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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA CONSERVANCY**  
*A California State Agency*

1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
[www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov)

## **Delta Restoration Network, Restoration Hub Overview**

### **July 23, 2014**

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Conservancy staff should continue to work closely with the Delta Restoration Network (DRN) participants in the development of a 3 year pilot Restoration Hub.

### **BACKGROUND**

The DRN was established by the Conservancy out of recognition that restoration efforts will require high levels of coordination and integration to be ecologically successful and broadly acceptable. A consensus of shared concerns among leaders of the Delta stakeholder and management community indicated the need to bring people together to resolve issues around ecosystem restoration and its linkages to the Delta community, agriculture, and flood protection. Currently, the following interests are represented in the DRN: 12 Agencies (Department of Water Resources, State and Federal Contractors Water Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, Suisun Marsh Resource Conservation District, Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Science Program, Delta Protection Commission, San Francisco Estuary Institute, Delta Conservancy), 3 NGO's (The Nature Conservancy, Audubon, American Rivers), 4 Consultants (ESA, MWH, NewFields, Wetlands and Water Resources,) and the Delta community (5 County Coalition, with recent participation from Solano County and the Local Agencies of the North Delta).

Recently a subset of the DRN has developed a proposal for a Restoration Hub that would be a 3 year pilot effort. The Hub proposal was developed by the DRN to address the following concerns about current restoration planning:

1. We lack a broadly accepted landscape-scale restoration vision for the six recognized restoration opportunity areas supported by conceptual and mechanistic models.
2. We lack sufficient early engagement of the Delta community.
3. We lack sufficient modeling, data inventory, and synthesis tools to support analyses, information sharing, and adaptive management.
4. We lack a standing expert restoration design team to
  - a. Support timely property-scale restoration project planning
  - b. Develop long-term restoration visions for restoration opportunity areas
  - c. Consider the Delta-wide effects and cumulative impacts of restoration projects

The Hub is intended to be a place where the best available tools can be used to integrate data and models and work with subject experts and community members to inform restoration planning. This will result in projects

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with high ecological value, with the least possible impact to current land uses, and within the confines of the flood protection system.

The approach has been to work collaboratively on the development of the Hub concept and to develop a broad coalition of supportive agencies and organizations to demonstrate the necessity of the Hub to potential service providers and funders. The Restoration Hub is the place where we will bring together the best available tools and a workflow process that ensures community input, best available science, and adaptive management that are the cornerstones of an effective restoration program for the Delta.

**Contact Person:**

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
Phone: (916) 375-2084