

Six Things the Delta Science Community has Learned in the Past Two Years

Peter Goodwin





## Science is a Journey



#### **Town Hall Meeting October, 2012**

How can do collaborative science when the next day we are in court? Director Mark Cowin, Department of Water Resources

We need a universal model or suite of models that builds understanding between stressors and actions in this complex system *Randy Fiorini, Chair, Delta Stewardship Council* 

#### **PPIC Stress Relief: May 2013**

It is the uncertainty that makes this so difficult. It is in everyone's interest to get the best scientific information on which to base decisions

Jeff Kightlinger, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

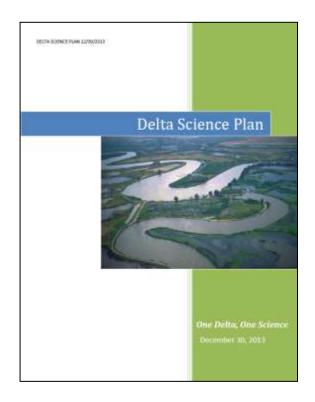
### One Delta - One Science

Unlearn combat science

**CSAMP-CAMT** 

IEP Stake-holder Engagement

SFWCA Science Program



We need change

Scientists and managers have invested time and resources

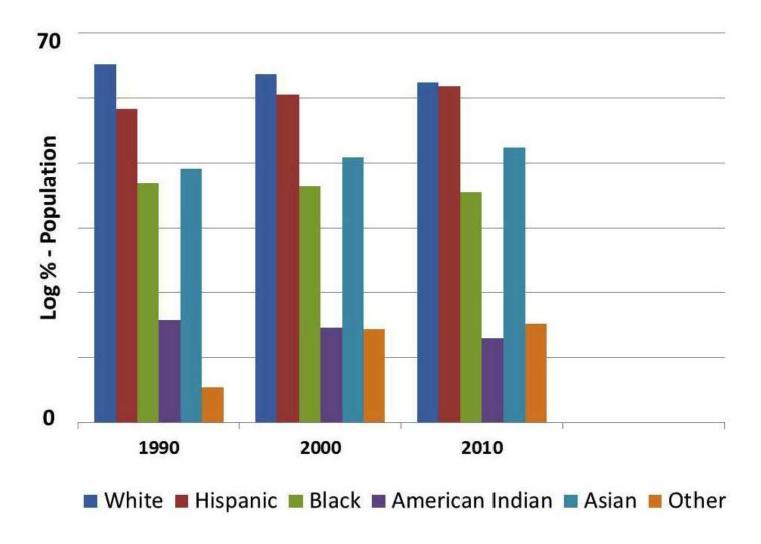
## One Delta - One Science

First Thing: It is the people that create change



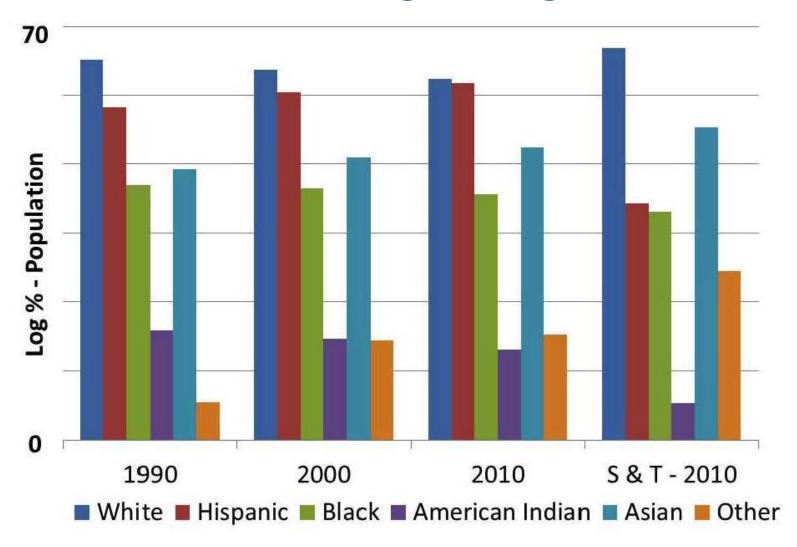
Source: Derek Sivers. TED. 'How to Build a Movement'. February 2010

### The Changing Demographics of California



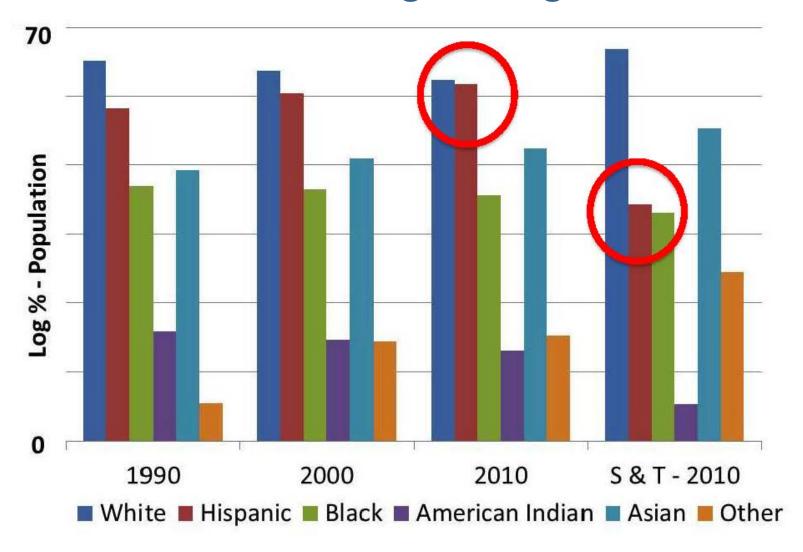
Source: Brookings Institute. www.censusscope.org

### The US Science and Engineering Workforce



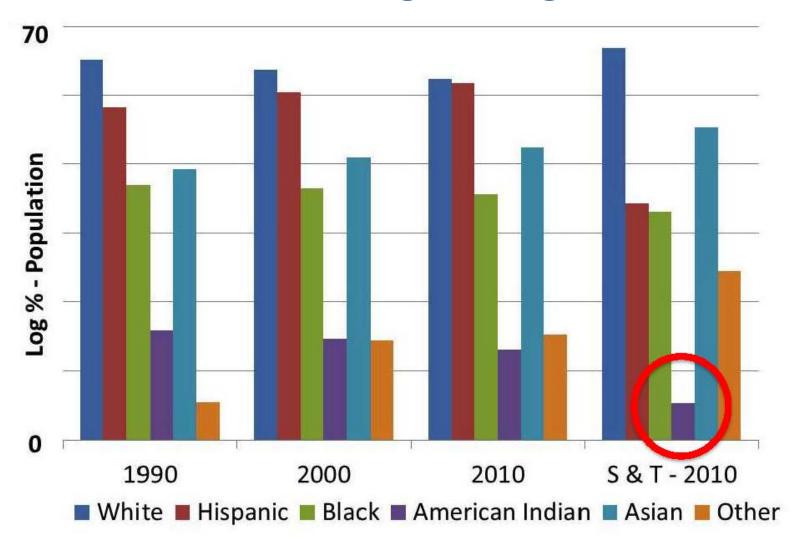
Source: NSB Science and Engineering Indicators

#### The US Science and Engineering Workforce



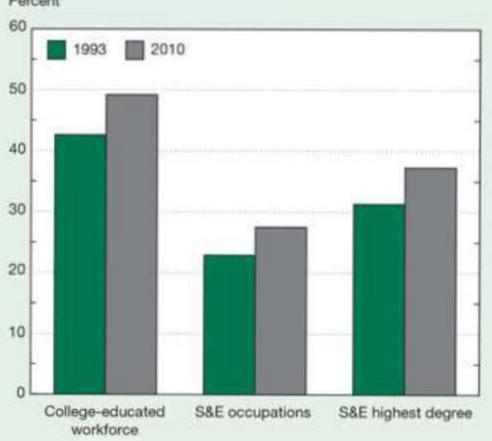
Source: NSB Science and Engineering Indicators

### The US Science and Engineering Workforce



Source: NSB Science and Engineering Indicators

Figure 3-29
Women in the workforce and in S&E: 1993 and 2010
Percent



SOURCES: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT) and National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) (1993 and 2010), http://sestat.nsf.gov.

Science and Engineering Indicators 2014

## Role Models and Mentoring

### Why is this relevant to us?

- Mentoring our early career scientists
- Career-Life Balance
- Develop the 'pipeline' of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- Professional responsibility to be recruiting the future generation of scientists

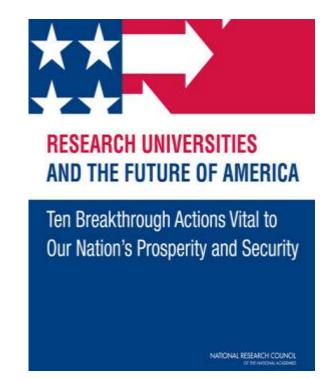
## Thing 2: Sustaining Intellectual Capacity

Our people – a diminishing resource that will need to be replenished creatively with a long-term view and careful transition planning

Support and enhance the State Fellows and Science Fellows Programs

## Thing 3: Role of Technology

- The Era of Big Data
- S. Azimi-Gaylon Wednesday 8:20-10am White Paper due December 2014
- Sensor Technologies
  - Smelt Cam
  - NASA JPL and AMES
  - What is next?



- Focused Integrated Models
  - DeltaEFT, Life-cycle Models, Yolo Bypass
  - Integrated Modeling Workshop 2015

## Science Discoveries – Thing 4

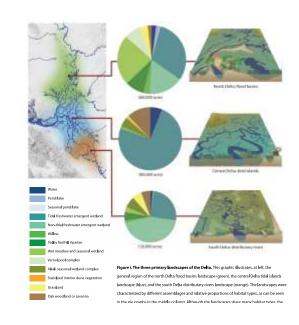
The Role of Historical Ecology

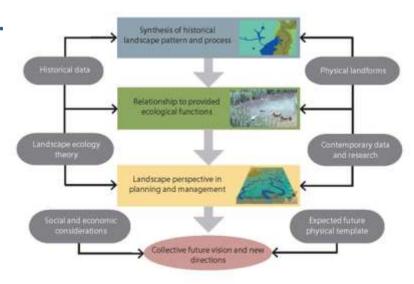
SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INSTITUTE
AQUATIC SCIENCE CENTER
AOSOC

Delta Landscapes Project (2012-present)

It takes a community of scientists . . . . .

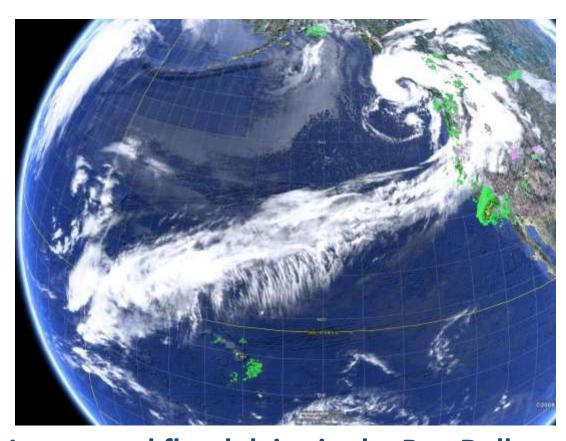
Robin Grossinger. Wednesday 2:35-2:55





## Science Discoveries – Thing 5

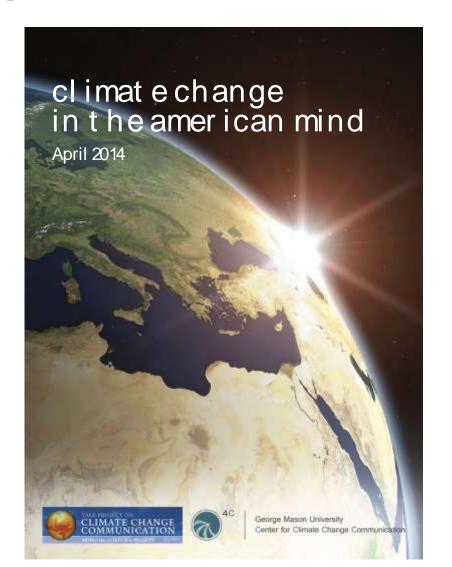
### Climate Change

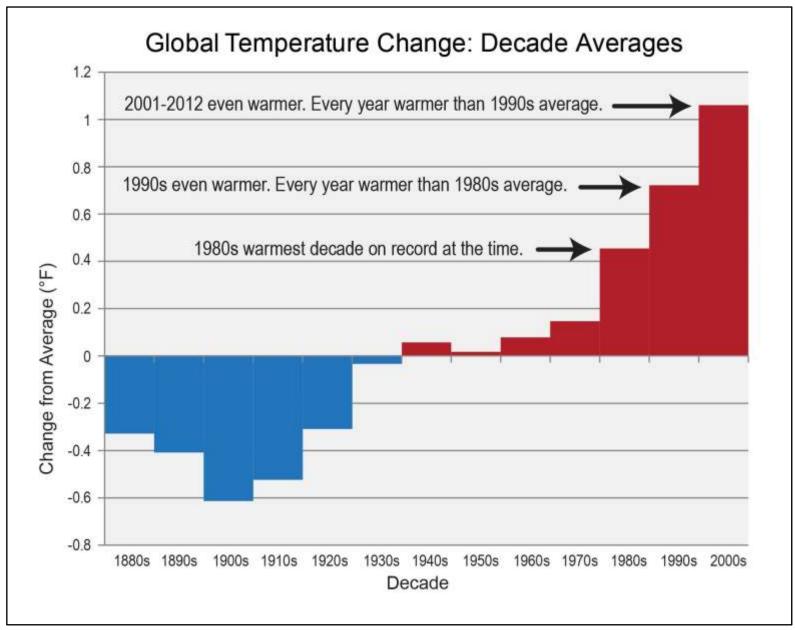


Atmospheric Rivers, Levees and floodplains in the Bay-Dellta Michael Dettinger, USGS, SIO, La Jolla, Joan Florsheim, UC Davis, Marty Ralph, NOAA/ESRL/PSD and many others

## Science Discoveries – Thing 5

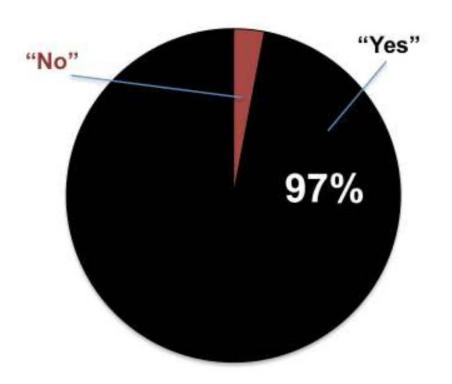
Climate Change and Communication





Bars show the difference between each decade's average temperature and the overall average for 1901 to 2000. The far right bar includes data for 2001-2012. (Source:!U.S.!National Climate Assessment).

#### Climate Scientists<sup>1</sup> say...



<sup>1</sup>Proportion of peer-reviewed papers that stated a position on the reality of human-caused global warming and said it is happening and human caused (Cook et. al, 2013).

#### The Amer

"No" or "Don't know"

> <sup>2</sup>Question asked of Ar is happening, do you activities; caused mos other; none of the abo happening."

> Base: Americans 18+

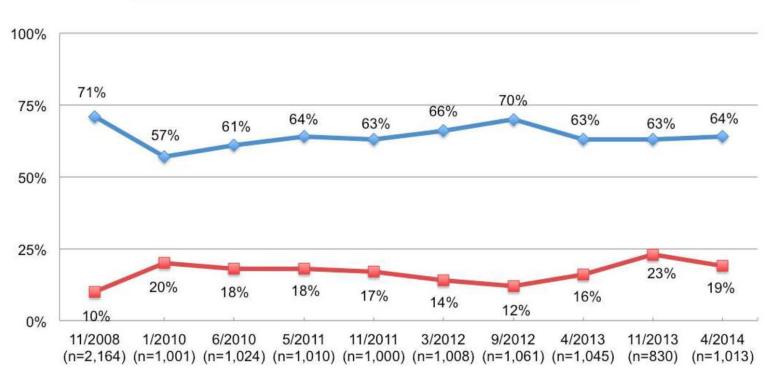


the past times years.

#### Majority of Americans Think Global Warming Is Happening

- Slight decline in the number of Americans who think it is not happening -





#### Do you think global warming is happening?

Base: Americans 18+. April, 2014.

Note: Respondent who either said they "don't know" or who did not answer the question are not included in the chart. As a result, percentages sum to less than 100%.





## Thing 6: There is no magic bullet

#### **Interagency Ecological Program**

Multi-stressor analyses and POD studies – 'a landmark change in thinking'. NRC 2012.

Dr. Kenny Rose (Louisiana State University) and Dr. Steve Culberson (USFWS).

State Water Resources Control Board – Delta Outflows Workshop, 2014

# Thing 6: There is no magic bullet

Sustained science synthesis is essential to understand and keep pace with this dynamic socio-ecological system as it adapts to climate change, population growth, episodic events, invasive species and our management actions.

An update of the State of Bay-Delta Science is underway for completion in 2015

At times of change, the learners will be the ones who will inherit the world, while the knowers will be beautifully prepared for a world that no longer exists.

**Alastair Smith** 

## Thank you for your attention.

Delta Science Program:

http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program