



# The Delta Conservancy

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

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*“A partner for balanced ecosystem restoration and economic development in the Delta.”*

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## Strategic Plan Establishes Conservancy as Partner and Leader

Establishing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy as a valuable partner and leader in Delta restoration and economic development activities are at the core of the recently adopted Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan lists the six goals of the Conservancy for the next five years; specific objectives and strategies for each of the six goals also are included in the plan as are potential actions the Conservancy may take to achieve its goals. (See goals in box below.)

In addition to the goals, objectives, and strategies, the plan also outlines the four potential roles for the Conservancy in the next few years. These four roles are contingent upon the combination of funding and completed planning efforts such as the Delta

Plan or the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and are categorized as stages in the plan.

Stage 1 roles are with little or no funding and include the Conservancy as entrepreneur (without plans) or as broker (with plans); Stage 2 roles occur when the Conservancy has sufficient funding to be either a catalyzer (without plans) or a project-builder (with plans). The Conservancy's priorities are shaped by the interaction of funding and plans.

“Completing the Strategic Plan a full nine months before the deadline allows us to more fully participate in many of the processes, such as the Delta Plan and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, so we can make sure those

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Delta Conservancy Goals

- Establish the Conservancy as a valuable partner with Delta growers, agriculture-related businesses, and residents in protecting and enhancing the Delta's agricultural and working landscapes and sense of place
- Lead economic enhancement activities that support the Delta ecosystem and economy
- Lead efforts in protecting, enhancing, and restoring the Delta ecosystem in coordination with other governmental and non-governmental entities and citizens in the Delta
- Establish the Conservancy as a leader in gathering and communicating scientific and practical information about the Delta ecosystem and economy
- Create an effective organization based on principles of community service, collaboration, coordination, appropriate transparency, and efficient use of resources to fulfill the Conservancy's mission and deliver its programs
- Establish a stable, diversified, and self-sustaining funding base of the Conservancy



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## Chair's Perspective

# Conservancy to Become Positive Force in Delta

*By Mary Nejedly Piepho, Contra Costa County Supervisor and Chair, Delta Conservancy Board Chair, 2010-2012*

I am proud to be a part of the Delta Conservancy Board of Directors. For the first time we have a State agency in the Delta that is actively seeking input from the local community. The Delta Conservancy is committed to working directly with the people in the Delta to understand their interests and look for creative ways to bring resources to their priorities. Given the current tensions in the Delta, it is not at all surprising that people are initially skeptical of the role and mission of the Conservancy. I am encouraged, however, that almost everyone we speak with at least begins to see the possibility of the Conservancy as a valuable partner. It will take time to develop the relationships and trust necessary for the Conservancy to be a positive and effective

force for the Delta, but with the dedication I see in both the Board and Staff, I'm optimistic that we will get there.

We adopted the Conservancy's Strategic Plan at our June 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. This effort included eight public meetings throughout the Delta and many, many meetings with small groups and individuals to get local input on the role of the Conservancy. We believe this effort has resulted in a good document that will guide the Conservancy in the coming years.

Please check out the Plan at the following link, [www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov), and please always feel free to contact the Conservancy with any questions, suggestions, or to get involved. Volunteers always

## Executive Fellows' Findings Address the Impact of Increased Recreation on Delta

A team of Executive Fellows presented to the Delta Conservancy Board in June their findings about how increased recreation and tourism in and around the Delta could impact law enforcement issues in the region. Under the mentorship and direction of the Delta Conservancy Board and staff, Fellows interviewed federal, state, and local law enforcement entities, and stakeholders in communities throughout the region to better understand the impact – and potential legal issues – associated with increasing usage in the Delta.

The 12-page white paper focused on trespassing, theft, and boating safety as well as the current and projected need for budget, resources, and coverage for future law enforcement in the Delta region. Conclusions in the report included:

- There is a need for better and clearer signage between public land and private property.
- Better boater education could help reduce boater-related crime, such as boating under the influence.
- The state may want to consider mandatory licensing of vessel operators to support boater education efforts.
- There is a need for Delta-specific crime data and statistics for more accurate understanding of the law enforcement resource allocation issues.

A copy of the Executive Fellows Report to the Delta Conservancy Board is available online at the Conservancy's website: [www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov).

## What are The “Delta Dialogues”?

In October of last year, the Conservancy sponsored a conference that focused on changing the way we view Delta challenges. We explored the concept of Wicked Problems, problems so complex they cannot be understood at any level of completeness, and for which there are no “correct” solutions because each potential solution can result in completely new formulations of the problem. The Delta clearly fits the classic definition of a Wicked Problem.

Recognizing the importance of effective communication and shared understanding when working with Wicked Problems, we convened a group of representative Delta interests to begin a dialogue. Participants in these discussions said they were eager for a process that would lead to better shared understanding, but also spoke of “baggage” from previous efforts to bring Delta stakeholders together, and expressed urgency that these meetings would lead to real progress on Delta issues. Based on the participant’s interest in continuing the dialogue, the Conservancy sought and received grant funding to continue this process for a six month period (June to October, 2012).

The “Delta Dialogues” represent a departure from previous efforts to convene Delta stakeholders over the Delta. Instead of formal meetings or specific planning processes, the Delta Dialogues have the broad goal of “developing shared understanding of the future of the Delta.” They include using Dialogue Mapping, a process that captures the conversation and consensus of the group in real time on a screen that all participants can see. The hope is that such understanding will make it easier to address the Delta’s complex challenges, will inform and influence existing planning processes and will lead to a better shared understanding between stakeholders.

You can follow the Delta Dialogues process and see who is participating at the following website, [www.delta.groupaya.net/](http://www.delta.groupaya.net/). Our intention is, and the group has worked hard to ensure, that each interest group in the Delta is represented and that this process is transparent. I hope you will follow this exciting process and that our efforts make improvements in how we address Delta challenges.

*Campbell Ingram  
Executive Officer*

### Strategic Plan

*(Continued from page 1)*

processes know and understand the issues and concerns of the Conservancy and its constituents,” Campbell Ingram, executive director, said.

The plan underwent extensive public review processes, including eight public meetings throughout the Delta and a comment review period. The Conservancy also individually interviewed many Delta residents, local government officials, farmers, and business leaders for their input on the plan.

An electronic copy of the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan may be obtained online at [www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov) or a printed version may be obtained by calling the Conservancy’s office at 916-375-2084.



Sacramento-  
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## Delta Royalty

“Delta King...on  
the National  
Register of Historic  
Places”



Ordered in 1924 and shipped in pieces from Scotland to Stockton in 1926, the *Delta King* and her sister ship, the *Delta Queen*, were christened May 20, 1927. The paddle wheelers, each 285 feet long, 58 feet wide, and weighing approximately 1,650 tons, were widely regarded as the most lavishly appointed ships ever commissioned at that time.

The paddle wheelers were used for regular service on the Sacramento River between Sacramento and San Francisco and for excursion trips to Stockton on the San Joaquin River from 1927 until the early 1940's, when California's burgeoning highway system and the construction of bridges rendered them obsolete. During World War II these ships were requisitioned by the US Navy for duty in the San Francisco Bay and renamed the *USS Delta King* and *USS Delta Queen*.

In 1948 the *Delta Queen* sailed to New Orleans and entered into regular passenger

service between Cincinnati and New Orleans. In the 1950's the *Delta King* served as a bunkhouse for hundreds of single men who were constructing the ALCAN Aluminum plant and KEMANO Dam projects on the northern coast of British Columbia.

Both ships were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the 1970's and the *Delta Queen* was identified as a National Historic Monument in 1989.

In 1981 the *Delta King* sunk for unknown reasons while docked in Richmond, CA. It was soon discovered that the damage was minor and she was raised and towed to her current location in Sacramento, CA where she serves as a 44-room floating hotel/restaurant.

As of the summer of 2011, the *Delta Queen* was docked in Chattanooga, TN and operates as a floating hotel.



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## Conservancy Moves Into New Facility

After numerous complications, the Conservancy successfully executed a lease for their new home. The new location is the “Miyamoto” property on Harbor Blvd and Halyard Drive, two blocks east of our current location in West Sacramento. It features office space for staff, as well as volunteers, and a conference room for board meetings and other functions.



Thanks goes to Nancy Ullrey and Elisa Sabatini for their heroics and perseverance in this nearly two year effort. They endured the process and maintained their sense of humor through it all!

Staff and volunteers expect to move into their new offices mid August. Our new address will be 1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6; email addresses and phone numbers will remain the same.

An open house for the Delta community will be scheduled after the dust has settled.

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## Strong Collaborations Make Successful Grant Awards Workshop on August 22

The Delta Conservancy is offering a workshop to help in developing collaborative grant proposals. As grant funding now depends on strong collaborations, this workshop will cover what it means to collaborate with other organizations and how to protect their organization when developing a collaborative agreement.

The workshop is geared to help grant writers improve their funding success and ensure they know the latest on funding research and grant funding trends. It is designed for those undertaking agency specific projects and will include writing the various

components of the proposal, from the abstract to the project design. Participants will also receive one-on-one advice on their specific projects.

The workshop is Wednesday, August 22, 2012, 8:30am-11:30am, at the Rio Vista Municipal Airport. Contact Susan at 916-275-2088.

The workshop instructor is Kristen Cooper Carter, Grant Management Associates, who has more than 25 years experience as a grant developer, technical writer and project manager.

***“...grant funding now depends on strong collaborations...”***



## Farmer Addresses Flooding and Water Quality Concerns with Restoration

John Stephens, a fourth generation farmer on Oakdale Ranch in Yolo County, recently received the Pacific Institute Inaugural Farm Water Stewards Award. He was recognized for the multiple-benefit riparian restoration project he initiated and completed, as a private landowner, on the portion of Willow Slough that runs through his property. Stephens had been concerned about the high rates of erosion along the slough, turbid water discharged from his property and the loss of wildlife he grew up with as a child. Additionally, winter flooding of the incised slough required costly maintenance.

To address this problem, Stephens partnered with California Audubon's Landowner Stewardship Program to re-grade and re-vegetate the banks to filter runoff, absorb flood flows, convey drainage, and provide riparian habitat for wildlife. Teenagers from the Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship Program (SLEWS) helped with the planting of native vegetation. SLEWS engages high school students to assist in restoring habitats; hands-on restoration projects enhance classroom learning, develop learning skills and result in real positive impact for the environment. The Conservancy is currently seeking funding sources to expand these programs in the Delta.



Today Stephens reports considerable improvements in Willow Slough's water quality. A well-established riparian forest has developed and quail and pheasants, among other species, have returned. Stephens hopes to take his grandchildren pheasant hunting eventually.

The Stephens family property gained international attention for their restoration project. Reestablishing the important connection between farmers and their property serves as a model to farmers because restoration projects benefit their land.

*Find more farm water success stories at Pacific Institute's website: [www.pacinst.org/reports/success\\_stories/index.htm](http://www.pacinst.org/reports/success_stories/index.htm)*

### Delta Fairs, Festivals, & Events

**Courtland Pear Fair**  
July 31  
[pearfair.org](http://pearfair.org)

**Solano County Fair**  
August 1-5  
[scfair.com](http://scfair.com)

**Yolo County Fair**  
August 15-19  
[yolocountyfair.com](http://yolocountyfair.com)

**Pittsburg Seafood Festival**  
September 8-9  
[pittsburgseafoodfestival.com](http://pittsburgseafoodfestival.com)

**Lodi Grape Festival and Harvest**  
September 13-16  
[grapefestival.com](http://grapefestival.com)

**San Joaquin County Fair**  
September 20-30  
[sanjoaquinfair.com](http://sanjoaquinfair.com)

**Sandhill Crane Festival**  
November 2-4  
[cranefestival.com](http://cranefestival.com)



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