

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
2019 Implementation Plan
DECEMBER 31, 2019 UPDATE

2019 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: YEAR-END STATUS

DELTA MARKETING			
2019 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Recreation map	Qtr 1	Complete	6,000 maps were printed in November. Coordinating with Delta Protection Commission staff to develop distribution plan.
Hire Economic Development Program staff	Qtr 2	Complete	A Staff Services Manager I (Supervisor) was hired in March and an Associate Governmental Program Analyst was hired in October.
Develop guidelines/social media policy for website	Qtr 3	Delayed	Not yet started. The Conservancy is testing different types of posts and content themes on social media to better understand the audience before developing social media guidelines. The Conservancy worked closely with Natural Resources Agency to update the Conservancy website to the new template. The first phase of the website renovation, making the site web accessible, was completed 12/31/2019. The second phase, improving content, functionality, and design, will be completed in 2020, which will help shape website guidelines.
Adopt economic development program guidelines and open solicitation	Qtr 4	Complete	Guidelines were adopted in December. Program opened in January 2020.
Define emerging priorities with Delta Marketing Task Force	Ongoing	On Track	Currently no emerging priorities.
Continue implementation of the Sign Plan	Ongoing	On Track	Continuing to work with the Delta Protection Commission and the Marketing Task Force to place initial Delta Welcome Signs. Working with Caltrans on permits.
Update and develop content for visitCADelta.com	Ongoing	Ongoing	Supporting Delta Protection Commission (DPC), which has taken primary responsibility. Conservancy and DPC staff have limited capacity to maintain the website. Options are being explored for future maintenance of the site.
Potential transition of website management to Delta Marketing Task Force	Ongoing	Inactive	The Task Force members have indicated that their organizations do not have the capacity to take this on. Alternative options are being explored.

AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS

2019 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Cultivate, maintain, and engage a network of interested parties	Ongoing	Inactive	At the July Board meeting, Board members supported setting the status of this goal to inactive due to current lack of an identified need for a specific analysis of the Delta agricultural system which would warrant continued outreach to the Delta agricultural community. However, the Conservancy will engage as appropriate should a need be identified in the future.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION & WATER QUALITY GRANT PROGRAM

2019 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Award Cycle 4 Grants	Qtr 2	Altered	In May, the Board awarded grants to seven proposals and tabled decisions on three others, directing staff to meet with those three applicants to determine if they could address concerns raised by the review panel. In September, the Board awarded a grant for one of those projects; staff continues to work with the other two. The timeline for final determination of awards was altered to accommodate the deferred decision on three of the proposals. Staff anticipates Board determinations on the final two Cycle 4 proposals in March 2020.
Plan Cycle 5 Grants	Qtr 2	Ongoing	Board members supported delaying Cycle 5 to maximize program efficiency and efficacy. Tentative timeframe to release the solicitation is summer 2021.
Cycle 5 Concept Proposal Solicitation	Qtr 3	Ongoing	Board members supported delaying Cycle 5 to maximize program efficiency and efficacy. Tentative timeframe to release the solicitation is summer 2021.
Cycle 5 Full Proposal Solicitation	Qtr 4	Ongoing	Board members supported delaying Cycle 5 to maximize program efficiency and efficacy. Tentative timeframe to release the solicitation is summer 2021.

INVASIVE SPECIES COORDINATION, CONTROL, AND RESTORATION

2019 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Convene a symposium or workshop to discuss remote sensing techniques for invasive species mapping in the Delta	Qtr 3	Complete	In partnership with the Delta Stewardship Council, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the University of California, Davis, staff planned and executed a Delta Invasive Species Symposium and drafted a detailed outline of a white paper summarizing the symposium. When complete, the white paper will be posted on the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination team's webpage and distributed to appropriate mailing lists.
Continue maintenance of restored sites at Ulatis Creek (Emigh R. Livestock) and the Peterson Ranch drainage corridor	Qtr 4	Delayed	Grant was extended through March 2021 due to site access problems and flood damage from the extremely wet 18/19 winter. The 2019 growing season was spent with site cleanup, replanting of damaged areas, and continuation of site maintenance. Extension into 2020 will help establishment of the new plantings.
Complete Arundo treatments and restoration along Lindsay Slough on Hastings Tract	Q4	Complete	Completed Arundo treatments, plantings, and initial maintenance of planted areas. Transitioned maintenance activities to landowner and technical assistance, including effectiveness monitoring, continues.
Apply integrated chemical treatments at Sacramento River sites (Andrus Island, CDFW fishing access sites, Cliffhouse fishing access site)	Ongoing	Delayed	The opportunity for treatments this season was missed due to the need to execute a new contract with the subcontractor doing the work. The planned chemical treatments are postponed to July and August 2020.
Release biocontrol insects at Tracy Fish Collection Facility (TFCF), Stewart Tract, and the Port of Stockton	Ongoing	Ongoing	Releases began at the Port of Stockton. Staff is working with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to complete a federally mandated environmental assessment for releases at TFCF. Work is not planned for Stewart Tract; the land owner is no longer interested.
Evaluate and scope integrated chemical treatments and restoration project opportunities at these South Delta sites	Ongoing	Inactive	Chemical treatments are no longer planned because treatments at Sacramento River sites are a higher priority and will use the available funding. Exploring partnership with Port of Stockton for future funding opportunities.
Continue outreach and explore additional opportunities for Arundo control and restoration projects in the Delta	Ongoing	On Track	Staff have initiated discussions with Solano County Regional Parks, State Parks, USDA, and the CA Invasive Plants Council.
Pursue funding for Phase 2	Ongoing	Ongoing	Department of Water Resources funding for Phase 2 is no longer available. Alternative funding sources and partnerships are being explored.

2019 GOALS		TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Facilitate quarterly DIISC meetings	Ongoing	Complete	Convened Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) team meetings in March, June, and November. The team decided only 3 meetings were needed.	
Develop Delta interagency collaboration strategy for prevention, early detection, and rapid response to invasive species	Ongoing	On Track	Staff convened a DIISC sub-team and initiated groundwork for improving early detection and rapid response coordination in the Delta.	

REGIONAL PLANNING				
2019 GOALS		TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Complete final public review and present final draft of the Delta Public Lands Strategy for Board consideration	Qtr 1	Complete	The Public Lands Strategy was completed and presented to the Board in March.	
Complete the Restoration Opportunities for Juvenile Salmonids In the Delta analysis	Qtr 4	Delayed	Technical advisory committee meetings and public workshop were held. The draft study was delayed slightly to early January 2020. The project will be completed in March of 2021.	

LAND OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT				
2019 GOALS		TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Refine draft ownership/management white paper	Ongoing	On Track	Work on this continues.	
Provide updates to the Board	Qtr 2 & Qtr 4	Complete	Discussion of land ownership issues continues at Program and Policy Subcommittee (PPS) meetings. Updates are provided to the Board following each PPS meeting as part of the PPS staff report.	

DELTA CARBON PROJECTS				
2019 GOALS		TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Work with Department of Water Resources to develop carbon credit sale agreements for existing managed wetlands on Sherman and Twitchell Islands	Qtr 4	Ongoing	Project validation/verification for the existing wetlands is underway and expected to be completed by March 2020. Credit sales agreements will be developed once verification is complete.	
Secure funding to support future projects	Qtr 4	Ongoing	Efforts to secure funds for a Delta subsidence reversal program continue.	

PROJECT TRACKING/ REPORTING AND IMPROVED DATA INTEGRATION/ACCESS			
2019 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Develop a synthesis report of user needs, priorities, and desired Delta Science Tracker functions as identified at the workshop	Qtr 2	Complete	Aquatic Science Center submitted final report to the Delta Science Program.
Acquire and compile digital imagery	Qtr 4	Complete	Compiled a matrix of existing datasets (inventory). Continuing review and update of the inventory.
Prepare quality assurance project plan	Qtr 4	Delayed	Preparation of the plan began in Quarter 3; it was due in December, but is taking longer than expected and is now expected to be complete by March 2020.
Work with restoration project managers to enter or update project information in EcoAtlas	Ongoing	Ongoing	Conservancy staff continued to work with project managers to enter and update project information in EcoAtlas.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT			
2019 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Field water quality monitoring (quarterly)	Ongoing	Complete	Staff conducted water quality monitoring at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in April, July, September, and December.
Update the 3-year monitoring plan for Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge	Qtr 4	Complete	Monitoring plan was completed in February.
Continue coordination with watershed organizations: develop monitoring plans for watersheds to increase consistency in data collection and reporting	Ongoing	Ongoing	Produced 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. Conservancy continues as steward of the document, which is being refined as a collaborative product of the Interagency Adaptive Management Implementation Team (IAMIT). Conservancy staff is ensuring the document is ADA-compliant and will post it on the Conservancy website. The IAMIT web site will reference and link to the Compendium and it will be shared with the wider Delta habitat restoration community.
Identify and secure funding for implementation of best management practices	Ongoing	Complete	The State Water Resources Control Board awarded the Conservancy \$399,407 to implement best management practices related to pesticide use and handling.

IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: COMPREHENSIVE PESTICIDES PROJECT

2019 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Execute contract for implementation of Fish Friendly Farming Program	Qtr 1	Delayed	Contract execution delayed due to concerns, which have been resolved to a level sufficient to allow the Conservancy to move forward with executing the contract in the first quarter of 2020.
Develop a list of high priority outreach areas	Ongoing	Delayed	State Water Board granted a 4-month extension to complete this deliverable to accommodate the delay in executing the contract.
Develop a mailing list and outreach letters	Ongoing	Delayed	State Water Board granted a 4-month extension to complete this deliverable to accommodate the delay in executing the contract.

DELTA WATERWAY CLEANUPS

2019 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Track litter trends over time at specific sites	Ongoing	On Track	Staff is participating in the State Water Board Trash Monitoring Workgroup that is helping to develop protocols for community-based science groups to monitor trash across the state. Once developed, protocols can be used at waterway clean-ups.
Biannual cleanups and environmental education at three sites	Q2 & Q3	Complete	Removed approximately 3,200 lbs. of trash with help of approximately 85 volunteers at four sites at the April clean-up events. Developed Impressions Report to track outreach impact of the Conservancy's participation in the cleanup - Conservancy's top media tweet in March had 782 impressions and the top media tweet in April had 1,435 impressions.
Assist Yolo Resource Conservation District (RCD) to secure landowner access affidavits for tire removal	Qtr 4	Complete	Phase 2 is complete. The California Conservation Corps, under direction of the Yolo RCD, removed two cubic yards of household waste, 57 tires, and 0.65 tons of other materials from Babel Slough.
Expand number of cleanup sites and number of volunteers	Ongoing	Complete	A new site for the spring cleanup was added in Locke. A new partnership was formed with Trinity Consultants, who volunteered to independently manage the cleanup site at Grizzly Island Trail and provided 16 volunteers for the cleanup.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

2019 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Conduct education and outreach for Watershed Protection Week	Qtr 3	Complete	In 2019, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week was September 21-28, as designated by the Legislature after passing a resolution authored by Senator Bill Dodd. Promotion of the 2019 Delta Week was coordinated with the Senator's office and included social media posts and a press release.
Conduct Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) educational workshop	Qtr 3	Complete	Using grant funds from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Conservancy provided the Water Education Foundation funding through June to conduct numerous Project WET workshops.
Support Delta water tours and water summit	Qtr 4	Complete	Using U.S. Bureau of Reclamation grant funds, the Conservancy contracted with the Water Education Foundation to conduct two water tours - the Delta tour in June and a Central Valley tour in April. The Water Summit was held in October, after the end of the contract, using funding from sources other than the Conservancy.
Water Education Foundation workshop and related white paper	Qtr 4	Inactive	In the time between completion of the prior workshop and the end of the grant that provided the funding for this, no topic emerged, that was of immediate importance and within the scope of the Conservancy's mission and authority, to merit a workshop.
Develop fact sheets for Conservancy programs	Ongoing	Delayed	An Ecosystem Restoration flyer was developed and is being updated with Proposition 1 Grant Cycle 4 information. A general outreach flyer and brochure are also being developed. These general collateral pieces, as well as fact sheets for various Conservancy programs, will be shaped by the website renovation and web accessibility work being done.
Educational outreach in schools	Ongoing	On Track	Staff is participating in the Students and Landowners Education and Watershed Stewardship program. In March, Conservancy staff helped mentor students from Florin High School as they installed native habitat along 3/4 mile of a slough at River Garden Farms in Yolo County. Staff is scheduled to continue participating in 2020 with students from Davis High School at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

MERCURY EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROGRAM (MERP)

2019 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Create and convene stakeholder meeting	Qtr 1	Complete	A stakeholder meeting was held in February.
Complete Community Grant Program	Qtr 2	Complete	The Community Grant Program provided education to more than 3,900 families.
Coordinate and post advisories	Ongoing	On Track	Approximately 35 fish consumption advisory signs were posted through the Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP), bringing the total number of signs posted since 2015 to 85 at 69 sites. Sign posting will continue in the first half of 2020.
Implement exposure reduction activities	Ongoing	On Track	Completed three grants through the MERP Community Grant Program, worked with Tribal Liaisons to share MERP messages with Delta Tribe communities, and conducted outreach at seven community events (including three tribal events). Staff is working with the Southeast Asian Assistance Center to evaluate sign effectiveness and to integrate MERP messaging into the organization's activities.

ADMINISTRATION			
2019 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Proposition 1 grants acquisitions process and template	Qtr 2	Delayed	In progress. Delayed due to resource constraints.
Transition to primary reliance upon Fi\$Cal for in-house accounting	Qtr 4	Complete	The Fiscal and Board Analyst was hired in April. While internal accounting is still necessary and used for reconciliation, primary reliance is now upon Fi\$CAL reports.
Expand office space into adjacent suite	Qtr 3	Complete	Staff moved into the expanded office space in August.
Implement State Leadership Accountability Act (SLAA) Implementation Plan to minimize organizational risk	Qtr 4	Complete	The SLAA Implementation Plan was submitted in June and the Biannual Report was submitted in December.
Prioritize and develop new/update existing policies and procedures	Qtr 4	Delayed	In progress, but delayed due to resource constraints. Drafts are expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2020.
Analyze and streamline accounting practices	Qtr 4	Complete	The Fiscal and Board Analyst was hired in April. Initial streamlining of accounting practices has been completed, but opportunities for future efficiencies will be explored on an ongoing basis.
Submit Indirect Cost Rate Proposals (ICRP)	Qtr 4	Complete	Submitted January 7, 2020.
Develop Workforce Plan and Succession Plan	Qtr 4	Delayed	Deferred due to resource constraints. The Conservancy anticipates completing this goal in 2020.
Identify critical processes, knowledge, and expertise and develop risk management plan	Qtr 3	Delayed	Some critical processes have been identified and some mitigation measures have been implemented. Work continues on this process which has taken longer than anticipated due to competing priorities.
Financial Reporting (such as Governor's budget building, bond accountability reporting, update System for Award Management)	Ongoing	On Track	Reporting has been completed on time.
Human resource related mandates (such as establishing a Disability Advisory Committee, Job Action Contingency Plan, Upward Mobility Program)	Ongoing	Delayed	Some efforts have been delayed due to resource constraints. The Disability Advisory Committee has been meeting quarterly.
Various requirements (Such as State Agency Recycle Campaign and State Agency Reporting System reports, Contracting Activity Report and Improvement Plans)	Ongoing	On Track	Reporting mandates were met. Routine audits of the Proposition 1 grant program and of human resources practices were initiated and will continue into 2020.