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Independent Scientific Peer Review

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**Delta
Science
Program**

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Delta Science Program's Mission

- *“provide the best possible unbiased scientific information for water and environmental decision making in the Bay-Delta system”*
- Core functions:
 - **Independent scientific peer review**
 - Leadership in collaborative science
 - Science funding
 - Synthesis
 - Science workshops
 - Adaptive management support
 - Science communication
 - Support for the Delta Independent Science Board

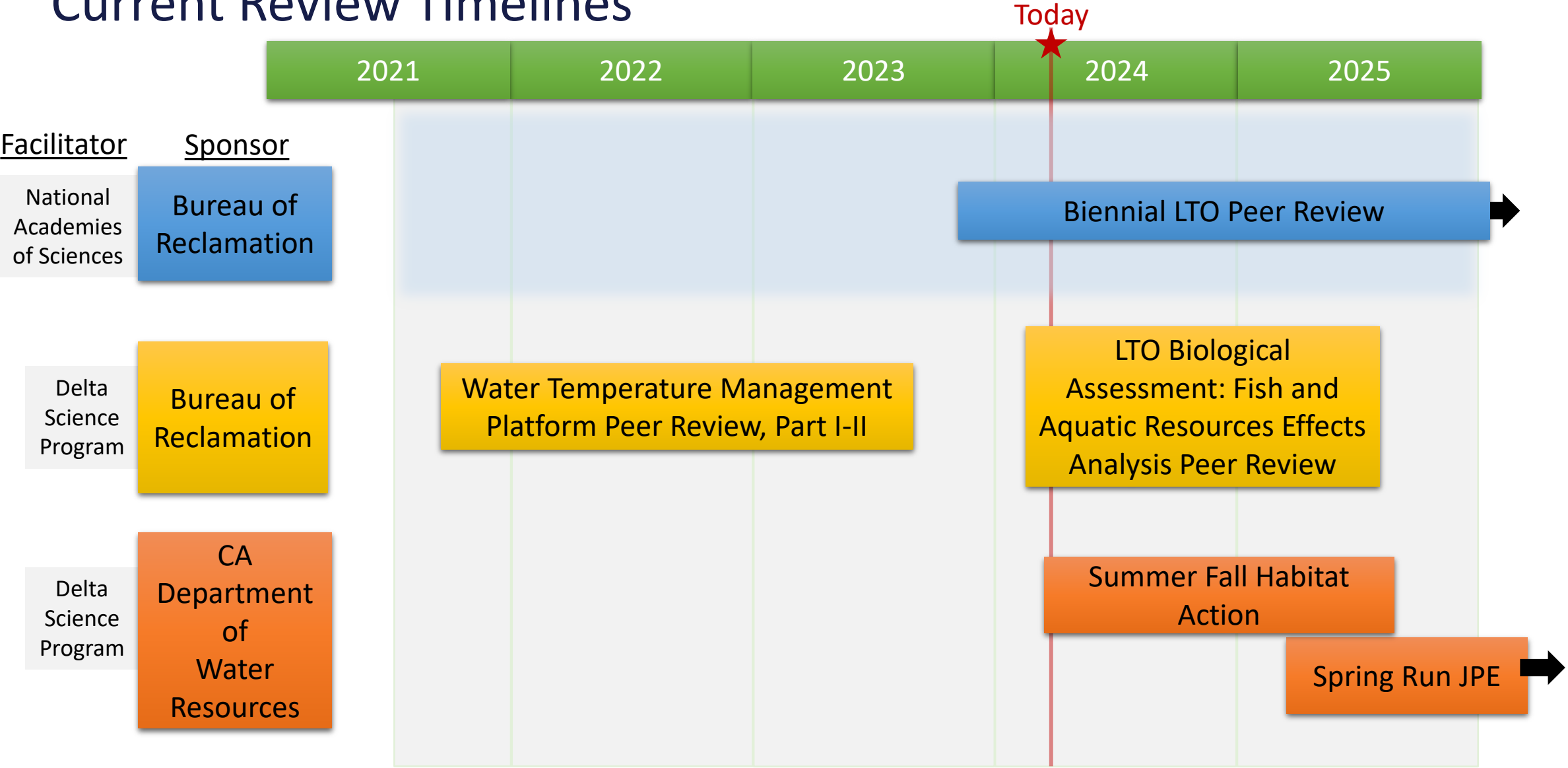


DSP Peer Review and Advice

- Facilitate independent peer review (Delta Reform Act)
- Serve as honest broker for reviewing government science critical to decision-making
- Policies and procedures outlined in 2019 Delta Science Plan
- Since 2010, DSP has coordinated over 30 peer reviews and advice panels

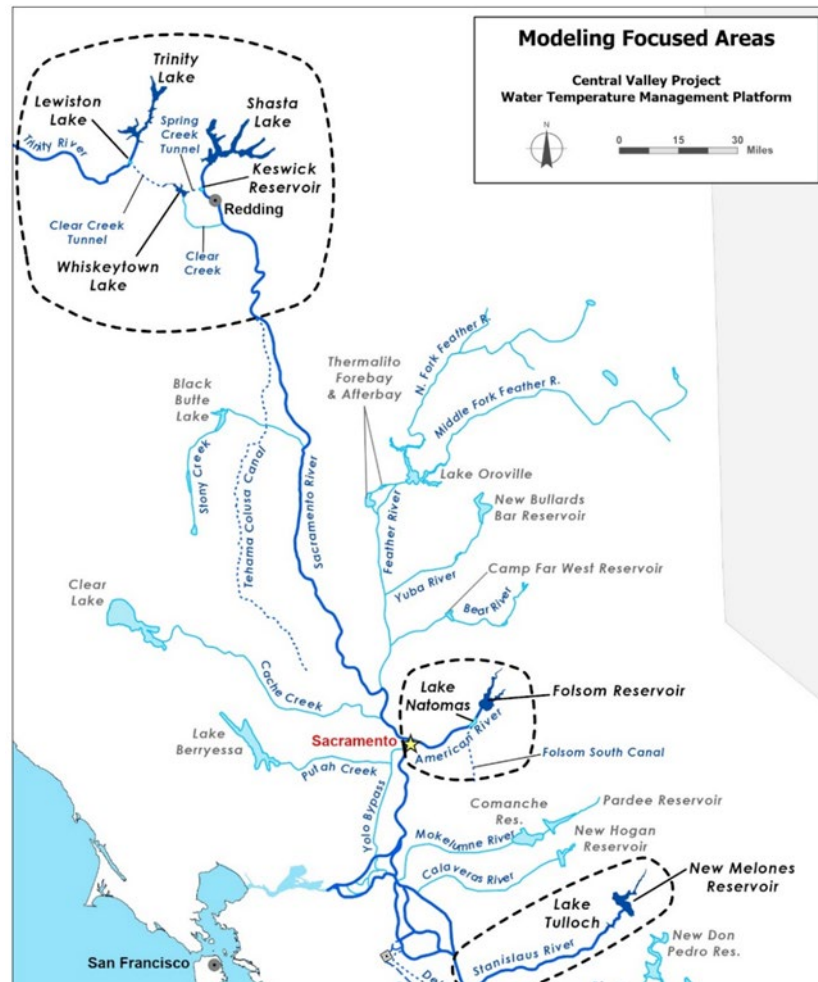


Current Review Timelines



USBR Water Temperature Modeling Platform (WTMP)

- Status: **completed fall 2023**
- The Panel reviewed temperature models, model framework, and implementation of the WTMP Project



LTO Fish & Aquatic Effects Analysis

- Status: **in progress**
- **2021 Reinitiation of Consultation on LTO: Draft Biological Assessment required for the ESA process to develop Biological Opinions**
 - Analytical approach for the effects of CVP on the exposure, response, and risk to ESA-listed species
 - Appropriate use of quantitative / qualitative methods and risk assessment tools
- Final Report is anticipated to be available in **April 2024**



DWR Summer-Fall Habitat Action

- Status: **in progress**
- 2020 ITP (issued by CDFW) for the long-term operations of the SWP
 - Requires **science and monitoring plans** to evaluate actions taken to **improve Delta smelt habitat in the summer and fall** seasons
 - Requires independent review
- Science and monitoring plans & decision approach
- Reports expected by **June 2024**



Review Materials

- 2022 & 2023 SFHA Action Plans
- **2023 Monitoring and Science Plans & Appendices**
 1. Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates Action Work Plan
 2. Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel Study
 3. North Delta Food Subsidies Operations and Monitoring Plan
 4. Managed Wetlands Study Plan
- 2023 Comprehensive Monitoring Plan
- **2022 & 2023 SDM documents & Appendices**



DWR Spring Run Chinook Salmon Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE)

- Status: **scoping (early 2025 start)**
- 2020 ITP (issued by CDFW) for the long-term operations of the SWP
 - Develop a juvenile production estimate (JPE) within 5 years
 - review the draft SRJPE plan
- DWR must submit a final JPE approach to CDFW by September 30, 2024



7 LTO Reviews facilitated by Delta Science Program: **2010-2017**

Key topics included new approaches for:

Temperature monitoring, modeling and management

Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring Program

Loss estimation (entrainment)

Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE)

Cumulative Salvage Index calculation

Valuable Outcomes:

Move the temperature compliance point upriver to the salmon habitat in use

Regularly evaluate goals and objectives as part of an adaptive management strategy

Improvements to real-time sensor arrays

Common Recommendations

Link the success of achieving physical targets (temp, flow) in management actions to biological/ecological responses of listed species

Resource management must include the flexibility to adjust to a “new normal” set of expectations (i.e. reduced water availability)

Long-range planning for climate change

Thank you

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