

Chair's Corner

Conservancy Awards \$6.2 million in Proposition 1 Grant Funding to 9 Projects

At the Delta Conservancy's May and June Board meetings, the Board advanced nine proposals that requested \$6.2 million in funding. This is the first funding awarded through the Delta Conservancy's Proposition 1

Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality grant program, an important step for the agency. On behalf of the Conservancy, I would like to congratulate all of this year's awardees.

California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a place of great ecological and economic importance, and carries with it complex issues relating to the use of natural resources. Local, state, and federal agencies, along with private stakeholders, have long been working to protect and enhance the ecological value of the Delta, to maintain the integrity of the water-related infrastructure located there, and to bolster and celebrate the local economy and culture. The Delta Conservancy's grant program provides local assistance grants to public and

nonprofit stakeholders who are performing projects that contribute to improving the Delta, strengthening the long-standing efforts to maintain and restore this critical resource.

Proposition 1 authorizes the Delta Conservancy to spend \$50 million on competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects. This year, the Conservancy solicited proposals for ecosystem restoration, water quality, and agricultural sustainability projects.

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Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board

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The Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of every other month, beginning with January. For Board materials, please see the Conservancy website at: www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

Campbell's Corner

A Carbon Protocol for the Delta

In February of this year, the Conservancy invited local interests, NGO's, researchers and agencies currently working on Delta carbon issues to join a Delta Carbon Workgroup that would meet periodically to ensure awareness and coordination of all related efforts on carbon. The concept was well received and the value of increased coordination was immediately recognized at the first meeting on February 18th. At that meeting it was suggested that the group host a half day workshop on how potential carbon projects would engage the Carbon Offset Methodology for Wetlands and Rice in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, San Francisco Estuary and Coastal California, that is currently under review by the American Carbon Registry (ACR) and expected to be adopted this summer. The objective of the workshop, which was held on April 13th, was to take a hypothetical/existing Delta wetland project through the ACR protocol process, from project identification through trading emission reduction ton credits on the voluntary market as an exercise to inform refinement of the draft protocol and inform land owners who may be interested in project development. The workshop was well attended and resulted in a request for a follow on workshop to be held in early June that will focus on how emission reduction credits are verified and marketed on the voluntary market. Notices and an agenda for the upcoming workshop will be posted on the Conservancy website and distributed on the Conservancy's listserv.



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Delta Cleanup

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In total, there were over 120 volunteers removing over two tons of trash from the delicate waterways of the Delta. These removal efforts are incredibly valuable. They remove tons of trash that would otherwise persist in the environment and eventually make its way to the oceans, disrupting Delta and ocean ecosystems, and often killing fish, sea turtles, whales, and a host of other species. They also give individuals the opportunity to observe firsthand the amount of litter humans create and see the difference a few volunteers can make. And the difference is impressive! Observing the banks of Lower Morrison Creek before the cleanup, the task looked daunting. But, after a few hours of work, that same stretch of bank was clean and clear!

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DEDUCE

Through the Delta Environmental Data for an Understanding of a California Estuary (DEDUCE) project, the Conservancy is improving the accessibility and exchange of water quality data for the Delta by including data in an estuary-wide regional data center. California's data centers are a hub of information and allow data to be accessed through a variety of tools, such as the My Water Quality portals, the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) and the Contaminant Data Download and Display (CD3). Through this project, data from the Pelagic Organism Decline study, Cache Creek and Putah Creek Watersheds Toxicity Monitoring, and the Sacramento River Watershed Program have been uploaded to the Regional Data Center and are now available for viewing and download. This data can be viewed at <http://cd3.sfei.org/> under the program name "Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta Data". Over the next six months, the Conservancy will be working with project partners to upload other priority datasets, such as the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's Surface Water Database, the Sacramento Sanitation Coordinated Monitoring Program and Delta Mendota Canal toxicity monitoring data. This project is set to be completed in 2017.

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Mission: Working collaboratively and in coordination with local communities, the Conservancy will lead efforts to protect, enhance, and restore the Delta's economy, agriculture and working landscapes, and environment, for the benefit of the Delta region, its local communities, and the citizens of California.



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

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

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