

# CENTRAL DELTA CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP

## Corridor Conservation Strategy

MAY 2018

### What is the Central Delta Corridor Partnership?

Approximately 50,000 acres of the Central Delta are publicly-funded lands.<sup>1</sup> They are owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), California Waterfowl Association (CWA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (see map on page 2). Recently, many of these landowners came together with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy<sup>2</sup> to form the Central Delta Corridor Partnership (Partnership). Delta Conservancy is leading the effort to bring the Partnership entities, private landowners in the area, and other stakeholders such as birding and recreation enthusiasts together to develop a **conservation strategy for these publicly-funded lands** in the Central Delta Corridor.

### Why Develop a Restored Habitat Corridor Strategy?

These publicly-funded landowners have common regional goals that include flood protection and management, agriculture sustainability, recreation access, and conservation of aquatic, avian, and terrestrial resources. The idea is simple—coordinated conservation actions can be designed to support regional goals, as well as the ecosystem. This concept represents a unique opportunity to develop something beneficial for the Central Delta Corridor.

The Partnership envisions a **restored habitat corridor** that can support ecological functions while honoring the economic and cultural setting of the area and the needs of private landowners. The restored habitat corridor would link the northeast Delta with the central and western Delta, improving fish migration corridors and habitat while also protecting and enhancing habitat for birds and other species. Conservation actions can address agricultural sustainability, land subsidence, flood management, sea level rise, habitat loss, recreation, long-term land management, and water quality. A joint strategy can be a win-win for the Central Delta.

The initial **Central Delta Corridor Strategy** will provide the following:

1. A **broader, shared understanding of goals and objectives** for Central Delta Corridor conservation, economic sustainability, and preservation of cultural character.
2. An **identification, prioritization, and an improved collaboration pathway** for implementation of multi-benefit opportunities and projects for the Central Delta Corridor.
3. A **synthesis and description of opportunities, goals, and objectives** in the Central Delta Corridor for restoring ecological functions, sustaining the regional economy, and preserving cultural character.
4. An **opportunity to engage Delta stakeholders and solicit input** on how public lands restoration opportunities could be designed to protect and enhance the economy and cultural character of the Central Delta Corridor.
5. A **review and synthesis of available information** to identify opportunities, goals, and objectives for the Central Delta Corridor.

The strategy will be informed by previous scientific and ecological work relating to the corridor and surrounding area, including the San Francisco Estuary Institute Aquatic Science Center A Delta Renewed, the Department of Water Resources North Delta Improvements planning, and the Conservation Opportunity

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<sup>1</sup> Publicly-funded lands include lands owned by state, federal, and regional government agencies and lands purchased with public funds.

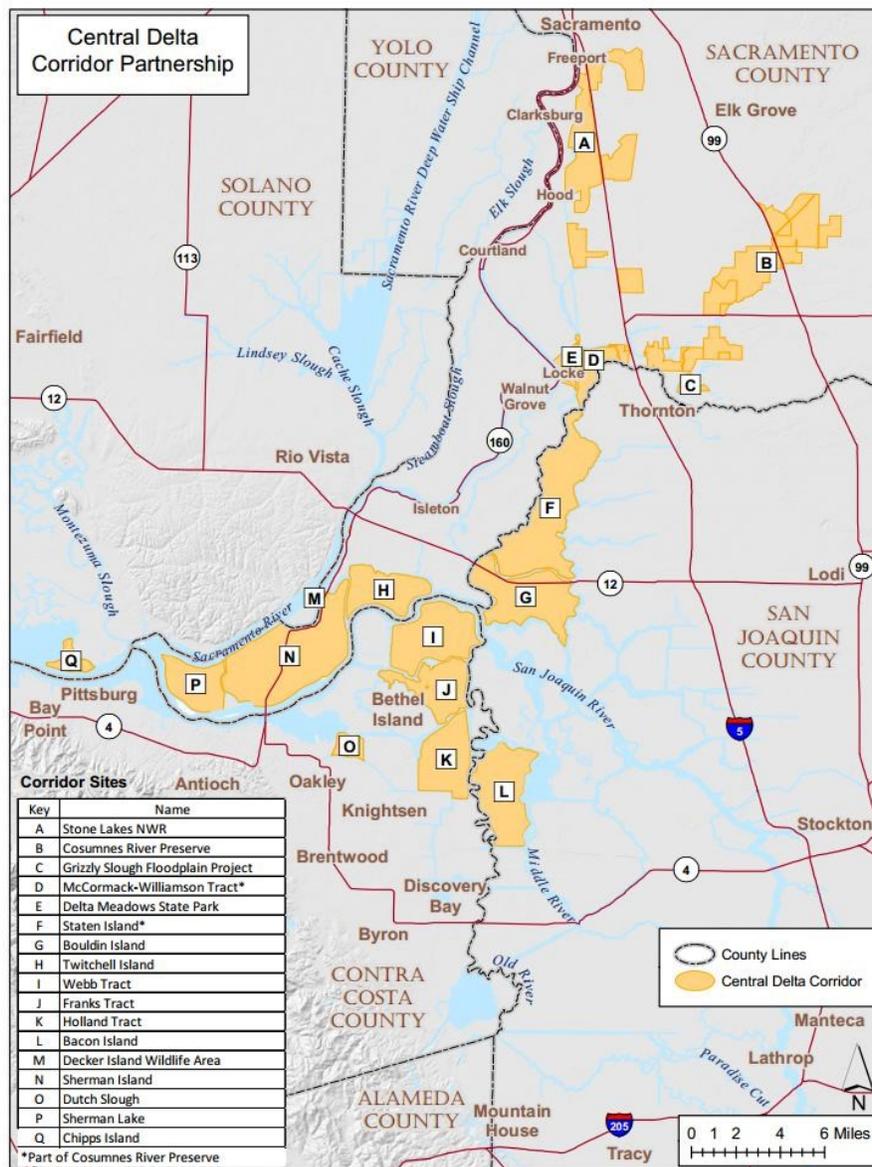
<sup>2</sup> The Delta Conservancy is a state agency that supports implementation of ecosystem restoration, efforts that advance environmental protection, and the economic well-being of Delta area residents, visit <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov> to learn more.

Region description included in the Department of Fish and Wildlife [Delta Conservation Framework](#). The strategy will be a living document that is reviewed and revised at regular intervals based on learning from actions taken within an adaptive management framework.

### What is the Public Outreach Process for the Restored Habitat Strategy?

The public outreach for the **initial restored habitat strategy** will consist of a public workshop (June 2018) to introduce the partnership and planning process, and a 1.5-day charrette workshop (July 2018), and a final public workshop (October 2018) to present the draft strategy document and solicit input.

For more information, visit <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/centraldeltacorridor/>.



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