

Bridging the Estuary: The history, current status, and future of restoration planning, policy, and implementation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay

Dylan Chapple

Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento, CA

This talk will compare restoration progress and monitoring in the San Francisco Bay (SF Bay), Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) Estuary System. While the Bay and Delta are part of the same estuary, the combination of different land-use histories, salinity regimes, policy approaches, and species' needs all led to distinct trajectories for restoration across the two regions. Restoration in the saline, urbanized SF Bay began in the 1970's, has proceeded relatively steadily since then, and is largely not the result of mitigation requirements. In contrast, restoration in the fresher, largely agricultural Delta is more recent, with Federal Endangered Species Act-required mitigation for fish species including Delta smelt and Chinook salmon as a central motivation. To improve understanding of how context impacts restoration implementation, this talk will provide a high-level history comparing the two regions of the estuary focused on the range of restoration projects and programs in each system, their motivations, relevant funding structures, and progress made towards restoration implementation in the system to date. It will employ a series of case studies focusing on how institutions, ecology, policy, and geography impact how, when, and where restoration projects and related activities are implemented. These case studies will explore how uncertainty is addressed through monitoring and adaptive management programs, invasive species control, restoration design and construction, and public access. In each of these cases, regional difference play major roles in how programs are implemented. By addressing the role that the broader context plays in restoration implementation, this talk will help restoration practitioners and planners better understand how to navigate challenges across scales.

Contact Information: Dylan Chapple, Delta Stewardship Council, 715 P St., Sacramento, CA, USA 95820, Phone: 916-870-9036, Email: dylan.chapple@deltacouncil.ca.gov