



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

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**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

*A California State Agency*

# **Three-Year Work Plan Update and FY 15-16 Implementation Plan**

September 2015

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# INTRODUCTION

This report provides a snapshot of the efforts that the Conservancy will pursue over the next three fiscal years, 2015-2018. The passage of the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop. 1) in November 2014 solidified the shift the Conservancy was undertaking regarding some of its previous projects. With Prop. 1's passage, the Conservancy has secured funds to administer a grant program, which will necessitate additional staff for program delivery. The bond funding allows for additional operations funding. Securing adequate and stable funding for Conservancy-led projects, however, is still a challenge for the organization. Current program funding comes primarily through state and federal government and private foundation grants. The Conservancy received \$1,134,566 in grant funding in FY 14-15. This three-year work plan identifies project funding needs of \$12.3 million.

The Conservancy is designated to administer \$50 million for a competitive grant program, over the life of the Prop. 1 bond. The Conservancy anticipates a program delivering approximately \$9 million annually for five years. The first grant solicitation is expected to begin early in FY 2015-16. More information about the Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program is found in the Ecosystem Restoration Program section of this document.

The Conservancy's strategic plan describes four different potential roles for the Conservancy (entrepreneur, broker, catalyzer and project builder) based on funding and status of regional planning efforts. With the passage of Prop. 1, the Conservancy moves into a new stage of its Strategic Plan: Conservancy as Project Builder. In this stage, the Conservancy undertakes a wider variety of actions to achieve its mission, focusing on funding restoration and agricultural sustainability projects.

*Under the Conservancy as Project Builder scenario, "the Conservancy [devotes] relatively more energy to designing the institutional, contracting, and project management mechanisms necessary to meet any relevant planning requirements, and to ensuring the long-term success of restoration actions. Strategies such as developing financial and ecological models for projects (Strategy 3.3.5), improving visitor accessibility to the Delta (Strategy 2.1.2), development of Safe Harbor agreements (Strategy 3.6.3), and completion of a feasibility study of farmland mitigation mechanism to be undertaken by lead restoration agencies (Strategy 2.2.1), would take on added importance in this scenario." (Strategic Plan, page 59).*

Project information is presented under the Conservancy's three main program areas: Economic Development, Ecosystem Restoration, and Education and Outreach.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Delta is known for its rich soils, miles of waterways, cultural heritage, and communities. With almost half a million acres of highly productive soils, the Delta is one of California’s oldest and most prominent agricultural landscapes. Its rich heritage includes pioneering reclamation efforts, ethnically diverse landholdings, and technological inventiveness. Legacy communities along the Sacramento River and elsewhere are a living testament to the Delta’s unique history and continuing vitality. One of the Conservancy’s goals is to “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.” The following projects look broadly at the economic development of the Delta and at the Delta as a Place, addressing multiple issues that strengthen, define, and promote the Delta.

## FUNDED PROJECTS

### *Delta Branding and Marketing*

The Conservancy and the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) are partners in helping Delta residents and businesses in developing Delta branding and marketing ideas. A Delta logo and tag line were developed in FY 13-14. The next step is to develop a marketing plan using the Delta brand to provide local businesses and governments with a professionally researched and developed tool for promotion. The marketing task force is assisting with the development and implementation of the marketing plan.

Project linkages to the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan are described in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. This project also is consistent with the DPC’s Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP).

During FY 14-15, the Conservancy contracted with a marketing firm and formed the Delta Marketing Task Force.

**ED Table 1: Delta Branding and Marketing**

Implementation and Performance Goals	Timeline
Create Delta Brand standards handbook	FY 15-16
Develop Marketing Plan	FY 15-16 and beyond
Develop and support infrastructure for long-term marketing management	FY 15-16 and beyond
Implement marketing plan	FY 15-16 and beyond
The Conservancy received a \$197,500 grant during FY 13-14 from the federal Economic Development Administration.	

## UNFUNDED PROJECTS

### *Delta Economic Indicators Report*

**Project Description:** This project will develop a group of indicators that reflect the overall well-being of the Delta region in terms of economic, social, and environmental health. The report can describe current conditions, and by developing indicators, evaluate the effectiveness of various programs and policies enacted by the Conservancy. An important phase of this project is to establish baseline measurements that can be compared to changes over time. The Conservancy will coordinate with the DPC in developing the economic indicators report.

Project linkages to the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan are described in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

The next steps are to seek \$100,000 in funding to establish baseline measurements that can be compared to changes over time and to coordinate with the DPC in developing a list of economic, social, and environmental indicators.

In FY 14-15, the Conservancy met with DPC to begin discussing the project.

### ***Mokelumne River Corridor***

**Project Description:** The Conservancy is developing partnerships to create a recreation plan for McCormack-Williamson Tract that connects recreation associated with restoration of the tract with the regional plans; and implement the recreation plan by developing a pilot project with a process that can be replicated on other sites. The Conservancy anticipates that the McCormack-Williamson pilot project can also serve as a model for other projects to encourage regional recreation planning throughout the Delta.

Project linkages to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan are described in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. This project also is consistent with the DPC's Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) and the California State Park's "gateway-basecamp-adventure" strategy.

Next steps for this project include securing \$200,000 for a recreation plan, developed in conjunction with the University of California, Davis.

In FY 14-15, the Conservancy met with the Landscape Architecture Department at UC Davis to continue the dialogue related to this project.

### ***Agriculture Sustainability Research***

**Project Description:** This project is to complete an agricultural analysis using the Rural-Urban Connection Strategy (RUCS) resulting in a locally supported investment strategy to better understand the long-term agricultural needs and the impacts of projected conversions for ecosystem restoration on agriculture. The Conservancy will also be exploring the development of an agricultural economic development strategy for the Delta counties. Yolo County completed such a study in May 2014; their study provides a good model for similar studies in the other counties.

Project linkages to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan are described in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

Next steps for this project include developing a work plan and securing funding. A consultant will be needed to conduct the study, which is estimated to cost a minimum of \$1 million.

### **Other Projects**

The Conservancy participates in other projects in support of the Delta as a place, recreation and tourism, and economic enhancement. The Conservancy is not the lead agency for the following projects, but is working closely with partner agencies to achieve project goals and objectives. As such, performance measures are not included but connection to the Conservancy's strategic plan and other relevant plans are.

### ***Delta Trails***

**Project Description:** Led by the DPC, the Great Delta Trail will be a continuous recreational trail network through all five Delta counties. The plan is to link the San Francisco Bay Trail system to the planned Sacramento River trail in Yolo and Sacramento counties. The Great Delta Trail can benefit from the Delta branding and marketing initiative. The Conservancy's role in this project is to assist DPC in creating the Great Delta Trail.

Project linkages to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan are described in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. This project also is consistent with the DPC's Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP).

The next step is for the Conservancy to continue attending Great Delta Trail meetings and look for trail connectivity opportunities.

### ***National Heritage Area Designation***

**Project Description:** The DPC, in partnership with local governments, non-profit organizations, and state and federal agencies, is seeking National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for the Delta. NHA designation could bring planning, national recognition, and financial resources to the region. Legislation was introduced in Congress to designate the Delta as an NHA.

Project linkages to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan are described in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. This project also is consistent with the DPC's Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) and the California State Park's "gateway-basecamp-adventure" strategy.

The next step is for the Conservancy is to continue communicating with the DPC on the designation of the NHA.

# ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh (Delta) is the largest estuary on the west coast of the North and South Americas, providing irreplaceable habitat for numerous resident, migratory, terrestrial, and aquatic species. Despite its richness, the Delta ecosystem has been described as one of the most fragile in the United States. It is beset by serious problems: rapid declines in fish populations, large numbers of aggressive invasive species, poor water quality, extensive fresh water diversions, disconnection of floodplains and wetlands from necessary water flows, and cumulative loss of habitat for nearly all life stages of fish, bird, and other wildlife species. The Conservancy, in collaborating with state, federal and local agencies, is working on the following programs and projects to protect, enhance, and restore the Delta ecosystem.

## FUNDED PROJECTS

### *Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program*

**Project Description:** The Conservancy’s Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality grant program intends to focus on the restoration of important species and habitat and agricultural sustainability. Both Prop. 1 and the Conservancy’s enabling legislation emphasize focusing on projects that use public lands and that maximize “voluntary landowner participation in projects that provide measurable and long-lasting habitat or species improvements in the Delta.”

Prop. 1 identifies projects to protect and restore California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds that may be funded with Prop. 1 funding (Sec. 79732 *et seq*). During its first grant cycle, the Conservancy’s highest priority projects will address (1) restoration and enhancement; (2) water quality; and (3) agricultural sustainability.

The Conservancy is to complete and make final its grant guidelines and grant application packet in anticipation of beginning the proposed 10-month grant cycle in August 2015. The Conservancy is working with several sub-regional workgroups with agency, landowner, and local government participation to develop guidance to improve coordination and integration of the Delta related Prop. 1 funding pots. Each of these groups has been invited to rapidly develop a high level vision for their region that minimally includes their objectives for flood protection, habitat restoration, water quality, and agricultural sustainability. Further, they would develop lists of near-term concepts and projects that support the vision, have sound scientific basis, and have local support. The visions will also identify linkages to the Delta Plan’s co-equal objectives, the Californian Water Action Plan, the Delta Plan, and priorities in Prop. 1. This information will be available to the funding agencies as they determine which proposals meet their funding criteria. It is important to emphasize that the three funding agencies (the Conservancy, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) would retain their responsibility and authority to make the funding decisions. They would be free to accept or reject any recommendation and would retain their authority to fund projects developed outside the voluntary consensus process.

This project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan objectives to enhance Delta agriculture; protect and improve water quality for the Delta ecosystem and economy; to lead Delta ecosystem restoration activities consistent with the Delta Plan and other regional plans (such as the California Water Action Plan); provide incentives to private landowners to maintain and create wildlife habitat on private lands; and to implement restoration projects that provide compatible economic use for landowners or adjacent businesses.

**ER-Table 2: Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program**

Implementation and Performance Goals	Timeline
Hire four Grant Program staff	FY 2015-16
Concept Proposal Solicitation	FY 2015-16
Full Proposal Solicitation	FY 2015-16

Award 1 <sup>st</sup> round of grants	FY 2015-16
Develop grant agreements	FY 2015-16
Plan next grant cycle	FY 2016-17
The Conservancy is designated \$50 million to administer a grant program, of which \$9.3 million is available for FY 2015-16. The Conservancy has been authorized for four new PYs . Remaining bond funds are anticipated to be \$10 million annually for the following four years.	

### **Arundo Control and Restoration**

**Project Description:** Phase 1 was initiated in FY 2014-15. *Arundo donax* is an invasive terrestrial plant. Program activities include mapping and prioritizing Arundo eradication sites, coordinating with other Arundo control efforts in the Delta, and implementing the Cache Slough Complex pilot project. The pilot project seeks to control Arundo on approximately 50 acres in the Cache Slough Complex and to restore an equivalent 50 acres of native, riparian habitat where feasible within Arundo eradication sites or in identified priority restoration opportunity areas.

This project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. The project is also consistent with the DFW’s Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy Stage 2 and with the DPC’s Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta.

In FY 14-15, potential eradication sites were identified, mapped and prioritized and important permit applications were submitted.

**ER-Table 1: Arundo Control and Restoration Program**

Implementation and Performance Goals	Timeline
Obtain permits as needed	FY 15-16 - FY 17-18
Coordinate with other entities working on Arundo control	FY 15-16 and beyond
Secure additional funding	FY 15-16 and beyond
This project s funded for \$2 million, of which \$440,000 is available for FY 15-16.	

### **Delta Restoration Network (DRN)—Restoration Hub**

The purpose of DRN is to provide a forum for information sharing and coordination to ensure integrated and accountable restoration efforts in the Delta. The primary focus for the DRN in 2015-16 is the development of a Restoration Hub (Hub) pilot project. The Hub is intended to be a place where the best available technology and tools can be used to integrate data and models and work with subject experts and community members to inform restoration planning. This should result in projects with high ecological value, with the least possible impact to current land uses, and within the confines of the flood protection system.

The Restoration Hub is expected to be the place where best available tools and a workflow process are brought together to ensure community input, best available science, and adaptive management that are the cornerstones of an effective restoration program for the Delta. A partnership comprised of the Conservancy, the Delta Science Program, the San Francisco Estuary Institute, and The Nature Conservancy are developing a work plan to complete a pilot effort of the Restoration Hub that will develop a Northeast Delta Regional Vision and Strategy. This is intended to be a demonstration of the effectiveness of the Hub tools and processes and will be complete within six to nine months of initiation. This project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan, the Delta Plan, and the Delta Science Plan.

**ER-Table 3: Delta Restoration Network—Restoration Hub**

Implementation and Performance Goals	Timeline
Continue to convene DRN meetings	FY 15-16 and beyond
Initiate and complete a Restoration Hub pilot project in the Northeast Delta	FY 15-16
1 PY and \$750,000 for the Northeast Delta pilot is needed for this project.	

## ***Delta Watershed Initiative Network (Delta WIN)***

**Project Description:** Delta WIN is an information platform that connects people, projects and expertise to maximize the ecological benefits of healthy watersheds and put ideas into actions through facilitating a regional network of locally initiated projects. Delta WIN promotes and supports local watershed projects and increases the communication between multiple efforts to help address water quality and ecosystem health at a local level as well as provide regional benefits.

Improving the health of the watersheds in the Delta and their relationships to the ecosystems – of which they are an integral part – is the main focus of the Delta WIN which will be achieved through multiple actions including water quality monitoring, integrating data and information, providing environmental education, and implementing best management practices. The four components of Delta WIN are described below.

### Coordinated Water Quality Monitoring

Delta WIN coordinates water quality monitoring to provide information about the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics and health of a water body. The purpose of Delta WIN monitoring data is to identify data gaps and establish baselines for understanding watershed conditions, screen for potential pollution problems, and inform adaptive management decisions and best management practices.

### Data Integration

The Conservancy received \$300,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Delta WIN project that will make priority data available--which now exists in programmatic silos--accessible for decision-makers, scientists, and the public through an estuary-wide data center. This project is being implemented in partnership with the San Francisco Estuary Institute/Aquatic Science Center (SFEI/ASC), consistent with the California Water Quality Monitoring Council.

### Best Management Practices

An integral part of Delta WIN is addressing water quality issues through best management practices (BMPs). BMPs are techniques, measures, or structural controls that can be implemented to protect, restore, or improve water quality before runoff reaches the main water system. Delta WIN works with partners in the watershed to implement BMPs to take action on water quality issues.

### Environmental Education

Delta WIN initiates and coordinates environmental education that address a broad range of environmental topics in preventing pollution, watershed science, water quality monitoring, the Delta ecosystem, and environmental stewardship.

This project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. This project is also consistent with the Delta Science Plan.

In FY 14-15, the Conservancy coordinated water quality monitoring in local watersheds and developed a monitoring plan for Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge to span data collection through 2015. The Conservancy convened a workgroup to prioritize water quality data for an estuary-wide data repository. Under a Teichert grant awarded in 2014, the Conservancy provided approximately 100 students in Rio Vista High School and Clarksburg High School with a classroom presentation about watershed science and a field trip to the Cosumnes River Preserve.

**ER-Table 9: Delta WIN**

<b>Implementation and Performance Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Continue to coordinate with local watershed organizations to conduct water quality monitoring, including developing monitoring plans to increase consistency in data collection and reporting	FY 15-16 and beyond
Coordinate with local watershed organizations to develop watershed management measures including best management practices for improving water quality	FY 15-16 and beyond
Continue development of an estuary-wide data repository to house existing priority water quality data	FY 15-16 and beyond

Continue to develop environmental education activities to take place through Delta WIN	FY 15-16 and beyond
Develop indicators and metrics for collecting stewardship data	FY 15-16 and beyond
Approximately \$158,919.73 is expected from a proposed grant to the Bureau of Reclamation for environmental education and water quality monitoring. The Conservancy was awarded \$300,000 by the US EPA for efforts related to data integration in FY14-15, of which \$104,000 was available in FY 14-15.	

### ***Delta Waterway Cleanups***

**Project Description:** The Conservancy, in partnership with the DPC, State Parks, Sacramento Area Creeks Council, and California Coastal Commission, co-sponsors two Delta waterway cleanups, one in April and one in September. The Delta Waterway Cleanup goals are: (1) to protect and improve water quality of the Delta ecosystem; (2) to raise awareness and understanding of good stewardship practices; and (3) to provide the community opportunities to implement stewardship practices in the Delta. The Delta Waterway Cleanup project is a component of Delta WIN. The Conservancy coordinates with Bridgestone to recycle illegally dumped tires at cleanup sites. ER-Table 10 lists the planning steps for this project.

This project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. This project is also consistent with the Delta Science Plan.

The Conservancy held a fall 2014 and spring 2015 cleanup, coordinating more than 200 volunteers that removed over three tons of trash and 300 illegally dumped tires.

**ER-Table 10: Delta Waterway Cleanups**

<b>Implementation and Performance Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Continue to work with partners to implement biannual Delta Waterway Cleanups, including environmental education outreach to Delta schools	FY 15-16 and beyond
Work with communities and counties to define issues and opportunities to reduce impacts of illegal dumping	FY 15-16 and beyond
Approximately \$2,000 is needed annually for implementing Delta Waterway Cleanups.	

### ***Enhancing EcoAtlas for Habitat Project Tracking, Assessment, and Reporting, Project I***

**Project Description:** This project was designed to expand the capabilities of the wetland project tracking system –a component of Eco-Atlas–for the monitoring and assessment of California’s aquatic resources to meet the project tracking, assessment, and reporting needs for current and planned habitat restoration in the San Francisco Bay-Delta and Central Valley. The Conservancy received an EPA 2013 Wetland Program Development Grant of \$254,119 for this project. Agencies involved in implementing this project include San Francisco Estuary Institute/Aquatic Science Center, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, Central Valley Joint Venture, State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Water Resources, and Department of Fish and Wildlife. The project will be completed in the fall of 2015. At that time the habitat restoration project database for Delta projects will be updated and accessible through EcoAtlas.

This project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. This project is also consistent with the Delta Science Plan.

In FY14-15, the Conservancy updated the habitat restoration project database.

**ER-Table 6: Enhancing EcoAtlas for Habitat Project Tracking, Assessment, and Reporting, Project I**

<b>Implementation and Performance Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Develop process to maintain updated information on Delta habitat projects in EcoAtlas	FY 15-16
Complete project	FY 15-16
No additional funding is needed as the project will be complete in October 2015.	

### ***Visualizing and Sharing Data Assessments, EcoAtlas: Project II***

**Project Description:** This project is to standardize, visualize and share Wetland Level 3 data using EcoAtlas. The Conservancy, in partnership with the San Francisco Estuary Institute/Aquatic Science Center (SFEI/ASC), is working with federal and state agencies to (1) collect high-priority datasets with strategic value for the region; (2) visualize those datasets geospatially; (3) share those datasets via web services; (4) implement best available measures; and (5) develop training materials and engage in outreach.

This project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

In FY 14-15, the Conservancy received a grant from the US EPA for this project, entered into contract with SFEI/ASC, convened a project workgroup to develop a method for prioritizing datasets as well as a list of datasets, and conducted outreach to data providers.

**ER-Table 5: EcoAtlas: Project II**

<b>Implementation and Performance Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Coordinate with the SFEI/ASC and other agencies to prioritize data	FY 15-16
Develop documentation for data standardization	FY 15-16
Design a plan for creating and documenting reporting infrastructure	FY 15-16
Design a Plan for incorporating datasets into EcoAtlas	FY 15-16
Engage in outreach	FY 15-16 and beyond
In FY 14-15, the Conservancy secured \$250,000 for this project from the US EPA; \$137,500 is available in FY 14-15; \$100,000 in FY 15-16; and, \$12,500 in FY 16-17.	

## **UNFUNDED PROJECTS**

### ***Climate Change***

The Conservancy Board adopted a climate change policy in 2012 which guides the Conservancy in developing, establishing, and supporting projects that mitigate for climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, have the capacity to, or can increase the system’s capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change. In support of the policy, the Conservancy participates in the Coastal and Ocean Working Group of the Climate Action Team (CO-CAT). Additionally, the Conservancy is working with a large partnership to develop pilot projects and inform policies that recognizes the Delta as a significant carbon sequestration opportunity area. Partners in this effort include DWR, CDFW, UC Berkeley, the American Carbon Registry, The Nature Conservancy, and Hydrofocus, Inc. The group is working with the American Carbon Registry (ACR) and funding partners to develop a California Carbon Protocol for wetlands and rice farming for adoption under ACR, and potential submittal to the Air Resources Board for use under the Cap-and-Trade compliance market.

This project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. This project is also consistent with the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy; CDFW’s Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy Stage 2 Actions; and DPC’s Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta.

### ***Channel Margin Habitat Enhancement***

The Conservancy collaborated with DWR, DFW, Wildlife Conservation Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to explore opportunities for channel margin habitat enhancement in the Delta. Important areas for channel margin habitat have been identified and funding is needed to implement projects. These types of projects are eligible for Prop. 1 funding and the Conservancy anticipates granting Prop. 1 grant funding for channel margin habitat enhancement projects.

This project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. This project is also consistent with the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy Stage 2.

### ***Habitat Enhancement of Working Landscapes***

The Conservancy is working to provide opportunities to enhance the habitat value of working landscapes and benefit agriculture in the Delta. The Conservancy anticipates using a suite of innovative management practices and project activities that focus on addressing agricultural needs and providing benefits to terrestrial species, waterfowl and other avian species, aquatic species and water quality. To achieve this goal the Conservancy formed the Habitat Enhancement of Working Landscapes coalition which consists of the Conservancy, the DPC, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the 5 Delta county Resources Conservation Districts, Point Blue Science Center (previously PRBO), The Nature Conservancy, Audubon California, and Ducks Unlimited (DU). This coalition meets quarterly to exchange information and look for areas to collaborate. Habitat enhancement of working landscape projects is eligible for Proposition 1 funding and the Conservancy anticipates funding these types of projects.

This project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. This project is also consistent with the DPC's Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta and DFW's Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan Vision for Agricultural Lands.

## **Other Projects**

### ***Delta Land Management***

This project works with locals, agencies, and NGOs to find consensus on high priority projects in the western Delta. Projects that address flood protection, habitat, water quality, water supply/reliability, and recreation are being identified to provide guidance to funding agencies as they begin to distribute Prop. 1 funding.

This project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan as shown in Appendix A and B, respectively.

### ***Invasive Species Coordination***

In FY 14-15 the Conservancy convened a workgroup to coordinate and share information for effective invasive species management in the Delta. The goal of this coordination is to provide a forum for connecting agencies and organizations to facilitate discussions of invasive species issues including information management, data gaps, research priorities, and when possible, leverage funding and resources to benefit all participants.

This project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. This project is also consistent with the DPC's Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta and Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan Vision for Agricultural Lands.

The coordination workgroup met twice in the past year and quarterly meetings are scheduled for FY 15-16.

## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM**

The Education and Outreach Program (EOP) is not a separate designated program or goal within the Conservancy's Strategic Plan; rather this program permeates throughout all of the Conservancy's program goals. Almost every major project has an education and outreach component. By establishing a separate program, the Conservancy is better able to manage the integrity and consistency of its

communications across all programs and through the various media at its disposal. In addition to the following listed projects, the Conservancy will continue to publish a newsletter two times a year; maintain its website and social media for electronic information distribution; and publish brochures, flyers, and other relevant documents. Linkages to other regional plans are not discussed for these projects as education and outreach activities are not specified in the Delta Plan or other planning efforts.

## FUNDED PROJECTS

### ***Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP)***

**Project Description:** The Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP) is a collaborative effort of the Conservancy, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board and local community groups, and others to conduct activities to address the health risks to consumers of Delta fish. The Conservancy’s role in this project is project management and implementation in the Delta. A small grants program, administered by CDPH is also a component of this project. The Conservancy is also working with project partners to determine the best additional languages in which to provide this information both in print and on-line.

Project linkages to the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan are described in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

In FY 14-15, the Conservancy secured funding from the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board for the Conservancy’s role in implementing this program. The Conservancy has coordinated four Community Stakeholder Group Meetings, maintain dedicated webpages on the Conservancy’s website to host program information, conducted outreach, and participated in the small grants review panel which awarded \$45,000 to three community-based organizations.

**EO-Table 2: MERP**

<b>Implementation and Performance Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Maintain the Delta MERP webpages	FY 15-16 and beyond
Convene quarterly stakeholder meetings	FY 15-16 and beyond
Conduct outreach to community-based organizations and community leaders to promote awareness of and participation in the program, distribute educational materials, and maintain an outreach matrix	FY 15-16 and beyond
Develop a plan for posting warning signs in the Delta and implement the plan	FY 15-16 and beyond
A total of \$370,000 has been secured: approximately \$130,000 will be expended in FY 15-16.	

### ***Delta Dialogues***

**Project Description:** The Delta Dialogues is in Phase 3 with significant changes in funding status and focus. Currently, there are limited funds available for this task through the federal public outreach grant (please see below); most of the other funding for this project is from in-kind contributions from participants and their agencies. Conservancy staff is serving as lead meeting planners and facilitator; other participants also are assisting with meeting planning. This project currently is designed to increase the shared understanding about south Delta land use issues.

Project linkages to the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan and the Delta Plan are described in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

In FY 14-15 the Conservancy convened three Delta Dialogue Meetings and applied for additional funding from the Bureau of Reclamation.

**EO-Table 1: Delta Dialogues**

<b>Implementation and Performance Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Convene at least six Delta Dialogues sessions	FY 15-16 and beyond
Seek and apply for funding	FY 15-16 and beyond
Funds of \$323,296 (to be used over 5 years) are being requested in a new grant proposal to the Bureau.	

***Water Education through Public Outreach Grant***

**Project Description:** The Conservancy, in coordination with the Water Education Foundation, will conduct three Delta specific workshops and draft three white papers, produce a new Delta perspective television documentary for public television, and conduct education and outreach efforts in support of Delta WIN, a Restoration Hub pilot project, and Delta Dialogues projects. The Conservancy will receive approximately \$1.8 million from the Bureau of Reclamation to complete these projects over a five-year period. This is a continuation of the successful grant-funded projects completed between 2012 and 2015 which included several Delta workshops and brochures.

Project linkages to the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan are described in Appendix A.

In FY14-15, the Conservancy submitted a request for funding from the Bureau to continue to fund this project over the next five years.

**EO-Table 3: Water Education through Public Outreach Grant**

<b>Implementation and Performance Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Conduct water quality monitoring outreach program including environmental education to elementary and secondary school students	FY 15-16 through FY 18-19
Develop Delta WIN outreach materials	FY 15-16 through FY 18-19
Provide facilitation services for the Delta Dialogues	FY 15-16 through FY 18-19
Provide facilitation services for the DRN and Restoration Hub development	FY 15-16 through FY 18-19
Provide materials for the DRN and Restoration Hub	FY 15-16 through FY 18-19
Delta Perspectives public television documentary	FY 17-18
The Conservancy has requested \$2,664,767 to administer and implement projects under this grant and has been authorized for 1 PY at the Environmental Scientist, Range A level (limited term).	

## **UNFUNDED PROJECTS**

### ***Community Training***

**Project Description:** The Conservancy has provided training to staff and community members for capacity building, such as developing marketing or grant application skills. The trainings have been well attended and received in the community.

Project linkages to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan are described in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

The next step for the Conservancy is to reassess its Community Training project in light of changing Conservancy priorities and staff capacity.

### ***Community Events***

**Project Description:** There are several community events within the Delta at which the Conservancy has previously staffed an information booth including Yolo Basin Duck Days (West Sacramento), Walk on the Wild Side (Freeport), Pear Fair (Courtland), Sandhill Crane Festival (Lodi), and Grape Day (Clarksburg).

Project linkages to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan are described in Appendix A.

At this time the Conservancy is reassessing this project because of limited staffing and shifting priorities.

## Appendix A: Conservancy Implementation Plan Goals and Objectives

The Appendix A and Table A-1 list the Conservancy's Strategic Plan goals and objectives mentioned in this report. Not all of the Strategic Plan goals and objectives are mentioned; therefore, not all are listed in these tables. For a complete list of the Strategic Plan goals and objectives, please see the Conservancy's website at [http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov/docs/meeting\\_materials/june\\_2012/Delta\\_Conservancy\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_Designed\\_20June2012.pdf](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov/docs/meeting_materials/june_2012/Delta_Conservancy_Strategic_Plan_Designed_20June2012.pdf)

Conservancy Strategic Plan Goal, Objective
<b>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</b>
Objective 1.1: Collaborate with others to develop educational materials, promotional materials and visual representations of the Delta that enhance and communicate a sense of place and promote Delta products
Objective 1.2: Assist in enhancing Delta agriculture
Objective 1.3: Aid in protecting and improving water quality to protect the Delta ecosystem and economy
Objective 1.4: Support implementation of plans and programs of federal, state, and local agencies to provide flood resilience from subsidence and catastrophic events in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission and the Department of Water Resources
Objective 1.5: Promote integration of Delta agriculture with other elements of the Conservancy's mission
<b>Lead economic enhancement activities that support the Delta ecosystem and economy</b>
Objective 2.1: Develop economic enhancement proposals and projects in collaboration with existing governmental and non-governmental entities, residents and private enterprises
Objective 2.2: Investigate mechanisms for mitigating impacts to agriculture from projects that enhance recreation and tourism or habitat restoration
<b>Lead efforts in protecting, enhancing, and restoring the Delta ecosystem in coordination with other governmental and non-governmental entities and citizens in the Delta</b>
Objective 3.1: Identify restoration priorities in collaboration with existing federal, state, regional and local governmental and non-governmental entities engaged in Delta restoration
Objective 3.2: Lead Delta ecosystem restoration activities consistent with Conservancy authorities, the Delta Plan, and other regional plans and guidance, through a voluntary Delta Restoration Network, and based on adaptive management
Objective 3.5: Assessed the potential for Conservancy-led habitat restoration and compatible recreational and tourism development of publically owned land, and implement feasible projects as funding is available.
Objective 3.6: Provide incentives and acknowledgement to private landowners who maintain and create wildlife habitat on private lands
Objective 3.7: Implement restoration projects that provide compatible economic use for landowners or adjacent businesses
<b>Establish the Conservancy as a leader in gathering and communicating scientific and practical information about the Delta ecosystem and economy</b>
Objective 4.1: Gather and communicate additional technical expertise on matters relevant to the Conservancy's mission
Objective 4.2: Create an open repository for information and analysis pertinent to the Conservancy's mission
Objective 4.4: Promote shared understanding of key issues related to agriculture, the Delta economy, and restoration based on accurate information
<b>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</b>
Objective 5.3: Establish through actions a "Delta Conservancy" way of doing business, including the use of performance measures
<b>Establish a stable, diversified, and self-sustaining funding base for the Conservancy</b>
Objective 6.1: Establish funding from multiple, diverse state and federal government sources

**Table A-1. Conservancy Goals and Objectives by Program and Project**

Program/Project	Conservancy Goals and Objectives																	
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.7	4.1	4.2	4.4	5.3	6.1	
<b>Economic Development Program</b>																		
Economic Indicators	x																	
Delta Branding and Marketing	X					X												
Mokelumne River Corridor						X				X		X						
Agriculture Research and Infrastructure		X																
Wildlife Friendly Agriculture							X				X	X						
Delta Trails	X					X												
Recreation Survey						X												
National Heritage Area	X																	
<b>Ecosystem Restoration Program</b>																		
Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program		X	X						X		X	X					X	
Arundo Control									X									
DRN—Hub								X										
Delta WIN			X											X				
Delta Waterways Cleanups			X															
EcoAtlas, Project I														X				
EcoAtlas, Project II														X				
Climate Change				X	X													
Channel Margin Habitat									X									
Habitat Enhancement/Working Landscapes											X	X						
Delta Land Management			X	X				X	X	X		X						
Invasive Species Coordination								X					X		X	X		
<b>Education and Outreach Program</b>																		
Delta Dialogues													X		X			
Water Education Grant			X					X						X				
MERP	X		X														X	
Community Training						X												
Community Events																	X	

## Appendix B: Delta Plan Policies and Recommendations in the Implementation Plan

The Appendix B and Table B-1 list the Delta Plan’s policies and recommendations that are mentioned in this report. Not all of the Delta Plan policies and recommendations are referenced; therefore, not all are listed in this table. For a complete list of the Delta Plan policies and recommendations, please see the Delta Stewardship Council’s webpage: [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/DeltaPlan\\_2013\\_CHAPTER\\_S\\_COMBINED.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/DeltaPlan_2013_CHAPTER_S_COMBINED.pdf)

<b>Delta Plan Policy, Recommendation</b>
<b>Designate the Delta as a Special Place and Maintain Delta Agriculture</b>
DP P2: Respect Local Land Use When Siting Water or Flood Facilities or Restoring Habitats
DP R1: Designate the Delta as a National Heritage Area
DP R3: Plan for the Vitality and Preservation of Legacy Communities
DP R5: Provide Adequate Infrastructure
DP R 7: Subsidence Reduction and Reversal
DP R8: Promote Value-added Crop Processing
DP R9: Encourage Agri-tourism
DP R10: Encourage Wildlife-friendly Agriculture
DP R11: Provide New and Protect Existing Recreation Opportunities
DP R12: Encourage Partnerships to Support Recreation and Tourism
DP R13: Expand State Recreation Areas
DP R14: Enhance Nature-based Recreation
DP R16: Encourage Recreation on Public Lands
DP R17: Enhance Opportunities for Visitor-serving Businesses
<b>ER P2: Restore Habitats at Appropriate Elevations</b>
<b>ER P3: Protect Opportunities to Restore Habitat</b>
<b>ER P4: Expand Floodplains and Riparian Habitats in Levee Projects</b>
<b>ER P5: Avoid Introductions of and Habitat Improvements for Invasive Nonnative Species</b>
ER R2: Prioritize and Implement Projects that Restore Delta Habitat
ER R3: Complete and Implement Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan regarding ecosystem restoration efforts
ER R7: Prioritize and Implement Actions to Control Nonnative Invasive Species
<b>WR P1: Reduce Reliance on the Delta through Improved Regional Water Self-Reliance</b>
WR R12: Complete Bay Delta Conservation Plan
WQ R1: Protect Beneficial Uses
WQ R9: Implement a Delta regional water quality monitoring program
WQ R11: Manage dissolved oxygen in the Stockton Ship Channel
WQ R12: Manage dissolved oxygen in the Suisun marsh
WR P1: Reduce reliance on the Delta through improved regional water self-reliance

**Table B-1: Delta Plan Policy and Recommendations by Program and Project, Part I**

Program/ Project	Delta Plan Policies and Recommendations												
	DP P2	DP R1	DP R3	DP R5	DP R7	DP R8	DP R9	DP R10	DP R11	DP R12	DP R13	DP R14	DP R16
<b>Economic Development Program</b>													
Economic Indicators Report		x	x										
Delta Branding and Marketing		X				X							
MRC									X	X	X	X	X
Agriculture R&I				X		X							
Wildlife Friendly Ag.								X					
Delta Trails									X	X	X	X	X
Recreation Inventory									X	X	X	X	X
NHA		x											
<b>Ecosystem Restoration Program</b>													
Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program								X					
Arundo Control					X								
DRN-Hub													
Delta WIN													
Delta Waterways Cleanups													
EcoAtlas, Project I													
EcoAtlas, Project II													
Climate Change					X								
Channel Margin Habitat													
Habitat Enhancement/ Working Landscapes					X								
Delta Land Management					X			X					
Invasive Species Coordination													
<b>Education and Outreach Program</b>													
Delta Dialogues	X												
MERP													
Water Education Grant													
Community Training									X				
Community Events													

**Table B-1: Delta Plan Policy and Recommendations by Program and Project, Part II**

Program/ Project	Delta Plan Policies and Recommendations											
	DP R16	DP R17	ER P2	ER R2	ER R3	ER P3	ER R7	ER P4	ER P5	WR P1	WR R12	WQ R1
<b>Economic Development Program</b>												
Economic Indicators Report				X								
Delta Branding and Marketing		X										
MRC	X											
Agriculture R&I												
Wildlife Friendly Ag.				X								
Delta Trails	X											
Recreation Inventory	X											
NHA												
<b>Ecosystem Restoration Program</b>												
Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program				X								X
Arundo Control and Restoration			X	X	X		X					
DRN-Hub				X	X							
Delta WIN				X								X
Delta Waterways Cleanups				X								X
EcoAtlas I				X								
EcoAtlas II				X								
Climate Change												
Channel Margin Habitat			X	X								
Habitat Enhancement/ Working Landscapes				X								
Delta Land Management			X	X				X				
Invasive Species Coordination			X			X		X	X			
<b>Education and Outreach Program</b>												
Delta Dialogues										X	X	
MERP												
Water Education Grant												
Community Training												
Community Events												



## Appendix C: Performance Measures Summary

The following table provides a summary of the FY 2015-16 Implementation Plan projects and three-year project expectations.

### Guide to reading the Performance Measures Summary table

**Headings and First Column – Project Goal:** the headings list, in alphabetical order, the Conservancy program element, a subheading, and then an icon to depict the project (e.g., Economic Development Projects, Delta as Place, then a photo of the Economic Indicators Report). This column contains the project name and a brief description of the project’s goal or summary of the project description found in the full Implementation Plan.

**Second Column – Progress and Achievement to Date:** This column refers to program achievements for FY 2014-15 (previous fiscal year). Since most projects are multi-year, this gives a fair indication of the work done in the previous fiscal year to achieve the three year outcomes.

**Third Column – 2015-16 Objectives:** This column lists the anticipate tasks toward the three-year expected outcomes that will take place during the current fiscal year (FY 2015-16 in this table).

**Fourth Column – 2015-2018 Expected Outcomes:** This column lists the three-year expected outcomes for the project.

Because the Implementation Plan is considered a “living” document, some of the projects added to this year’s Implementation Plan actually began at the end of FY 2013-14.

## Economic Development Projects

### DELTA AS PLACE RECREATION AND TOURISM



#### Project Goal

##### **Delta Branding and Marketing**

Improve visibility of the Delta as a place and Delta products by developing a Delta brand, Delta logo, and a marketing plan. Developed in collaboration with Delta residents, business leaders, the agricultural community, and the Delta Protection Commission.

#### Project Performance and Objectives

##### Progress and Achievement to Date

- Hired marketing consultant
- Created a Delta Marketing Task Force with Delta residents and business representatives

##### 2015-16 Objectives

- Produce Delta Brand standards handbook
- Complete and implement marketing plan

##### 2015-2018 Expected Outcomes

- Develop Marketing Plan
- Develop and support infrastructure for long term marketing management
- Implement marketing plan

## Ecosystem Restoration Projects



#### Project Goal

##### **Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program**

Program to distribute Prop. 1 bond funding to Delta specific projects.

#### Project Performance and Objectives

##### Progress and Achievement to Date

- New program Developed draft grant guidelines and grant application packet

##### 2015-16 Objectives

- Hire Grant Program staff
- Complete grant solicitation cycle for concept and full proposals
- Award first round of grants
- Develop grant agreements
- Plan next grant cycle

##### 2015-2018 Expected Outcomes

- Develop at least one grant solicitation for each fiscal year
- Implement previous grant solicitation contracts
- Monitor and track success of funded projects



##### **Arundo Control and Restoration Program**

Phase 1 of the program will map and prioritize Arundo eradication sites and implement the Cache Slough Complex Pilot Project. The Cache Slough project ultimately will control Arundo on approximately 50 acres and restore an equivalent 50 acres of native, riparian habitat.

#### Project Performance and Objectives

##### Progress and Achievement to Date

- Circulated CEQA documents
- Submitted permit applications
- Identified, mapped, and prioritized eradication sites

##### 2015-16 Objectives

- Obtain permits
- Continue grant management
- Continue to coordinate with other efforts
- Seek and apply for additional funding

##### 2015-2018 Expected Outcomes

- Complete environmental documentation for permits
- Secure environmental permits
- Coordinate with other entities working on Arundo control
- Complete Phase I of program
- Secure additional funding

#### Project Goal

#### Project Performance and Objectives



### **Delta Restoration Network**

A partnership comprised of the Conservancy, the Delta Science Program, the San Francisco Estuary Institute and The Nature Conservancy, are developing a work plan to complete a pilot effort of the Restoration Hub that will develop a Northeast Delta Regional Vision and Strategy.

#### **Progress and Achievement to Date**

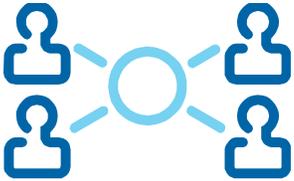
- Held two DRN meetings
- Applied for funding from BOR

#### **2015-16 Objectives**

- Convene meetings
- Initiate and complete a Restoration Hub pilot project to develop a Northeast Delta Regional Vision and Strategy.

#### **2015-2018 Expected Outcomes**

- Continue to convene DRN meetings
- Initiate Restoration Hub Pilot Project



### **Delta WIN**

Coordinate the Delta WIN, connecting projects and expertise to maximize the ecological benefits of healthy watersheds and facilitate a regional network of locally initiated projects.

#### **Progress and Achievement to Date**

- Coordinated water quality monitoring
- Developed a monitoring plan for Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
- Applied and received grant funding to develop and implement two water quality environmental education events
- Convened a workgroup to prioritize water quality data for an estuary-wide data repository
- Developed watershed management questions to prioritize data and gather data for the estuary-wide repository

#### **2015-16 Objectives**

- Expand regional network and develop monitoring plans for watersheds to increase consistency in data collection and reporting
- Expand project locations through partnerships
- Implement estuary-wide data center
- Gather input on indicators and metrics for collecting stewardship data
- Continue conducting Delta Waterways Cleanups
- Partner with watershed groups to seek and apply for funding

#### **2015-2018 Expected Outcomes**

- Continue to coordinate with local watershed organizations for water quality monitoring
- Continue to assist in developing monitoring plans for watersheds to increase consistency in data collection and reporting
- Work with local watershed organizations to develop watershed management measures
- Complete development of estuary-wide data repository to house existing priority data
- Develop indicators and metrics for collecting stewardship data
- Conduct Delta Waterways Cleanups



**Project Goal**

**Delta Waterway Cleanup**

Provide bi-annual Delta waterway cleanups to protect and improve water quality in the Delta ecosystem, raise awareness of good stewardship practices, and provide community opportunities to carry out stewardship practices.

**Project Performance and Objectives**

**Progress and Achievement to Date**

- Two Delta waterway cleanups completed
- Continued Tire Recycling event to collect illegally dumped tires
- Due to limited resources, the Conservancy could not seek funding or implement an illegally dumped trash removal project and cannot implement this in FY 15-16

**2015-16 Objectives**

- Increase the number of site volunteers
- Increase tire recycling sites from one to two
- Recruit community members for removing illegally dumped trash
- Collect data about the trash found in the Delta

**2015-2018 Expected Outcomes**

- Continue the Delta Waterway Cleanups, including environmental education on waterway cleanups to Delta schools
- Work with communities for opportunities to reduce impacts of illegal dumping
- Seek and apply for funding



**Enhancing EcoAtlas, Project 1**

Expand the current capabilities of EcoAtlas to meet the project tracking, assessment, and reporting needs for current and planned habitat restoration.

**Progress and Achievement to Date**

- Updated habitat restoration project database

**2015-16 Objectives**

- Develop process to maintain updated information on Delta habitat projects in EcoAtlas
- Complete project

**2015-2018 Expected Outcomes**

- Project completed in October 2015



**Project Goal**

**Visualizing Data, EcoAtlas, Project 2**

To collect high-priority datasets with strategic regional value, visualize those datasets geospatially, share through web services, develop landscape scale metrics, and develop training materials, and engage in outreach to ensure usability.

**Project Performance and Objectives**

**Progress and Achievement to Date**

- Funds secured
- Grant agreement in place
- Complete grant management tasks such as reviewing invoices and writing reports
- Convened workgroup
- Developed framework for prioritizing data
- Conducted outreach to data users and providers
- Project scope development required additional time, therefore data standardization documentation development, design of infrastructure reporting plan, & plan design incorporating datasets is rescheduled for early FY 15-16

**2015-16 Objectives**

- Complete grant management tasks such as reviewing invoices and writing reports
- Participate in discussions regarding data standardization processes; plan for incorporating datasets, and developing reporting infrastructure
- Meet with user groups to establish priorities
- Participate in outreach through demos of the existing EcoAtlas tools and features

**2015-2018 Expected Outcomes**

- Grant administration
- Coordinate with other agencies to prioritize data
- Integrate data in EcoAtlas and develop visualizations for the data
- Conduct trainings

**Education and Outreach Projects**



**Project Goal**

**Delta Dialogues**

Provide a forum where in-Delta interests can participate in statewide water policy discussions to foster greater shared understanding, strengthen relationships, and inform planning processes.

**Project Performance and Objectives**

**Progress and Achievement to Date**

- Convened three Delta Dialogue meetings
- Applied for funding from BOR

**2015-16 Objectives**

- Convene at least six Delta Dialogue sessions
- Annual report published
- Seek and apply for funding

**2015-2018 Expected Outcomes**

- Convene Delta Dialogues sessions
- Complete annual report
- Seek and apply for funding



### Project Goal

#### **Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP)**

Provide information about the health risks to consumers of Delta fish contaminated with high levels of mercury, particularly those in disadvantaged communities.

### Project Performance and Objectives

#### Progress and Achievement to Date

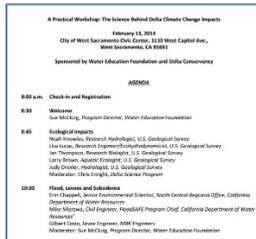
- Funding secured.
- Hired a Public Health Specialist
- Coordinated three Community Stakeholder Group Meetings
- Developed and maintained webpages with program information on the Conservancy's website
- Participated in the small grants review panel which awarded \$60,000 to four community-based organizations
- Conducted outreach

#### 2015-16 Objectives

- Maintain the Delta MERP webpages
- Hold four stakeholder meetings
- Continue to outreach to community leaders and community-based organizations
- Maintain an outreach matrix for the Conservancy
- Develop a plan for posting advisory signs in the Delta and post signs

#### 2015-2018 Expected Outcomes

- Maintain the Delta MERP webpages
- Convene quarterly stakeholder meetings
- Continue to implement activities that promote awareness of the fish consumption advisories for the Delta and reduce human exposure to contaminants in fish



#### **Water Education through Public Outreach Grants**

Provide public outreach regarding water supply reliability, water quality, and ecological restoration efforts in the Delta, in partnership with the Water Education Foundation.

#### Progress and Achievement to Date

- Conducted two Safe Harbor Agreements workshops
- Completed Climate Change symposium and whitepaper
- Completed draft brochure on reducing the impacts from flood events

#### 2015-16 Objectives

- Complete proposal
- Sign contract
- List of visits to classrooms
- Provide water quality monitoring through Delta WIN
- Copies of Delta WIN outreach materials
- Hire facilitator for Delta Dialogues
- Initiate three-year DRN Restoration Hub pilot project

#### 2015-2018 Objectives

- Develop grant proposal for 2015-18
- Conduct water quality environmental education for elementary and secondary school students
- Develop Delta WIN outreach materials
- Provide Delta Dialogues facilitation
- Develop Restoration Hub pilot project