

2022 DELTA SCIENCE FELLOW **FINAL REPORT**



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Doctoral Fellow

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Focus

Mapping the adaptation governance network of the Delta

Award

\$150,684

Research Mentor

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Community Mentors

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PROJECT

This research focused on understanding how and why human communities – including community organizations, local governments, special districts and Tribal entities – are engaged in the complex work of climate adaptation. Pozzi mapped the various institutions and actors that make up the governance network overseeing climate adaptation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). In addition to analyzing previously collected interview data, Pozzi designed, tested and distributed the “Delta Adaptation Survey,” which assesses, among other variables, the main challenges to collaborating on climate adaptation, preferred adaptation strategies and adaptation-related collaborative initiatives.

RESEARCH CONCLUSIONS

The survey reached over 1,000 individuals involved in or affiliated with adaptation projects, plans or collaborative forums in the Delta region and over 650 organizations, spanning all levels of government agencies, non-governmental organizations and Tribal entities.

One takeaway is that venues for formal collaboration are key for coordinating organizations that work on climate adaptation issues in the Delta. There were 15 adaptation-related collaboratives identified through this research effort, with at least one collaborative in every Delta county. Across all groups, respondents showed favorable opinions of collaborative forums, with local collaboratives considered particularly helpful.

During interviews for this project, many participants noted a shift in engagement, with groups that were traditionally underrepresented in Delta decision-making processes now participating more meaningfully. By providing baseline data this survey will allow researchers to track how collaborations in the Delta change over time.

“The Delta is known as the heart of California. As the main source of water for two-thirds of California, a unique biodiversity hot spot and home to many communities, it is critical that adaptation here is effective both now and into the future.”

