

Meeting Date: November 20, 2017

Page 1



1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691
www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov

Cache Slough Regional Planning Effort Phase 1 Update

Staff Report

DESCRIPTION

The Cache Slough Comprehensive Regional Planning Project was initiated to consider how integration of potentially competing land uses such as ecosystem, agriculture, water supply and quality, and flood risk reduction can occur and how these uses can be better coordinated over time. The goals for the state agencies are to plan for the advancement of Proposition 1 eligible projects including ecosystem restoration and agricultural sustainability efforts and the integration of flood risk reduction projects. Local agencies' goals are to protect, preserve and enhance agriculture and other land uses, and protect water supply and water quality. Phase 1 of the Cache Slough Planning Project allowed for beneficial use interests (e.g., agriculture, flood management, water supply, ecosystem, and recreation) at the state, regional, and local levels to collaboratively engage in discussions and data development. Phase 1 also began the process of devising a balanced approach for sustainable integrated management of resources and land uses for current and future conditions within the Cache Slough Complex (CSC).

A work group was established consisting of representatives from Solano and Yolo counties; Solano, Dixon, and Yolo County Resource Conservation Districts; Reclamation District 2068; Solano County Water Agency; Natural Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Wildlife; Department of Water Resources; Delta Stewardship Council; and Delta Conservancy, with technical support from The Catalyst Group, FlowWest, and the San Francisco Estuary Institute. The work group and sub-groups met several times per month from November 2016 through June 2017.

The collaboration effort was successful in demonstrating that the various interest groups are motivated to work together to gather, evaluate, and support the use of appropriate data sets and other information for consideration in the planning process. The collaboration also proved to be valuable in developing relationships, bridging information divides, and sharing other viewpoints, all of which would be helpful in developing a regional plan as a potential Phase 2 effort. The Draft Final Report for Phase 1 can be found at <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/planning-efforts-related-ecosystem-restoration/>.

Meeting Date: November 20, 2017

Page 2

BACKGROUND

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 established the Conservancy and includes several relevant authority areas; (1) to protect and enhance habitat and habitat restoration; (2) protect and preserve Delta agriculture and working landscapes; (3) protect and improve water quality; (4) identify priority projects and initiatives for which funding is needed; and (5) protect, conserve, and restore the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical and living resources.

This project is consistent with the following objectives as outlined in the Delta Conservancy's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, Goal 1, Delta Agriculture and Economic Enhancement.

- Objective 1: Work directly with local land owners, farmers, and others to analyze the state of Delta agriculture and identify priority agricultural investments and economic offset strategies for agricultural land conversions

Strategic Plan Goal 2, Delta Ecosystem Viability.

- Objective 1: Protect, restore or enhance habitat and improve water quality through implementation of grant funding projects
- Objective 3: Complete regional restoration strategies and priorities for the Cache Slough Complex and for additional region(s) in coordination with Delta stakeholders; collaborate with partners to implement high priority projects identified in regional plans

Contact

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Email: campbell.ingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

Phone: (916) 375-2089