

**Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
2017 - 2022 Strategic Plan
July 2019 Status Update**

Goal 1: Delta Agricultural and Economic Enhancement

Delta Economic and Agricultural Enhancement

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	METRICS
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	Given the existing and potential bond-funded projects and the lack of a need for analysis identified by the agricultural community, the staff recommends that the Board consider this objective to be satisfied for the time being. Should the agricultural community identify a strong need for an analysis in the future, the Conservancy would evaluate how it might contribute.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delta agriculture report ● Approved/accepted priorities and number of supporting partners
2. Establish an agricultural stakeholder group to consult on agricultural sustainability strategy identification and evaluation; and on agricultural sustainability project planning, prioritization, and implementation	Held conversations with seven farmers to develop a Delta Agriculture Problems & Solutions Matrix. Emerging priorities: trash dumping, levee maintenance, lack of internet access, traffic congestion, lack of restrooms/facilities. Reaching out to farm bureaus and agricultural commissioners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approved/accepted priorities and number of supporting partners
3. Support the Delta Marketing Task Force and Delta Protection Commission in identifying and securing funding to implement priority objectives in the Five- Year Delta Marketing Plan in cooperation with local business stakeholders	The Conservancy provided funding to the Delta Protection Commission to develop a recreation map and install 11 Welcome signs in coordination with the Task Force. Both are expected to be completed by the end of the Interagency Agreement (July 2020).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of 5-Year Delta Marketing Plan objectives completed

Ecosystem Restoration and Protection

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	METRICS
4. Support outflow water quality improvements on working lands by coordinating with agencies and local interests to identify and implement best management practices	State Water Resources Control Board awarded the Conservancy \$399,407 to implement best management practices related to use and handling of pesticides to improve water quality. Work is anticipated to begin in mid-2019, pending execution of subcontract with the CA Land Stewardship Institute.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identified best management practices ● Number and acreage of projects implementing best management practices

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Ecosystem Restoration and Protection (continued)

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	METRICS
5. Increase accessibility and utility of regional water quality data	Conservancy staff drafted a Monitoring Compendium to provide guidance to project proponents and programs to enhance habitat restoration monitoring and data management and facilitate coordination in approaches among efforts. The Conservancy continues to serve as the steward of this document, which is currently being refined as a collaborative product of the Interagency Adaptive Management Implementation team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improvements to accessibility and utility of regional water quality data

Grants and Funding

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	METRICS
6. Fund Proposition 1-eligible agricultural sustainability projects that provide ecosystem and/or watershed protection and/or restoration benefits	In total, the grant program has awarded \$12,174,483 to six projects with an agricultural sustainability component.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of grant projects and total funding
7. Identify, track, and pursue funding opportunities to support implementation of agricultural analysis- identified priority investments	Given the existing and potential bond-funded projects and the lack of a need for analysis identified by the agricultural community, the staff recommends that the Board consider this objective to be satisfied for the time being. Should the agricultural community identify a strong need for an analysis in the future, the Conservancy would evaluate how it might contribute.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amount of funding secured/percent of priorities funded
8. Identify, track, and pursue funding to support implementation of priority objectives in the Five- Year Delta Marketing Plan, recreation and tourism projects, and historical preservation projects	Proposition 68 provides new funding for projects related to economic development, recreation and tourism, and historical preservation. The Conservancy is currently developing grant guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conservancy contribution to Delta collaborative partnerships

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Goal 2: Delta Ecosystem Viability

Ecosystem Restoration and Protection

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	METRICS
<p>1. Protect, restore, or enhance habitat and improve water quality through implementation of grant- funded projects</p>	<p>To date, the Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program has provided \$35 million for 26 projects that positively impact more than 2,700 acres. The State Water Resources Control Board granted the Conservancy \$399,407 for implementation of best management practices to improve water quality. The Dept. of Water Resources-funded Arundo Restoration and Control program treated 6 acres of infestations and restored an additional 15 acres in the Cache Slough Complex area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of projects and partnerships for habitat restoration, invasive species management, watershed protection, or water quality enhancement ● Acres of protected, restored, or enhanced land by habitat and location ● Acres with best management practices and/or other management techniques for water quality and weed treatment/invasive species control
<p>2. Strengthen the coordination of water quality monitoring, data integration, implementation of best management practices, and environmental education efforts in partnership with existing Delta watershed efforts</p>	<p>The Conservancy is: coordinating water quality monitoring with Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and working with the San Joaquin Delta and Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalitions to implement best management practices; coordinating with federal and state agencies to develop a basemap of aquatic resources and partnering with Yolo Basin Foundation and the Water Education Foundation on environmental education and outreach; planning a competitive solicitation to support environmental education projects if federal funding can be secured.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of projects and partnerships for habitat restoration, invasive species management, watershed protection, or water quality enhancement ● Acres of protected, restored, or enhanced land by habitat and location ● Acres with best management practices and/or other management techniques for water quality ● Improvements to accessibility and utility of regional water quality data
<p>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</p>	<p>The Cache Slough Phase II effort is on hold indefinitely while the planning partners work to address near-term project implementation. The Delta Public Land Strategy was completed and presented to the Board in March 2019.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed comprehensive regional planning for advancement of Proposition 1 strategies ● Number of ecosystem restoration-focused partnerships and collaborations ● Number of projects implementing regional strategies

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Ecosystem Restoration and Protection (continued)

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	METRICS
4. Determine appropriate conditions under which the Conservancy would consider land ownership/management	The Program and Policy Subcommittee recommended development of an informational paper, a draft of which is continuously updated per ongoing discussions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completion and approval of land ownership and management analysis
5. Continue to implement an invasive species control program and implement other on-the-ground projects to protect, restore, or enhance Delta habitat	Arundo control and restoration continues in the Cache Slough Complex in collaboration with Solano Resources Conservation District and Sonoma Ecology Center. With the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, the Conservancy is implementing bio and integrated control trials. Conservancy staff is seeking funding for a Delta-wide program. The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination team held an Invasive Species Symposium in August 2017 and is planning another for 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of projects and partnerships for invasive species management ● Acres with best management practices and/or other management techniques for weed treatment/ invasive species control

Delta Economic and Agricultural Enhancement

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	METRICS
6. Collaborate with Delta interests and agencies to develop programs and promote incentives for land management projects that reduce carbon emissions	The Conservancy continues to seek funding to establish pilot projects to stop subsidence in the Western Delta and reduce carbon emissions. Project validation/verification for the Dep. of Water Resource's existing wetlands is underway and expected to be completed by November 2019. Credit sales agreements will be developed once verification is complete.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number/locations of projects. ● Dollars invested in multi-benefit carbon sequestration ● Acres with subsidence reversal or carbon sequestration practices ● Carbon sequestered and offset revenue realized
7. Evaluate public use opportunities on public land in the Delta and make recommendations on how to improve opportunities for recreation and education	The Delta Public Lands Strategy identified high level recreation opportunities on public lands. The Delta Protection Commission is currently updating the recreation element of the Economic Sustainability Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed analysis of and recommendations regarding recreational and education opportunities ● Number/distribution of recreational and educational projects implemented

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Grants and Funding

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	METRICS
8. Fund Proposition 1-eligible projects that provide ecosystem protection, restoration, and enhancement; water quality; and/or water-related agricultural sustainability benefits	The Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program recently awarded fourth cycle grants. Since its inception, the program has awarded \$35,310,560 to 26 planning and implementation projects that advance this objective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of projects funded and total funding ● Stable or upward trends in funding
9. Seek funding and project development resources for high priority restoration projects identified through regional planning efforts	Anticipate potential bond funding to support future projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number and diversity of funding sources

Goal 3: Conservancy Organizational Strength & Sustainability

Administration

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	METRICS
1. Provide a safe, creative, inspiring, and equitable working environment for staff and management consistent with state standards	Supervisors and managers complete at least 40 hours of continuing education every 2 years which can focus on needs of each individual and organization. The Conservancy established a Disability Advisory Committee which discusses how the Conservancy can meet needs of individuals of all abilities. Exit interviews are conducted as each employee departs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff organization/skills aligned with goals ● Staff satisfaction as shown through employee survey/exit interviews
2. Employ management practices to empower staff creativity, increase staff retention, and promote organizational capabilities to match the diverse needs of the Delta community	Individual Development Plans allow staff and supervisors to identify how the Conservancy can help individuals achieve goals and enhance abilities to meet needs of the individual, Conservancy, and its stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff organization/skills aligned with goals. ● Staff satisfaction as shown through employee survey/exit interviews

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Administration (continued)

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	METRICS
3. Develop a staff succession plan to ensure the efficient transfer of institutional knowledge	Resource limitations through 2018 continued to constrain development of a succession plan. As resources allow, critical processes are identified and documented. Functions are assigned to distribute knowledge and capacity, lessening impacts if any individual is absent or leaves. Backup staff are being identified for the critical tasks of each position.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff organization/skills aligned with goals
4. Continuously evaluate and improve organizational efficiency, programmatic structure, and workplace environment	The Executive and Deputy Executive Officers meet regularly to discuss opportunities for improvement and to address feedback received from 2018 staff engagement survey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff organization/skills aligned with goals
5. Enable effective and sustainable Conservancy operation within the Delta community by strengthening existing partnerships and developing lasting new partnerships with Delta agencies and local interests	Annual Proposition 1 public workshops extensive outreach, engage, and inform potential applicants; Proposition 68 process will be similar. Board and Program and Policy Subcommittee meetings provide regular opportunities for stakeholder engagement and updates of the Strategic and Implementation Plans ensure transparency of Conservancy objectives and tasks. Conservancy staff participate in hands-on environmental education programs with local schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities presented for stakeholder engagement ● Number of active participants in public meetings ● Number of sign-ups to mailing list ● Materials developed/updated annually ● Number of events or outreach methods
6. Increase awareness of the Conservancy's achievements among funders, partners, and the public through in-person outreach, social media, and other methods	The Conservancy has significantly stepped up our presence on social media with regular Facebook and Twitter posts. Staff worked with the Legislature to establish a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed Protection Week to highlight the significance of the Delta. Recently increased efforts to share accomplishments in locally supported restoration through the Proposition 1 program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities presented for stakeholder engagement ● Number of active participants in public meetings ● Number of sign-ups to mailing list ● Materials developed/updated annually ● Number of events or outreach methods ● Hits, follows, comments

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Grants and Funding

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	METRICS
7. Diversify and expand funding sources to adequately support program work, sustain current staff, and grow staff as needed to meet program needs and Conservancy goals	The Conservancy works through state budget processes to identify and meet needs to fund core administrative functions. Proposition 68 provides \$12 million to help advance the Conservancy's legislative mandates and staff actively seek federal and state funding for programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trends in funding for core capabilities and for project grants ● Number and diversity of funding sources
8. Identify and plan for potential long-term funding scenarios to position the Conservancy to sustain and grow its programs via future bonds or other funding sources	Proposition 68 provides new funding that will further community access, technical assistance, and local assistance projects related to economic development and recreation. Staff continues to inform key agencies and legislators of Conservancy accomplishments and funding needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trends in funding for project grants ● Number and diversity of funding sources
9. Promote Conservancy goals and objectives through Board engagement to constructively support Conservancy funding efforts including the pursuit of bond funding	The Board has expressed continued willingness to engage as appropriate to support Conservancy efforts and secure funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trends in funding for project grants ● Number and diversity of funding sources