

## Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 2021 Implementation Plan: Status Update

### COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Continue accepting concept proposals	Ongoing	Ongoing	Proposals are accepted on an ongoing basis.
Assist applicants to develop full proposals	Ongoing	Ongoing	Conservancy staff are assisting five applicants in developing comprehensive (full) proposals.
Manage awarded grants	Qtr 2-4	Ongoing	Four active grants and a fifth has been awarded.
Implement outreach plan	Qtr 1 & 2	Ongoing	Prior outreach resulted in the submission of several successful proposals which have led to four active grants and one awarded grant. Staff are working with five applicants to further develop their proposals. Staff will conduct additional outreach as needed.

### DELTA MARKETING

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Distribute recreation maps	Ongoing	Delayed	Delayed due to COVID-19. If conditions allow, staff will coordinate with the Delta Protection Commission to begin distributing maps in 2022.
Develop sustainable management plan for visitCADelta.com		Completed	Upon agreement by all involved parties, management of VisitCADelta.com will be incorporated into the Communications Management Plan for the recently designated Natural Heritage Area.
Install 11 signs per Delta Sign Plan	Qtr 2	Delayed	COVID-19 decreased the capacity of Prison Industries Authority Association resulting in delayed fabrication of the signs. The DPC is currently working with CalTrans to develop maintenance agreements for the signage that must be completed before the signs can be installed. Anticipate the CA Conservation Corps will install the signs in mid-2022.

**ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION & WATER QUALITY GRANT PROGRAM**

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Manage active and closed grants	Ongoing	On Track	As of December 31, staff are managing 22 active and six closed grants and are in the process of executing one new grant agreement.
Plan Cycle 5 solicitation	Ongoing	On Track	The Cycle 5 solicitation opened July 1, 2021. Twelve applicants submitted concept proposals. Staff provided feedback to those applicants and received eight full proposals by December 15, 2021. Staff anticipate providing funding recommendations to the Conservancy Board in the second quarter of 2022.
Adjust granting processes based on audit results	As Required	On Track	The Conservancy has implemented changes to the granting process based on audit findings.

**INVASIVE SPECIES COORDINATION, CONTROL, AND RESTORATION**

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Lead planning and execution of 2021 Delta Invasive Species Symposium (Symposium)		Complete	The Delta Invasive Species Symposium took place on December 15, 2021 and focused on early detection and rapid response to invasions. The virtual Symposium was attended by more than 180 individuals representing 65 different organizations.
Coordinate Arundo control and restoration activities		Complete	With its partners, the Conservancy completed Arundo management and control in fulfillment of its agreement with Department of Water Resources (DWR). Staff coordinated with colleagues at DWR and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to connect them with herbicide applicator teams for Arundo control in the Delta.
Facilitate quarterly Delta Inter-Agency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) meetings	Ongoing	Ongoing	The first and second quarter DIISC meetings were held on February 9 and June 15, 2021, respectively. The third quarter meeting was cancelled to accommodate Symposium planning. The fourth quarter DIISC meeting was held on November 16, 2021.

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Develop draft Delta interagency collaboration strategy for early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to invasive species	Ongoing	Ongoing	The draft Delta EDRR framework and coordination table were presented for feedback at the biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium on December 15, 2021. Conservancy Staff and other DIISC Team leaders are working to fund a pilot application of the EDRR framework to a newly identified invasive species, ribbon weed ( <i>Vallisneria australis</i> ).

#### LAND OWNERSHIP, EASEMENT, AND MANAGEMENT

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Refine draft ownership/management white paper	Ongoing	Ongoing	The white paper will be continuously updated as new information is gathered. At present, there is not a need for the Conservancy to hold easements, own or manage Delta lands.
Present findings from exploration of easement management requirements to Board	Ongoing	Ongoing	Staff will provide findings to the Board as they are developed.
Provide updates to the Board	Ongoing	Ongoing	Staff will provide updates to the Board as new information is available.

#### PROJECT TRACKING, REPORTING AND IMPROVED DATA INTEGRATION AND ACCESS

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Work with restoration project managers to enter or update project information in EcoAtlas	Ongoing	Ongoing	Staff reviews EcoAtlas entries as they are created or updated by project proponents.
Final update to the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory (DARI) mapping Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and protocols for submitting data and maintaining the DARI base map	Qtr 2	Ongoing	The DARI Workgroup met to provide final feedback on the Standard Operating Procedures on October 5, 2021.
Integrate DARI into EcoAtlas	Qtr 3	Ongoing	The project is on track to deliver a publicly available DARI dataset via EcoAtlas in the first quarter of 2022 in accordance with the amended agreement described above.

**PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Conduct Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) workshops for landowners	Qtr 3	Ongoing	The contractor, California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI), held two Zoom webinars with landowners to solicit enrollment in the program. Small group meetings with landowners took place through 2021. Another workshop is planned for the second quarter of 2022.
Train certifying agency (National Marine Fisheries Service, local resource conservation districts, and others) representatives, as needed, on details of the Fish Friendly Farming Program's best management practices, assessment practices of the properties, and certification process.	Qtr 4	Ongoing	The Sacramento and San Joaquin Agricultural Commissioner's Offices and the National Marine Fisheries Service have been trained as certifying agencies. More certifying agencies will be trained as proprietries continue to be enrolled.

**DELTA WATERWAY CLEANUPS**

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Plan and conduct clean-up events		Inactive	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Conservancy has not participated in clean-up events.
Collect data on types and amounts of trash in the Delta		Inactive	Trash data collection is a component of clean-up events; therefore, it has been suspended until public health conditions enable the Conservancy to resume participation in clean-up events.

**DELTA CARBON MANAGEMENT**

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Support two additional pilot projects through the carbon estimation/validation process	Ongoing	Ongoing	There are increasing numbers of pilot projects and the Conservancy is providing technical assistance for project development and estimation/validation.
Seek funding to support future projects	Ongoing	Ongoing	Recently signed Climate Action legislation included \$5,250,000 for the Conservancy for climate, conservation, and public access projects. The Board approved General Grant Guidelines for these funds in January of 2022. Conservancy staff applied for two competitive grant solicitations in 2021 (Delta Science Program's Delta Science Research Award and United States Environmental Protection Agency's Region 9 Wetland Program Development Grant), unfortunately neither proposal was selected for funding.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Conduct education and outreach for Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week		Inactive	With significant public health and budgetary priorities to attend, the Legislature did not designate Delta Week in 2021. Conservancy staff will confer with Legislative representatives next year to determine if designating a 2022 Delta Week is feasible.
Education and outreach via social media, events, and other opportunities	Ongoing	Inactive	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Conservancy has not participated in the Students and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) program in 2021. The Conservancy looks forward to hosting SLEWS field trips and workdays at restoration sites once it is safe to do so.
Develop fact sheets for Conservancy programs	Ongoing	Delayed	Planned development of fact sheets to highlight Proposition 1 Grant Program projects, the Proposition 68 Grant Program, and the Delta Carbon Program were delayed due to staffing constraints. In November 2021 a new Communications Analyst was hired and will work on developing fact sheets in 2022.

**JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Develop Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Guidelines	Qtr 2	Delayed	Additional time is needed to develop a meaningful approach. An internal committee is developing recommendations for actions that can be taken in the near-term while work continues on comprehensively shaping the Conservancy's engagement.
Continue implementation of the JEDI curriculum	Ongoing	Ongoing	The committee continues to facilitate collaborative learning discussions for all Conservancy staff.
Develop an outreach plan for engaging with organizations representing diverse communities within the Delta	Qtr 3	Ongoing	Conservancy staff continue to collaborate with other state agencies as a component of developing engagement strategies.

**ADMINISTRATION**

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Submit and update State Leadership Accountability Act Implementation Plan and Biannual Implementation Plan	As Required	Complete	The Implementation Plan was submitted in June 2021 and accepted by the Department of Finance. The Biannual Implementation Plan was submitted December 31, 2021.
Update internal work plans	Qtr 2	Delayed	Delayed due to staffing constraints. Updates are planned for the first Quarter of 2022.
Release Request for Proposal and contract for an organizational assessment	Qtr 2	Complete	A Request for Quotes was released in Quarter 2. A contractor was selected and plans to complete the assessment by December 2021.
Develop records retention schedule	Qtr 3	Delayed	Delayed due to staffing constraints. This will be a priority to complete once vacancies are filled.
Establish legislative tracking system	Qtr 3	Delayed	Executive staff monitors bills that relate to matters within the Conservancy's jurisdiction. Establishing a formal tracking mechanism has been delayed due to staffing constraints and other urgent priorities such as COVID-19 response.
Submit indirect cost rate proposal	Qtr 4	Complete	The Conservancy submitted an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal, which the Conservancy's cognizant agency, the U.S. Department of Interior, approved in October 2021.
Develop Workforce Plan and Succession Plan	Qtr 4	Delayed	Delayed due to staffing constraints. Development of these documents will be added to the 2022 Implementation Plan.

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Develop new/update existing policies and procedures	Qtr 4	Delayed	Due to staffing constraints, finalization of the initial 10 core policies drafted through a contract with the Department of Human Resources (CalHR) has been delayed. Finalization of those polices and work on additional policies will be added to the 2022 Implementation Plan.
Reorganize shared drive	Qtr 4	Delayed	The Conservancy plans to use student assistant, retired annuitant, or existing staffing to complete this task. However, availability of current staff to hire and train new employees has been limited. This work will be added to the 2022 Implementation Plan.
Ensure accessibility of Conservancy web content	Ongoing	Ongoing	All content posted on the web site is compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements.
Submit financial reports and information (such as Governor's budget building, bond accountability reporting)	As Required	Ongoing	All reports have been completed and submitted on time.
Fulfill human resource related mandates (such as Disability Advisory Committee)	As Required	Ongoing	The Disability Advisory Committee meets quarterly and is drafting recommendations for committee functions for executive staff consideration.
Various administrative and operational requirements (e.g., State Agency Recycle Campaign and State Agency Reporting System reports, Contracting Activity Report and Improvement Plans, Continuity Plan)	As Required	Ongoing	The Contracting Activity Report, Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Subcontracting Report, and State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign Report were submitted by October 31, 2021. The State Agency Recycle Campaign Report will be submitted on or before May 1, 2022.

2021 PROJECT GOALS		TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Participate in Audits (e.g., Dept. of Finance audits of bond funded grant programs, State Personnel Board audit of human resources practices, General Services audit of purchasing and procurement)		As Required	Complete	The Department of Finance (DOF) issued a report of findings from their audit of the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program. The Conservancy submitted a Corrective Action Plan to address the two findings and is implementing actions accordingly. The Conservancy completed the Accreditation Maintenance phase of the Department of General Services (DGS), Procurement Division's Purchasing Authority Accreditation Process and remains accredited at Tier 1. Staff updated the Conservancy's Procurement Policies and Procedures Manual and submitted it to DGS on February 16, 2022.
Submit required COVID-19 pandemic reports and drills for health and safety, human resources, budgets, and planning.		As Required	Ongoing	There has been significant human resource and budgeting related workload associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.