



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

A California State Agency

June 20, 2014

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BDCP Comments  
Ryan Wulff, NMFS  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wulff:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan Draft EIR/EIS. The Delta Conservancy was established by the Delta Reform Act of 2009 to be a lead agency for ecosystem restoration in the Delta and to support efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well being of Delta residents. In this capacity, we anticipate that we will be actively involved in the coordination and integration of the many ongoing and future restoration efforts in the Delta. Additionally, we anticipate that we will be the lead for some ecosystem restoration projects depending on funding availability. The Conservancy's Economic Development and Education and Outreach Programs are currently engaged in many projects that will intersect with BDCP activities.

The Board of the Conservancy, listed in the left margin, was specifically designed to allow for local input in the governance of the organization and in project development, evaluation and funding decisions. This local input is invaluable in gaining local support and fostering a trusted and transparent long term restoration effort. [We hope the BDCP Moving forward, it is imperative -will work closely that the State work](#) with the Conservancy to develop projects in a manner that incorporates the local perspective. Further, it is vital that [the BDCP](#) proposed conservation measures be compatible with Delta communities and agriculture. This will be critical for maintaining the viability of the region. Representatives to the Board from the Natural Resources Agency and the Department of Finance, abstain from this action, and this letter in no way implies a recommendation or position from the Governor.

The attached table lists the Conservancy's twelve mandates as found in our enabling legislation and a description of our current efforts.

Sincerely,

Ken Vogel  
Delta Conservancy Board Chair



## Delta Conservancy's Legislative Mandates and Our Current Efforts

Conservancy Legislative Mandates	Current Staff Efforts
Protect and enhance habitat and habitat restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delta Restoration Network—A voluntary effort to coordinate and integrate restoration actions.</li> <li>• Arundo Control and Restoration Program—noxious and non-native weed control project.</li> <li>• Enhancement of Channel Margin Habitat—aims to improve the extent of functioning channel margin habitat.</li> <li>• Support for near- term projects identified by the Coalition to Support Delta Projects—vets near-term Delta projects with multiple Delta stakeholders and agencies and holds a list of projects with widespread support.</li> </ul>
Protect and preserve Delta agriculture and working landscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat Enhancement of Working Landscapes Coalition—goal is to work collaboratively with Delta landowners to improve habitat value of working landscapes.</li> <li>• Delta Farmbudsman—assist local farmers in navigating local, state, and federal permits and regulations as they pertain to agriculture.</li> <li>• Delta Agricultural Infrastructure Study – develop a clearer understanding of the state of agricultural infrastructure in the Delta and identify ways to strengthen and improve the infrastructure.</li> <li>• Internal land management policies and procedures—vet policies and procedures to prepare the Conservancy for the potential management and ownership of land.</li> </ul>
Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delta Marketing Grant—develop and implement a Delta-wide marketing campaign in partnership with the Delta Protection Commission.</li> <li>• Agri-tourism support—assist local agri-tourism organizations find interns and support for projects and administrative activities.</li> </ul>
Promote Delta legacy communities and economic vitality in the Delta in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delta Marketing Grant— develop and implement a Delta-wide marketing campaign in partnership with the Delta Protection Commission.</li> </ul>
Increase the resilience of the Delta to the effects of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BOR-WEF Grant—with a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation, the Conservancy and Water Education Foundation will engage in outreach to Delta-residents in preventing contaminants from entering the waterways during floods.</li> </ul>

<p>Protect and improve water quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delta Watershed Initiative Network — water quality monitoring coordination with local groups, education and outreach, waterway cleanups.</li> </ul>
<p>Assist the Delta regional economy through the operation of the conservancy's program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delta Marketing Grant - develop and implement a Delta-wide marketing campaign in partnership with the Delta Protection Commission.</li> </ul>
<p>Identify priority projects and initiatives for which funding is needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Conservancy continuously works with the Delta community to identify funding priorities, and locate funding to complete projects.</li> <li>• The Conservancy participates in the Coalition to Support Delta Projects, a large stakeholder effort to promote near-term priority projects and funding needs.</li> </ul>
<p>Protect, conserve, and restore the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical, and living resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSUS oral history project—partnership with CSUS' graduate public history program to gather oral histories of Delta pear farmers.</li> <li>• McCormack-Williamson Recreation Plan—partnership with UC Davis' Landscape Architecture department to develop a recreation plan for the McCormack-Williamson Tract.</li> </ul>
<p>Assist local entities in the implementation of their habitat conservation plans (HCPs) and natural community conservation plans (NCCPs).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current efforts</li> </ul>
<p>Facilitate take protection and safe harbor agreements under the federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act for adjacent landowners and local public agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BOR-WEF Grant – the Conservancy helped organize two workshops on adjacent landowner protections and safe harbor agreements. A white paper on the subject was written and distributed.</li> </ul>
<p>Promote environmental education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delta Waterway Cleanups—Raises awareness about good environmental stewardship and involves the community in Waterway Cleanup events.</li> <li>• Delta WIN— water quality monitoring coordination with local groups, education and outreach, waterway cleanup.</li> <li>• BOR-WEF Grant—Grant from Bureau of Reclamation to conduct public outreach programs with the Water Education Foundation related to water supply reliability, water quality, and Delta restoration efforts.</li> </ul>
<p>Governor's Order S-13-08 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delta Conservancy Climate Change Policy</li> </ul>

