

Promoting Peer Review & Advice

Information Sheet



Delta
Science
Program

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

About

The Delta Science Program facilitates scientific peer review and advice by identifying independent subject matter experts to provide rigorous, transparent, and objective feedback on the scientific validity of processes, programs, projects, plans, or products.

Independent scientific peer review and advice¹ is part of the Delta Science Program's mission "to provide the best possible unbiased scientific information to inform water and environmental decision-making in the Delta²." (Water Code Section 85280(b)(4)). The Delta Science Program facilitates independent scientific review panels to address requests from agencies and other interested parties; the Delta Science Program also supports the Delta Independent Science Board, which is mandated "to provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta through periodic reviews" (Water Code Section 85280(a)(3)).

Review and Advice Process

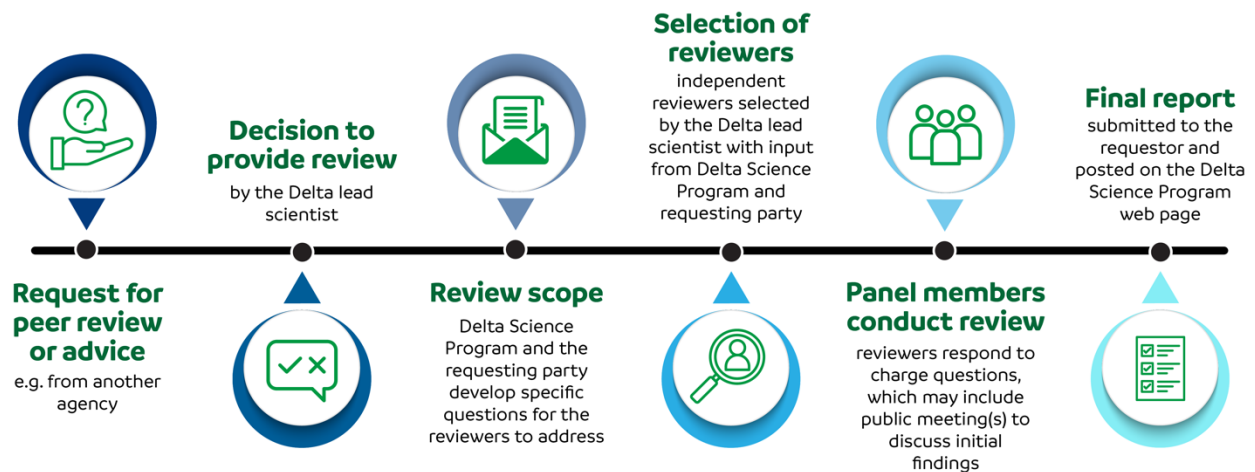
The Delta Science Program welcomes requests for peer review and advice. Reviews typically consider work that is complete or near-complete, while advice focuses on work in earlier stages of development. The Delta lead scientist recommends whether a review or advice panel will be carried out and plays a critical oversight role throughout the process. **Two key features of the review and advice process**

¹ <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/scientific-peer-review>

² "Delta" means the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as defined in Section 12220 and the Suisun Marsh, as defined in Section 29101 of the Public Resources Code. (Cal. Wat. Code § 85058.)

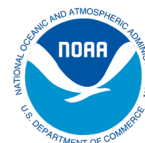
are independence and transparency. Independence is maintained by the Delta Science Program acting as an intermediary between the requesting party and the reviewers; transparency is maintained by publicly sharing materials and reviewer feedback on the Delta Stewardship Council’s website. While most panels are convened for one-time reviews, the Delta Science Program also facilitates multi-step or repeated reviews for programs such as:

- Long-term Operations Biological Opinions (LOBO) for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project,
- Delta Regional Monitoring Program (Delta RMP), and
- WaterFix Aquatic Science.



A Leader in Peer Review

The Delta Science Program is a leading coordinator of independent scientific peer review and advice in California’s Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Since 2010, it has coordinated 34 independent reviews for various organizations (highlighted below) and across multiple topics (shown in the graph on the following page).



Delta Science Peer Review Topics

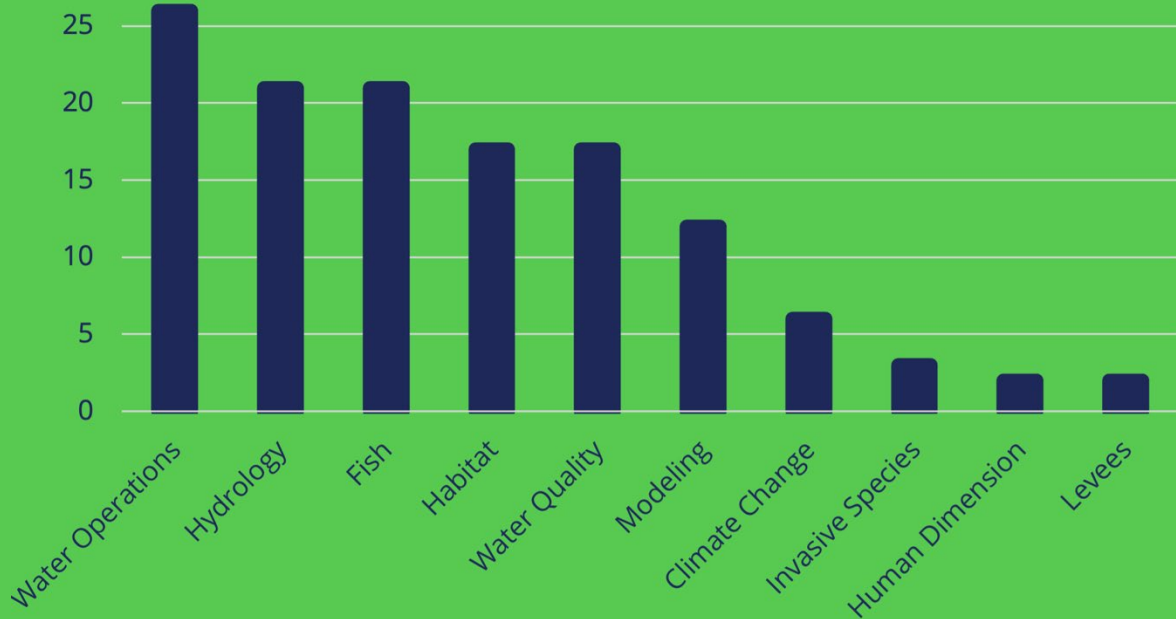


Figure 1. Breakdown of peer reviews facilitated by the Delta Science Program by Delta science topic. Reviews can address more than one topic.

Partner Satisfaction



"The reviews facilitated by the Delta Science Program play an essential role in ensuring the quality and credibility of the scientific analyses informing our consideration of tradeoffs during decision-making."

David Mooney | Bay-Delta Office Area Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



"The Delta Science Program's review of new climate change analysis procedures for the State Water Project Delivery Capability Report added transparency and credibility to this important work. My team received valuable feedback that resulted in meaningful improvements and plans for future work."

Andrew Schwarz | Climate Action Manager, State Water Project, DWR

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

The Delta Science Program is committed to improving and integrating diversity and inclusion in independent science review panels and processes. Enhancing diversity and inclusion plays an important role in incorporating the most qualified and innovative thinking on complex and challenging issues. Enhanced diversity and inclusion provide a broader perspective and expertise that is valuable in the Delta's management and decision-making.

Further Information

The duration of reviews and advice panels is generally 6-12 months, which varies with the complexity and scope of the charge. Advice panels can take longer because of the iterative, but never direct, communication between the panel and the requesting party. The requesting party reimburses the Delta Science Program for costs associated with the review, including reviewer stipends for reviewing materials, participating in public meetings, developing a written report, and Delta Science Program staff time coordinating the review. Costs vary by review based on scope and format. To request an estimate, please email ReviewAdvice@deltacouncil.ca.gov.

To learn more about the Delta Science Program's scientific peer review services, please visit our [peer review and advice web page](#) and [FAQs](#) or email ReviewAdvice@deltacouncil.ca.gov.