science actions to inform management decisions. The projects cover a range of important research topics, including harmful algal blooms, eco-cultural restoration, tribal knowledge, subsidence, hydrology, acoustic telemetry, endangered species, and more.

"Projects were selected through a rigorous and highly competitive solicitation process that, for the first time, emphasized co-produced research, where data and information are developed in partnership between researchers and communities," says Delta Lead Scientist Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers. "Collaborative science that unites researchers and community members builds a stronger foundation for evidence-based natural resource management."

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER Jessica R. Pearson A total of 66 proposals were submitted to the solicitation facilitated by <u>California</u> <u>Sea Grant</u>. Proposals were thoroughly reviewed by nationally and internationally renowned subject matter experts.

The Delta Science Program's <u>research awards web page</u> has more information and project details. Questions should be emailed to <u>media@deltacouncil.ca.gov</u>.

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ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The Delta Stewardship Council was created by the California Legislature in 2009 to advance California's water supply reliability and the Delta's ecosystem resiliency in a manner that protects and enhances the region's unique characteristics. It is composed of seven members, advised by an independent 10-member science board, and supported by a dedicated staff. For more information, visit the <u>Council's</u> <u>website</u> (deltacouncil.ca.gov).