



The Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Plan

Information Sheet



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

What you need to know.

- **California relies on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta** as a hub for water, biodiversity, agriculture, infrastructure, transportation, recreation, and more.
- In 2009, the Delta Reform Act created the Delta Stewardship Council to advance California's coequal goals for the Delta – a more reliable statewide **water supply** and a resilient Delta **ecosystem** – in a manner that protects and enhances the unique characteristics of the Delta as an evolving place where people live, work, and recreate.
- The Council carries out its mission by implementing the Delta Plan, an enforceable long-term **sustainable management plan** to ensure **coordinated action in the Delta** at the federal, State, and local levels.

In the face of climate change, the Council's alignment of decision-making and science is more important than ever.

California relies on the Delta in many ways:



It supplies a portion of the drinking water for 27 million Californians.



It fuels California's \$3 trillion economy.



It is a biodiversity hotspot for more than 750 plant and animal species.



It is home to more than 627,000 people spread across rural agricultural communities, legacy communities, and urban areas.

October 2022

The Council is a steward, bringing together representatives of the Delta's diverse interests to collaboratively and inclusively develop science-based equitable solutions to achieve the coequal goals. Of the Council's seven members, four are appointed by the Governor, one by the Senate, and one by the Assembly; the seventh member is the Chair of the Delta Protection Commission. Councilmembers are **advised by an independent 10-member science board** and supported by a dedicated staff. Together, they work to **implement the Delta Plan**.

The Delta Plan is a common vision for taking on current and predicted challenges through cooperation and coordination.



Adopted in 2013, the Delta Plan includes regulations, non-regulatory recommendations, and performance measures to further the water supply reliability, ecosystem resiliency, and the unique values of the Delta as a place.

Before a State or local public agency implements certain projects in the Delta, they are required by California law to certify the project is consistent with Delta Plan regulations. These projects are known as

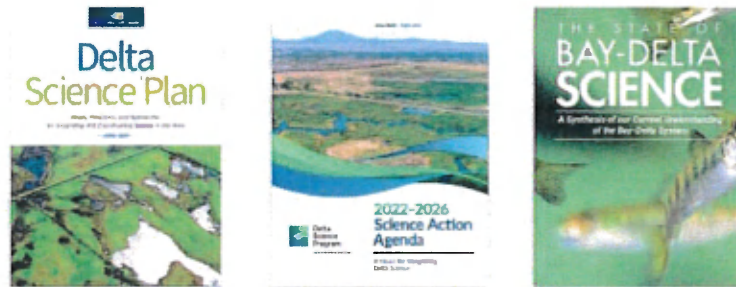
covered actions. Any person who claims that a covered action is inconsistent with the Delta Plan may file an appeal. When an appeal is submitted, **the Council exercises its regulatory authority by reviewing the claims and making findings to either deny the appeal or remand the project to the certifying agency for reconsideration.**

The Council established the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee after the adoption of the Delta Plan and continues to coordinate and oversee its activities. The **DPIIC facilitates Delta Plan implementation through collaboration** in support of shared national, statewide, and local goals for the Delta. It is composed of representatives from State and federal agency partners.



The Council's Delta Science Program provides the best possible unbiased scientific information to inform management of the Delta.

The Delta Science Program accomplishes this mission by carrying out the three-part Delta Science Strategy: The Delta Science Plan, Science Action Agenda, and State of Bay-Delta Science.



Doing so entails funding **high-priority research**, promoting **independent scientific peer review**, coordinating with Delta agencies to support **adaptive management**, and performing **science synthesis and communication**. The Delta Lead Scientist is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Delta Science Program.

The Delta Science Program provides support to the **Delta Independent Science Board**, which is charged with oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta.

We're a partner; engage with us.

The Council's **monthly meetings** are the definitive place for the public to learn about and comment on the Council's activities and the implementation of the Delta Plan. To connect with the Council online, visit deltacouncil.ca.gov (or scan the QR code), subscribe to receive email announcements, and follow us on social media.



