



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

May 25, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Delta Conservancy Conference Room

1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento, CA 95691

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. To maximize public safety while maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can choose to participate either by telephone, using the number and access code on the agenda, or in person at the location listed above. People attending in person will be required to adhere to the site's health guidelines, which could include wearing masks, health screening, or social distancing. Delta Conservancy Board Members will be participating remotely from the following locations, in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Act, these locations are publicly accessible.

- 44 N. San Joaquin St., Suite 627 Stockton, CA 95202

Join by Teleconference

- Dial: 1-877-402-9753
- Access Code: 3752086

Questions and public comment can be addressed to contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov prior to, and during the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions**
3. **Public Comment** (New Business)
4. **Consent Calendar** (Action Item)
 - Approval of March 23, 2022 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items (Attachment)
5. **Executive Officer's Report**, Campbell Ingram
 - Program Update (Attachment)
 - Nutria Eradication Program Update (Attachment)
 - Budget and Expenditure Report (Attachment)
6. **Consideration of Delta Conservancy Draft 2022 Implementation Plan**, Campbell Ingram (Attachments) (Action Item)
7. **Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Update**, Dr. Trevor Fox (Attachment)
8. **Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Update**, Campbell Ingram (Attachments)
9. **Community Enhancement Grant Programs Update**, Martha Ozonoff (Attachment)

10. **Request for Approval to Enter into an Interagency Agreement with the Regents of the University of California for \$1,497,611 to provide Monitoring Support for the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program**, Rachel Wigginton (Attachments) (Action Item)
11. **Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for the Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments Planning Project**, Martha Ozonoff (Attachment) (Action Item)
12. **Consideration of Amendment to Budget, Scope, and Term of Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Agreement for Delta Working Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning Project**, Dr. Sarah Lesmeister (Attachment) (Action Item)
13. **Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) Lead Agency Determination for the Riparian Restoration at River Garden Farms**, Dr. Rachel Wigginton (Attachments) (Action Item)
14. **Overview of the “Reorienting to Recovery” CA Central Valley Salmon Recovery Project**, Gary Bobker and Lindsay Tryba (Attachment)
15. **Final Outcomes of the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory (DARI) Mapping Project**, Dr. Rachel Wigginton (Attachment)
16. **EcoRestore Update Including a Summary of the Yolo Bypass Working Agreement**, Charlotte Biggs
17. **Delta Stewardship Council Update**, Amanda Bohl
18. **Delta Protection Commission Update**, Erik Vink
19. **Delta Conveyance Update**, Carrie Buckman
20. **Potential Agenda Items for the July 27, 2022 Board Meeting**, Campbell Ingram (Attachment)
21. **Public Comment**
22. **ADJOURN**
 - To view the members of the Delta Conservancy Board, please visit <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/delta-conservancy-board>.
 - Attachments and additional information are on the Delta Conservancy’s website at: <http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>.
 - If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, or require printed copies of meeting materials, please contact us at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date at **(916) 375-2084** or contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov. This contact information may also be used for questions.
 - Public comments are generally limited to three (3) minutes but may be more or less at the discretion of the Board Chair.
 - The Board may consider the agenda items listed above in a different order at the Delta Conservancy Board meeting, pursuant to the determination of the Board Chair. All items appearing on this agenda, whether or not listed expressly for action, may be deliberated upon and subject to action at the discretion of the Delta Conservancy Board.



March 23, 2022, Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Meeting called to order on Zoom at 9:06 a.m. by Jim Provenza.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

Roll call was taken and agenda items were heard by the Board in the order indicated below.

Board Members Present:

- Don Nottoli
- Diane Burgis
- Bryan Cash
- Mitchel Mashburn
- Gayle Miller
- Katherine Miller
- Jim Provenza
- Leo Winternitz

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- None

Liaison Advisors and Counsel Present:

- Steve Chappell
- Jessica Davenport
- Moira McEnespy
- Erik Vink
- Jim Waters
- Nicole Rinke, Counsel

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar

Motion: Supervisor Mashburn moved, seconded by Supervisor Miller, that the Board approve the following.

- January 26, 2022, Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 8 ayes

Chair Nottoli arrived at 9:16 a.m., and assumed control of the meeting

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer briefly highlighted several items within the written report. Some further updates included the planned return to in person work on May 2, 2022, though telework will continue for a significant part of the operation. The May Board meeting will be hybrid with both an in person and phone in option, at a minimum. We will continue to monitor the changing situation and if there are no further Executive Orders to supplement the Bagley Keene Open Meetings Act then Board members who participate remotely will be required to post their meeting place on the agenda and have it accessible to the public. The carbon update which was requested in the March meeting has been pushed back due to the size of the agenda.

Agenda Item 6 – Delta Conservancy 2021 Implementation Plan Status Update

The Deputy Executive Officer highlighted items from the 2021 Implementation Plan end of year update. Typically, this update is presented each January, but in order to reflect the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, which was adopted in January 2022, the update was presented at the March meeting. Furthermore, due to the vacancies and time urgent initiatives, the Conservancy will be presenting the 2022 Implementation Plan at the May Board meeting. The Conservancy implemented a large percentage of their goals and the inactive status of certain items was primarily due to programs that were cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. The 2022 Implementation Plan will have enhancements to reference the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan goals and objectives, and the Board update will be presented in the same order as the Implementation Plan. The format will shift from funding sources to program work to be achieved.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Update

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report as well as presenting further updates that have occurred. Project 1804, Delta Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning, will have an amendment request at the May Board Meeting. Project 1809, Marsh Creek Channel Restoration, has withdrawn their application due to a change of landowner, and the funds associated with the project will be available for Proposition 1 projects. For Cycle 5 the Conservancy received seven full proposals and external reviews have been completed. Requests exceed available funding and staff are reviewing funding sources. Staff informed the Board that staff recommendations for Cycle 5 will be presented at the July 27, 2022, Board meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Update

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report. Proposals with a scope of work aligned with the Climate Access and Restoration appropriation are being considered for that funding source to maximize the amount of grants awarded. The policy for the Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) designation has been refined to more accurately reflect the expected benefits to SDAC’s from the Proposition 68 Program.

Agenda Item 9 – Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Update

The Executive Officer highlighted items in the staff report and provided updates. The Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP) incentivizes Delta Farmers to employ practices that reduce consumptive use of water and will result in a better understanding of effective water saving practices for prolonged or future drought management. The Conservancy received 85 proposals, approved 35

projects, enrolling over 8800 acres, and saving approximately 22,000-acre feet of water. Twenty grants have been executed to date. The Board requested a list of DDRPP projects to be made publicly available.

Agenda Item 10 – Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building

Conservancy staff presented a recommendation to award a grant to purchase and install display cases for housing historic and cultural items in the Isleton Museum.

Motion: Supervisor Mashburn moved, seconded by Board Member Cash, to award funding up to \$44,500 to the Isleton Museum from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building project .

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 8 ayes.

Agenda Item 11 – Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for the Discover the Delta Education Center

Conservancy staff presented a recommendation to fund a grant to complete project planning to include a review and update of building plans, and to process a new building permit including payment of required permit fees.

Motion: Supervisor Burgis moved, seconded by Supervisor Mashburn, to award funding up to \$223,456 to the Discover the Delta Foundation from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Discover the Delta Center Planning project.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 8 ayes.

Agenda Item 12 – Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for the Restoration of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Creation of a Delta Welcome Center

Conservancy staff presented a recommendation to award funding to restore the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse to create a Delta Welcome Center that will promote recreation and tourism and create a community gathering space and K-12 educational center.

Motion: Supervisor Provenza moved, seconded by Board Member Winternitz, to award funding up to \$1,743,000 to the Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Creation of a Delta Welcome Center project.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 8 ayes.

Agenda Item 13 – Consideration of Amendment to Scope and Term of Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Agreement for Delta Working Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning Project

This item was pulled from the agenda for consideration at a future Board meeting.

Agenda Item 14 – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Organizational Assessment

The Deputy Executive Officer highlighted the staff report introducing the Organizational Assessment performed by Mission Consulting, LLC. The assessment was in support of the Conservancy's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan Goal 3, Conservancy Organizational Strength and Sustainability.

Agenda Item 15 – Eco Restore Update

Charlotte Biggs, Program Manager II at the California Department of Water Resources, presented an update.

Agenda Item 16 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

Amanda Bohl, Special Assistant for Planning and Science at the Delta Stewardship Council, presented an update including a slide presentation of the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee Restoration Subcommittee.

Agenda Item 17 – Delta Protection Commission Update

Erik Vink, Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission, presented an update.

Agenda Item 18 – Delta Conveyance Update

Carrie Buckman, Environmental Program Manager at the Department of Water Resources, presented an update.

Agenda Item 19 – Potential Agenda Items for the May 25, 2022, Meeting

- Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant(s)
- Consideration of the Delta Conservancy 2022 Implementation Plan
- Overview of Delta Carbon Management
- Consideration of Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Cycle 5 grants awards
- Consideration of Amendment to Scope and Term of Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Agreement for Delta Working Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning Project
- Presentation on Yolo Bypass agreement.

Agenda Item 20 – Public Comment

None

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Provide a list of Delta Drought Response Pilot Program grantees

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Nottoli at 10:45 a.m.

CONTACT

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**Executive Officer's Report
May 25, 2022**

PROGRAM UPDATE

STAFFING UPDATE

Recruitments continue to backfill Environmental Scientist and Associate Government Program Analyst positions with interviews scheduled for the last two weeks in May.

COVID-19 UPDATE

All Conservancy staff continue to work from home. With conditions improving and state and local level directives relaxing we anticipate returning to the office in mid-May with teleworking remaining an option in the Conservancy's operational model. The Conservancy's Telework Policy has been approved by the Department of General Services.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

Nutria Eradication:

Please see the most recent update from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife included in this agenda item (Attachment 2).

DELTA SCIENCE

Fish Friendly Farming:

The Conservancy, supported through a grant from the California State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), has contracted the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) to implement the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Program in the Delta. The FFF Program works with farmers to improve Delta water quality by developing best management practices and identifying needed farm infrastructure updates. The SWRCB approved the FFF Program as an alternative compliance pathway for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, which is an added benefit for farmers who participate in the program. CLSI has met with many growers to encourage them to sign up. Tirupathi Farms signed up three farms totaling 782 acres. CLSI has completed site visits for Tirupathi farms, created farm plan maps, and filled in the farm plan template for each site. Two large potential enrollees, Zuckerman Heritage Inc., and The Nature Conservancy (Staten Island), have provided initial information to begin enrolling in the FFF program. CLSI has met with the Sacramento Farm Bureau and several farmers, Yolo Land and Cattle, Dawei Dong, and several other farmers about potential enrollment. Conservancy Staff and CLSI worked together to finalize a contract amendment that extends the contract through December 2024, which aligns with the funding term of the grant from SWRCB.

Delta Science Coordination:

Conservancy staff continue to work collaboratively with the broader Delta science community to advance ecological restoration, invasive species management, and regional science coordination in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.

Conservancy staff continue to coordinate with colleagues at the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) regarding regional restoration planning and a role for public participation in this process. The draft Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment includes a recommendation to create a restoration sub-committee of the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC). Initially, the sub-committee will be staffed by the Conservancy and the Council. The second meeting of the new DPIIC restoration sub-committee took place on March 14, 2022. This meeting focused on finalizing the goals and objectives for the group, which were subsequently approved by the DPIIC in their March 28th meeting. Conservancy and Council staff are now working to develop a work plan that would describe actions to meet these goals and objectives over approximately the next two years. The groups goals are to (1) increase interagency collaboration to streamline restoration implementation, (2) identify opportunities in restoration planning and long-term management efforts, (3) increase transparency and coordination around existing, new, and needed restoration funding, and (4) provide forums for meaningful community participation in Delta restoration efforts.

The Council recently released their 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda (SAA). The SAA is one element of the three part Delta Science Strategy; the other two elements are the [Delta Science Plan](#) and the [State of Bay Delta Science](#) bi-annual report. This document was co-produced by the Delta Science community, and Conservancy staff contributed to this process in numerous ways. Conservancy staff participated in the initial online survey, contributed management questions through the DIISC team and participation in the Interagency Adaptive Management Implementation Team, attended a workshop to rank and sort top management questions, reviewed the Progress Summary of the previous SAA, participated in a workshop to create science action to address the top management questions, and responded to a survey to distill down the science actions from the workshop not the top 25 science actions for the 2022-2026 SAA.

Staff continue to facilitate the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team. The last DIISC Team quarterly meeting took place on May 10, 2022. The DIISC Team heard an update on the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee's recent activities, which have focused on recommending \$5 million in targeted funding to the Invasive Species Council of California for approval. Dr. Richelle Tanner from Chapman University gave a presentation on her work studying invasive *Phragmites* (common reed) in the Suisun Marsh and the social-ecological aspects of invasive species management. Finally, DIISC Team members provided brief updates on their agency activities (updates from: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, University of California Cooperative Extension, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento County Weed Management Area, State Lands Commission Marine Invasive Species Program, Delta Protection Commission, Delta Stewardship Council Delta Science Program, State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife).

MEDIA MENTIONS

Executive Officer Campbell Ingram was interviewed for a [climate solutions newsletter](#) and spoke to a reporter about how the Conservancy is collaborating on a carbon-credits project with the goal of reversing subsidence.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

1. Provide a listing of Delta Drought Response Pilot Projects.
 - A listing of Delta Drought Response Pilot Projects can be found as an attachment to Agenda Item 8.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 5 (3): Budget and Expenditure Report

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CONTACT

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Nutria Eradication Program Update

Field Update May 11, 2022

Since March 2018, the nutria eradication efforts in California have:

- Completed full and/or rapid assessments on over 1.5 M acres
- Executed entry permits with 4,100 landowners for over 8,800 parcels in 11 counties
- Set up 5,858 camera stations (1,230 currently active)
 - Conducted 52,874 camera checks
- Confirmed nutria within > 500 sites
- Deployed over 6,789 trap sets for a total of 86,392 trap nights
- Taken or accounted for the take of 2,928 nutria (since Mar 2017)
 - Merced- 1,901
 - Stanislaus- 889
 - San Joaquin- 110
 - Mariposa- 12
 - Fresno- 15
 - Madera- 1 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)

Of 2,928 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.14 sex ratio (M:F)
- Of the females captured:
 - 19% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 59% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 67% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
- 3,274 fetal nutria have been removed from the population
- Litter size ranged from 1-13, with an average of 5.8
 - Average litter size for adult females (> 14 mos.) in California is 6.4

Table 1. The total number of cells with nutria taken, total number of nutria taken, and average number of nutria taken per cell, by year from March 2017 to May 11, 2022.

Year	Total (unique) cells with nutria taken	Total # nutria taken	Average # nutria taken per cell
2017	7	20	2.9
2018	57	348	6.1
2019	73	492	6.7
2020	157	1239	7.9
2021	144	702	4.9
2022	41	127	3.1
Grand Total	348	2,928	8.4

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE REPORT July 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Personal Services (PS)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
1	Salaries & Wages	\$1,096,226	\$794,344	\$301,882	72%
2	Temporary Help	\$39,864	\$25,323	\$14,541	64%
3	Benefits	\$590,096	\$422,359	\$167,737	72%
4	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	\$1,726,186	\$1,242,026	\$484,160	72%

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Operating Expenditures and Equipment (OE & E)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
5	General Expense	\$10,050	\$1,826	\$8,224	18%
6	Printing	\$4,500	\$2,417	\$2,083	54%
7	Communications	\$5,000	\$2,724	\$2,276	54%
8	Postage	\$225	\$117	\$108	52%
9	Travel-In State	\$4,330	\$790	\$3,540	18%
10	Training	\$9,950	\$2,324	\$7,626	23%
11	Facilities Operation	\$104,608	\$76,987	\$27,621	74%
12	Contracts & Personal Services-External	\$1,666,316	\$2,311	\$1,664,005	0%
13	Contracts & Personal Services-Interdepartmental	\$113,750	\$41,077	\$72,673	36%
14	Information Technology	\$54,024	\$296	\$53,728	1%
15	Central Administrative Service	\$27,042	\$0	\$27,042	0%
16	Non-Capital Asset Purchases	\$33,482	\$0	\$33,482	0%
17	Other items of Expense	\$32,744	\$0	\$32,744	0%
18	Unallocated Operating Expense & Equipment	\$30,416	\$0	\$30,416	0%
18	Multi Year Support Appropriation				
19	Proposition 1 Program Support	\$448,554	\$0	\$448,554	0%
20	Proposition 68 Program Support	\$458,033	\$0	\$458,033	0%
21	Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Support	\$354,682	\$0	\$354,682	0%
22	Climate, Access and Restoration Program Support	\$245,054	\$0	\$245,054	0%
24	Grants and Subventions	\$13,100,597	\$216,225	\$12,884,372	2%
25	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES & EQUIPMENT	\$16,703,357	\$347,094	\$16,356,263	2%

Line Number	TOTALS	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
26	TOTAL PS & OE & E	\$18,429,543	\$1,589,120	\$16,840,423	9%
27	REIMBURSEMENT	(\$10,060,500)	(\$6,746)	(\$10,053,754)	0%
28	GRAND TOTAL	\$8,369,043	\$1,582,374	\$6,786,669	19%



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

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Consideration of Delta Conservancy Draft 2022 Implementation Plan Staff Report

This report presents for Board consideration the Delta Conservancy Draft 2022 Implementation Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Board approval of the Draft 2022 Implementation Plan.

DESCRIPTION

The annual Implementation Plan is a companion document to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. The 2022-2027 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan provides a high-level road map and sets goals, objectives, and metrics to achieve them. The annual Implementation Plan provides a more detailed accounting of the tasks the Conservancy will undertake each year to implement the Strategic Plan. The Implementation Plan has a summary of each initiative, provides an overview of progress and achievements to date, outlines major program objectives for the year, and notes steps for the future.

Typically, a draft Implementation Plan is presented to the Board for approval at the January meeting. With the completion and approval of the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan in January of 2022, staff requested additional time to revise the format of the Implementation Plan to be consistent with the new Strategic Plan.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 2022 Implementation Plan as presented in this item.

CONTACT

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

2022 Implementation Plan

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Gavin Newsom, Governor

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for California Natural Resources Agency

SACRAMENTO SAN-JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY

Executive Staff

- Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
- Debra Kustic, Deputy Executive Officer

Ecological and Community Programs Staff

- Sarah Lesmeister, Ecological and Community Programs Manager
- Rachel Wigginton, Senior Environmental Scientist
- Martha Ozonoff, Community Projects Supervisor
- Trevor Fox, Environmental Scientist
- Vacant, Environmental Scientist
- Vacant, Ecological and Community Programs Analyst

Administration Staff

- Vacant, Administration Manager
- Brenda Lusk, Administration Supervisor
- Jessica Adel, Fiscal and Board Analyst
- Shelly Boxx, Office Technician
- Hope Miller, Communications Analyst
- Larry Hughes, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
- Chelsea Martinez, Grant and Contract Analyst

INTRODUCTION

This Implementation Plan (Plan) articulates programs and associated tasks which the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) has established for 2022 to implement the goals, objectives, and metrics included in the Conservancy's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan.

The activities reflected herein are funded by the California General Fund; the California Environmental License Plate Fund; state and federal government grants and agreements; the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68). The Conservancy continuously seeks funding to expand efforts in furtherance of its mission and the Governor and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency's priorities of public access, biodiversity, and climate resilience activities.

The Conservancy strives to honor the following Guiding Principles in achieving the activities and task in this Implementation Plan.

- Act in collaboration with the communities of the Delta and Suisun Marsh to implement multi-benefit initiatives
- Operate with integrity in a transparent and accessible manner
- Support efforts that advance both environmental protection and economic wellbeing in a complementary manner
- Use best available science
- Recognize and values the unique nature of the history, culture, communities, and ecosystems of the Delta and Suisun Marsh
- Believe that access to natural resources, the benefits of ecological health, and the advantages of economic growth should be equitably distributed and accessible for all
- Commitment to creating an inclusive workplace that promotes and values diversity.

ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE ADAPATION

The Conservancy, in collaboration with myriad partners, is working on the following initiatives to restore, enhance, and protect the Delta ecosystem.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND WATER QUALITY GRANT PROGRAM

This grant program focuses on multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects that address at least one of the following.

- Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement
- Water Quality
- Water-Related Agricultural Sustainability
- Climate Benefit

Through this program, the Conservancy has aligned state and local interests to make great progress – a hallmark of the Conservancy’s mission. As of January 1, 2022, the Conservancy has implemented five grant cycles and awarded almost \$39.3 million for 29 projects that collectively increase ecosystem resilience of approximately 4,800 acres. The Conservancy anticipates awarding approximately \$3.2 million in late Summer 2022 as part of the fifth solicitation cycle of grants. Additionally, the Conservancy is working with several applicants to develop proposals and initiate projects for the newly allocated multi-benefit Climate, Access, and Restoration funding. As grants for implementation projects are closed, Conservancy staff will continue to work with the grantees as they conduct post-project management and monitoring of the projects for at least 15 years. This program is funded through \$50,000,000 from Proposition 1 and \$5,250,000 from the General Fund allocation for Climate, Access, and Restoration.

Table 1: Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Award new grants	Ongoing	1A, 1B
Manage grants	Ongoing	1A, 1B
Monitor outcomes of closed grants	Ongoing	1A, 1B

Interagency Coordination

Delta Inter-Agency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team

The Conservancy facilitates this forum for state and federal agency participants to exchange information, coordinate activities, and identify research needs and funding sources. The DIISC Team holds quarterly coordination meetings and organizes a biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium (last in December 2021). The DIISC Team produced a draft Delta early detection and rapid response (EDRR) framework and coordination table in 2021, which will be built upon in 2022.

Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Sub-Committee

To implement restoration at the pace and scale necessary to meet the goals set out in the proposed revisions to Chapter 4 of the Delta Plan and to implement the Water Resilience Portfolio, Cutting Green Tape Initiative, and the Governor’s California Biodiversity Initiative, The Delta Stewardship Council and the Conservancy are collaborating to establish the DPIIC Restoration Sub-Committee, which is recommended in the revisions to Chapter 4 of the Delta Plan. These initiatives are funded through general operating budget.

Table 2: Interagency Coordination

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Facilitate quarterly Delta Inter-Agency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) meetings	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 4A, 4B
Plan and identify funding for an Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) workshop	Qtr 4	1A, 4A, 4B
Co-plan and facilitate regular DPIIC Restoration Sub-Committee meetings	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 4A, 4B
Co-plan and host a community forum via the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Sub-Committee	Qtr 4	1A, 1B, 4A, 4B

Ecosystem Data Access

In support of habitat restoration and water quality management in the Delta, the Conservancy has worked with partners to identify needs, secure funding, and implement projects to facilitate project tracking, reporting, and improved data integration and access. With funding from United States Environmental Protection Agency (\$300,000 competitive grant), the Conservancy is implementing the Delta Aquatic Resources Inventory (DARI) project. DARI will result in a standardized mapping system and base map of aquatic resources for the Delta. The DARI project will conclude in March 2022. Additionally, staff are supporting colleagues in the Delta Science Program’s Adaptive Management Unit who are creating a synthesis of total restoration implemented and planned in the Suisun Marsh and Delta.

Table 3: Ecosystem Data Access

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Work with restoration project managers to enter or update project information in EcoAtlas	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 4A, 4B
Delta Aquatic Resources Inventory (DARI) Dataset publicly available on EcoAtlas	Qtr 2	1A, 1B, 4A
Integrate DARI into EcoAtlas	Qtr 3	1A, 1B, 4A

Delta Carbon and Subsidence Management

The Conservancy’s climate change policy guides staff in developing and supporting projects that mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and that can increase the system’s capacity to adapt to climate change effects. For the past several years, the Conservancy has worked with a large partnership to address the ongoing subsidence that threatens western Delta communities, agriculture, and the state and federal water projects, and that produces more than 1,500,000 tons of carbon emissions per year. The partnership continues to work with public and private landowners and project developers to develop pilot projects, work with the California Air Resources Board to adopt the existing voluntary market protocol into the Cap-and-Trade compliance program, and to develop appropriate messages and strategies to realize additional funding to support this effort. In 2022 staff will continue to partner with and support public and private landowners in their efforts to address subsidence and engage the carbon market. The Conservancy continuously seeks funding for this program and is hopeful that there will be significant funds in the FY22/23 budget to support these efforts.

Table 4: Delta Carbon Management

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Support additional pilot projects through the carbon estimation/validation process	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A
Seek funding to support future projects	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A

Land Ownership, Easements, and Management

The Conservancy’s enabling legislation authorizes the organization to hold title and easements for lands within the Delta and Suisun Marsh. In 2019 staff began developing a draft white paper and in 2020, at the request of sister agencies, began focused exploration of easements and what expertise, resources, and policies would be required to enable the Conservancy to effectively hold and manage easements or title. In 2021 this exploration slowed due to lack of a specific project that required the Conservancy to hold title or easements. With increasing focus on subsidence and climate resilience, there may be projects in 2022 that require the Conservancy to play a larger role in land ownership, holding easement, and managing lands. The following

tasks will remain in the Implementation Plan as place holders until enabling conditions warrant additional action.

Table 5: Land Ownership, Easements, and Management

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Refine draft ownership/management white paper as needed	Ongoing	1A
Present project-specific opportunities to explore ownership, holding easement, and land management to the Board for consideration as needed	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A

ECONOMICALLY AND ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE WORKING LANDS

The Conservancy, in collaboration with myriad partners, is working on the following initiatives to support economically sustainable working lands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and Suisun Marsh.

Delta Drought Response Pilot Program

The Delta Drought Response Pilot Program is in response to consecutive dry years, low combined storage in State and federal Project reservoirs, and drought-constrained water deliveries to Project contractors. Funds are available to incentivize agricultural water users in the Legal Delta to take actions expected to reduce crop consumptive water use and protect water quality and ecological conditions in the Delta. This program is funded through a \$10,000,000 interagency agreement with the California Department of Water Resources. Staff worked with a selection committee to review 85 proposals, approve, and execute 35 grants - enrolling more than 8,800 acres with estimated savings of approximately 22,000 acre feet of water. Approximately \$1,600,000 will be used to support an interagency agreement with the Regents of the University of California, Davis to perform micrometeorological measurements and water budget calculations to evaluate water conservation practices used in fields enrolled in the DDRPP.

Table 6: Delta Drought Response Pilot Program

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Manage grants	Ongoing	1B, 2A, 3A, 4B
Monitor outcomes of closed grants	Ongoing	1B, 2A, 3A, 4B
Participate in the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP) Oversight Committee to evaluate program outcomes	Qtrs 2,3, and 4	1B, 2A, 4B
Execute an interagency agreement with UC Davis for DDRPP monitoring	Qtr 2	1B, 2A, 4B
Work with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Delta Watermaster, and Delta Water Users to plan and execute a 2023 program if funding is available	Qtrs 2, 3, and 4	1B, 2A, 3A, 4B

Fish Friendly Farming Program

The Conservancy, in coordination with the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition and the San Joaquin and Delta Water Quality Coalition, is implementing a suite of best management practices to reduce non-point source pollution and improve water quality in the Delta. The goal of this project is to develop, certify, and implement Farm Water Quality Improvement Plans (Farm Plans) through the Fish Friendly Farming Program to reduce the generation and transport to waterbodies of agricultural chemicals, sediment, and nutrients from

sites within the Delta. These efforts utilize tools and build upon outreach funded by the Conservancy’s Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program. These initiatives are funded through a State Water Resources Control Board Grant of \$399,400 for the entirety of the project.

Table 7: Fish Friendly Farming

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Conduct Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) workshops for landowners	Qtr 2	1A, 2A, 4A
Continue to train certifying agency representatives, as needed, on details of FFF best management practices, assessment practices, and certification process.	Qtr 4	1A, 2A, 4B
Continue to enroll acreage into the Fish Friendly Farming Program	Ongoing	1A, 2A

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT

The Conservancy is dedicated to supporting and enhancing the communities of the Delta by funding and fostering community-based initiatives.

Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program

This grant program focuses on community and economic enhancement projects that address at least one of the following.

- Recreation and Tourism
- Historic and Cultural Preservation
- Environmental Education
- Public Access

The Conservancy has awarded eight grants through this program, five of which have already begun work. Additionally, the Conservancy is assisting four applicants to develop full proposals. The Conservancy will continue to accept concept proposals on an ongoing basis and will assist applicants to develop the concepts into full proposals as merited. Staff anticipates presenting the proposals currently in development to the Board for funding consideration in 2022. This program is funded through \$12,000,000 from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and \$5,250,000 from the General Fund allocation for Climate, Access, and Restoration.

Table 8: Community and Economic Enhancement Program

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Continue accepting concept proposals	Ongoing	3A, 3B, 3C
Assist applicants to develop full proposals	Ongoing	3A, 3B, 3C, 4B
Award new grants	Ongoing	3A, 3B, 3C
Manage grants	Ongoing	3A, 3B, 3C

Delta Marketing

The Conservancy and the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) partner in assisting Delta residents and businesses to develop sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities in the Delta. The Conservancy and the Commission worked with the Delta Marketing Task Force to create a Delta Tourism Awareness 5-Year

Marketing Plan in 2017, a Delta Sign Plan in 2018, and the Delta recreation and tourism website VisitCADelta.com. The Conservancy contracted with the Commission to implement components of the marketing and sign plans. In 2019, the Commission worked with the task force to design 11 “Welcome to the Delta” signs. In early 2022, Caltrans approved the encroachment and maintenance permits, and signs should be placed in 2022. In 2022, the Conservancy and the Commission will continue to support promotion of the Delta through participation on the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee and subsequent development of the National Heritage Area Management Plan. It is expected that the Management Plan will assume responsibility for managing VisitCADelta.com and that the Conservancy will support National Heritage Area-related implementation projects as appropriate. These initiatives are funded through general operations budget.

Table 9: Delta Marketing

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Install 11 signs per Delta Sign Plan	Qtr 2	1A, 3B
Participate on the National Heritage Area (NHA) Advisory Committee	Ongoing	3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B
Support NHA implementation projects as appropriate	Ongoing	3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B

ECOLOGICAL, CULTURAL, AND HISTORICAL EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT

Environmental, cultural, and historical education and enrichment are important components of the Delta Conservancy programs, and are reflected throughout the Conservancy’s initiatives. Current activities include social media posts (Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn), fact sheets and other collateral about projects, and promotions of campaigns such as Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week and Creek Week. In 2022, the Conservancy will continue to maintain and enhance its website; expand social media profiles; develop new educational materials, including fact sheets for Conservancy programs; increase participation in events in and of relevance to the Delta; and otherwise broaden outreach as resources and COVID-19 restrictions allow.

Delta Week

In 2018 and 2019, the Legislature designated a week in September as Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week. The designated week is a focus of Conservancy education and enrichment initiatives; past promotion included social media posts and a press release coordinated with Senator Bill Dodd’s office. In 2020, the Legislature did not make a formal designation for Delta Week due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Conservancy still promoted Delta Week through social media and blog posts. In 2022, the Conservancy looks to once again have the Legislature designate Delta Week, and Conservancy staff seeks to expand those efforts to potentially include a community activity, Delta Week-specific collateral, features in online and print publications, and possible media opportunities. These initiatives are funded through general operations budget.

Table 10: Delta Week

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Conduct education and enrichment for Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week	Qtr 3	1A, 3B, 4A, 4B
Education and enrichment via social media, events, and other opportunities	Ongoing	1A, 3B, 4A, 4B
Develop fact sheets for projects	Ongoing	1A, 3B, 4A

Waterway Cleanups

The Conservancy has historically participated in two annual waterway cleanup events: the Delta Waterway Cleanup and the Sacramento Area Creeks Council Creek Week Cleanup. The Conservancy partners with the Delta Protection Commission, the Sacramento Area Creeks Council, the California Coastal Commission, Sacramento County Parks, Sacramento Regional Sanitation District, California State Parks, and corporate and non-profit volunteer groups. The 2020 and 2021 cleanups were canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Conservancy will continue to participate in organizing and conducting these events as restrictions are eased and it is safe to do so. These initiatives are funded through general operations budget.

Table 11: Waterway Cleanups

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Plan and conduct clean-up events	Ongoing	1A, 4A, 4B
Collect and share data on types and amounts of trash in the Delta	Ongoing	1A, 4A, 4B

EFFECTIVE, SUSTAINABLE, ADAPTABLE, AND INCLUSIVE ORGANIZATION

The Conservancy is dedicated to maintaining an effective, sustainable, adaptable, and inclusive organization by engaging in the following initiatives.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

To meet the Delta Conservancy mission, we must understand the complex ways that underlying social and cultural issues impact the Delta community and our team. In 2022, the Conservancy will advance its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) goals through the existing Disability Advisory Committee (DAC), DEI staff meetings and trainings, and continued engagement with external Tribal Coordination teams.

In 2021, Conservancy staff started internal working groups with the goal to advance Conservancy staff's understanding of the social and cultural issues related to DEI. In 2022 Conservancy staff will continue to lead and participate in the internal working group for both DEI and DAC. Additionally, the Conservancy will elect a chair to facilitate updating DAC bylaws, set annual goals, and schedule quarterly meetings to address disability issues and concerns. These initiatives are funded through general operations budget.

Table 12: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion including Disability Advisory Committee and Tribal Coordination

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Update Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) bylaws (if needed), set annual goals, and meet quarterly	As Required	5A
Conduct Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Working Group meetings	Ongoing	5A
Develop a plan for engaging with organizations representing diverse communities within the Delta	Qtr 4	3B, 4A, 4B, 5A
Develop and adopt Tribal Coordination Policy	Qtr 4	3B, 4A, 4B, 5A

Administration

In 2022, the Conservancy staff and management will continue to complete required administrative and operational tasks, including COVID-19 pandemic reports and drills. Based on the organizational assessment report, completed in 2021, management will focus on incorporating team-building activities, increasing staff's enrollment in professional development trainings, and ensuring procedures and policies are easily accessible.

Staff and management together will focus on reorganizing the Conservancy’s shared drive, and developing, updating, maintaining processes, procedures, and policies, and creating division manuals. The Conservancy will also increase its tracking of legislative bills and assessment of their potential impacts on the Conservancy and the ability to achieve its mission and initiate the use of RAPTR, a grant management system and a time-tracking system. These initiatives are funded through general operations, Proposition 1, and Proposition 68 budget.

In 2022, the Conservancy management and staff will work in partnership to enhance the Conservancy as an engaging and effective organization. Based upon recommendations from an organizational assessment completed in 2021, the Conservancy will focus on enhancing staff’s experience through increased team-building opportunities, expanded opportunities for and engagement in professional development, and increased availability and usability of processes, procedures, policies, and manuals. Focusing on the organization, the Conservancy will increase efficiency and efficacy through improved management, organization, and accessibility of electronic files; establish a system for tracking legislative bills and assessing their impacts; and adopt the new Resources Agency Project Tracking and Reporting system to track and manage grants; and enhance tracking of personnel costs by project. In addition to these focused efforts, the Conservancy will continue to complete required administrative and operational tasks, including COVID-19 pandemic reports and drills.

These initiatives are funded through general operations, Proposition 1, and Proposition 68 budgets.

Table 13: Administration

2022 Tasks	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Submit State Leadership Accountability Act Biannual Implementation Plan	Qtrs 2 and 4	5B
Submit financial reports and information (e.g., budget building and bond accountability reporting)	As Required	5B
Share and submit human resource related documents and mandates	As Required	5A, 5B
Submit administrative and operational reports (e.g., State Agency Recycle Campaign and State Agency Waste Management Annual reports, Contracting Activity Report and Improvement Plans, Continuity Plan)	As Required	5A, 5B
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	5B
Submit required COVID-19 pandemic reports and drills for health and safety, human resources, budgets, and planning	As Required	5A, 5B
Ensure accessibility of Conservancy web content and public-facing documents	Ongoing	4A, 5A, 5B
Submit Federal indirect cost rate proposal	Qtr 4	5B
Develop Workforce Plan and Succession Plan	As Required	5A, 5B
Develop records retention schedule	Qtr 4	5B
Develop new/update existing policies	As	5A, 5B

	Required	
Seek and initiate opportunities for team-building activities	Ongoing	4A, 5A
Increase staff's enrollment in professional development trainings	Ongoing	5B
Develop, update, maintain processes, procedures, and policies, and create division manuals	Qtr 4	4A, 5B
Reorganize the Conservancy's shared drive	Qtr 4	5B
Establish legislative tracking system	Qtr 4	5B
Initiate RAPTR, a grant management system	Ongoing	5B
Initiate a time-tracking system	Qtr 3	5B



Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Update Staff Report

APPROVED PROJECT UPDATE

To date, the Conservancy has approved a total of 29 projects, committing approximately \$39.3 million for Proposition 1 grants. A brief overview of each grant cycle, including the status of each funded project for which there is a pending, active, or closed grant agreement, is provided herein.

Cycle 5 – Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The Conservancy's Cycle 5 full proposal solicitation closed on December 15, 2021. The Conservancy received eight full proposals, requesting \$4.7 million (see Figure 1 at the end of this document). Proposals have been scored internally by Conservancy staff and externally by expert reviewers. Conservancy staff will present funding recommendations to the Board at its July 2022 meeting.

Cycle 4 – Fiscal Year 2018-2019

The Board awarded approximately \$14.9 million for ten projects (eight planning and two implementation). Nine grant agreements have been executed; Conservancy staff is working with the one remaining Grantee to execute the final grant agreement.

Project Name	Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$2,263,472.00
County	Sacramento
Project ID	Prop 1-1801
Grantee	Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust
Overview	Acquire a conservation easement on 275 acres of farmland to ensure that it remains as wildlife friendly agriculture
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/29/2020
New Information	Grantee has recently completed an updated deliverables list with revised dates extending through 2023. Out of five tasks, Task One has been completed and Task Two is 75 percent complete.

Project Name	Blacklock Restoration: Phragmites Control Study (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$387,440
County	Solano
Project ID	Prop 1-1803
Grantee	Department of Water Resources
Overview	Test methods for controlling invasive species in future restoration at the Blacklock restoration site
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 3/17/2020
New Information	An amendment was executed on 4/15/2022 to move unspent funds from completed tasks to remaining tasks that require additional funding.

Project Name	Delta Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$347,481
County	Solano
Project ID	Prop 1-1804
Grantee	Solano Resource Conservation District
Overview	Planning for restoration and enhancement of waterways and edge habitats on working lands in Solano County
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/19/2019
New Information	Grantee has submitted an amendment request to the budget, scope, and term of the grant agreement (See Item 12 on the agenda for this Board meeting). Board approval of findings for project sites outside of the legal Delta is requested.

Project Name	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Project, Phase 2 (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$265,254
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	Prop 1-1806
Grantee	San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
Overview	Outreach and planning to advance the Paradise Cut Flood Bypass in San Joaquin County
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 9/23/2020
New Information	Grantee is preparing a scope of work for potential implementation funding from Department of Water Resources and is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding for San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency indicating its support for long-term local engagement for the project.

Project Name	Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$984,695
County	Yolo
Project ID	Prop 1-1807
Grantee	Reclamation District 999
Overview	Planning for habitat and flood control enhancements along Elk Slough
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 7/10/2020
New Information	Grantee has started work on the second phase of the project.

Project Name	Lower San Joaquin Riparian Corridor (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$522,027
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	Prop 1-1808
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along the lower San Joaquin River
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 5/3/2021
New Information	Grantee has finalized subcontracts and has filed a Delta Stewardship Council Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan.

Project Name	Marsh Creek Channel Restoration (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$519,494
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1809
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Planning for Marsh Creek floodplain and riparian habitat restoration
Grant Agreement Status	Withdrawn
New Information	The Grantee was unable to provide a landowner letter of support and withdrew their proposal on 03/16/2022.

Project Name	Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta-Carbona Project (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$750,931
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	Prop 1-1810
Grantee	Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
Overview	Planning for 30 acres of seasonally-inundated floodplain restoration
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/10/2020
New Information	Grantee has completed hydrodynamic modeling and is initiating the conceptual design process.

Project Name	Nutria Eradication Project, Phase 2 (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$8,483,080
County	Multiple
Project ID	Prop 1-1813
Grantee	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Overview	Surveys for and removal of invasive species to minimize or avoid impacts to wetland habitats and water quality.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 6/8/2020
New Information	An amendment was executed on 4/26/2022 to address changes in budget caused by the COVID 19 pandemic. The Nutria Detector Dog subcontractor task was moved from Nutria Eradication Project Phase 1 (Project ID 1718) to Phase 2, (Project ID 1813) due to a delay in the need for the subcontractor's services.

Project Name	Oakley Creekside Park Restoration (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$436,465
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1814
Grantee	City of Oakley
Overview	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along Marsh Creek
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/11/2020
New Information	Surveys and planning for regulatory permit applications are complete. Grantee is preparing an existing conditions report to summarize survey findings. Grantee submitted a Proposition 1 Cycle 5 concept proposal (Project ID P1-2208) but did not submit a full proposal for implementation funding.

Cycle 3 – Fiscal Year 2017-2018

The Board awarded approximately \$16.0 million for eight projects (four planning and four implementation). To date, two grants have closed.

Project Name	Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms: Improving aquatic habitat resiliency on working lands along the Sacramento River (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$647,701
County	Yolo
Project ID	Prop 1-1702
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Develop restoration design plans for seven different project sites at River Garden Farms to restore ecosystem function in floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitats and provide habitat connectivity on a working farm
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 1/22/2019
New Information	Grantee continues to develop design plans for floodplain sites. Plans for wetland and riparian sites are complete. Grantee is exploring Cutting the Green Tape statutory CEQA exemption for one riparian site that is otherwise ready for implementation (See Item 13 on the agenda for this Board meeting).

Project Name	Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$1,225,000
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1709
Grantee	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Overview	Advance planning for restoring wetlands and managing and treating storm water on public land in Knightsen
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 3/20/2019
New Information	An amendment was completed on 04/27/2022 that added \$200,000 to the total budget, extended the duration of the grant to November 30, 2023, and added additional hydrological modeling.

Project Name	Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$8,700,800
County	Sacramento
Project ID	Prop 1-1710
Grantee	Department of Water Resources
Overview	Restore wetland and riparian habitat to the 334-acre site by breaching the levee and reintroducing tidal and seasonal flooding, and by establishing native vegetation
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 4/30/2020
New Information	Grantee is completing final project design and permitting.

Project Name	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2 (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$990,543
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1711
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	This agreement has been cleared to expire on 6/30/22.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 7/26/2019
New Information	Grantee is installing plantings and irrigation system at Sungold Park.

Project Name	Stone Lakes Restoration Project (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$635,573
County	Sacramento
Project ID	Prop 1-1713
Grantee	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Overview	Planning to restore approximately 257 acres of seasonal wetland and 39 acres of riparian seasonal wetland, and enhance 20 acres of existing low-quality wetland on the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 4/2/2019
New Information	The grantee submitted an amendment to update the scope of work and the deliverables dates to be in line with the previous amendment which extended the funding timeline through 3/15/2023. This amendment was executed on 3/30/2022.

Project Name	Nutria Eradication Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$1,125,577
County	Multiple
Project ID	Prop 1-1718
Grantee	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Overview	Eliminate nutria from all known and discovered locations in California to prevent nutria from causing significant ecological damage in the Delta
Grant Agreement Status	Funding ended on 4/30/2022
New Information	An amendment to the scope and budget was executed on 4/25/2022. The Grantee requested to transfer the tasks and deliverables associated with the initiation of Nutria detector dogs from this agreement to the Nutria Eradication Project, Phase 2 (Project ID P1-1813). The project is complete. Conservancy staff are working to complete closeout.

Cycle 2 – Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The Board awarded approximately \$4.4 million for four projects (one planning and three implementation). To date, three grants have closed.

Project Name	Dutch Slough Revegetation (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$2,900,000
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1602
Grantee	Reclamation District 2137
Overview	Establish and maintain 468 acres of native tidal marsh, riparian, and grassland vegetation at the Dutch Slough restoration site
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 8/29/2019
New Information	This agreement has been cleared to expire as of 5/1/2022.

Cycle 1 – Fiscal Year 2015-2016

The Board awarded approximately \$3.9 million to seven projects (four planning and three implementation). To date, four grants have closed.

Project Name	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$2,026,814
County	Yolo
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-003
Grantee	Ducks Unlimited
Overview	Implement habitat and working landscape enhancements in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 6/18/2019
New Information	The project is complete. Conservancy staff are working to complete closeout. The Grantee submitted a Proposition 1 Cycle 5 proposal (Project ID P1-2207) for implementation funding of the remaining restoration sites.

Project Name	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$836,409
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-009
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Convert denuded flood control channel at the confluence of Marsh, Sand, and Deer Creeks into a healthy stream corridor
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 6/27/2017
New Information	The project is complete. Conservancy staff are working to complete closeout.

Project Name	Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$836,234
County	Yolo
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-016
Grantee	Yolo Resource Conservation District
Overview	Restore up to 5 miles (22 acres) of floodway-compatible wildlife and pollinator habitat, providing a transit corridor for wildlife during floods
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 1/24/2017
New Information	The Grantee is working to complete all replants and map completed plantings.

CLOSED PROJECTS

To date, a total of nine projects funded by Proposition 1 have fully closed (six planning, three implementation). To receive a copy of a final report, please submit a written request specifying the project(s) of interest to prop1grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

Project Name	Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$89,448 (\$2 unspent)
County	All Delta Counties
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-005
Grantee	California Land Stewardship Institute
Overview	Develop a program to work with farmers to improve water quality, that is specific to the crops and water quality concerns in Delta counties
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 10/9/2020
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Sherman Island Restoration Project, Phase III (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$93,599 (\$6,367 unspent)
County	Sacramento
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-008
Grantee	Ducks Unlimited
Overview	Develop plans and permits to restore up to 1,600 acres of wetlands on Sherman Island to provide habitat, reverse subsidence, and sequester carbon
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 3/1/2019
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review. Design plans are still current. Waiting for Phase II to be completed.

Project Name	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$99,924 (\$217 unspent)
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-012
Grantee	San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
Overview	Advance plans for a new flood bypass that will reduce flood risk, improve habitat, and maintain agricultural land along the San Joaquin River south of Paradise Cut
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 6/30/2019
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Lower Marsh and Sand Creek Watershed Restoration Planning Project (Planning)
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Project Name	Lower Marsh and Sand Creek Watershed Restoration Planning Project (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$73,493 (\$2,391 unspent)
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-019
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Create a Programmatic California Environmental Quality Act document for future restoration activities conducted by Grantee and their partners in the Marsh Creek and Sand Creek watersheds
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 12/31/2019
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review. The Programmatic Mitigated Negative Declaration, developed as part of this project, is being used during the planning of the Prop 1-1809 and Prop 1-1814 grants.

Project Name	Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$444,464 (\$1,398 unspent)
County	Solano
Project ID	Prop 1-1605
Grantee	Solano Resource Conservation District
Overview	Restore 13.5 acres of riparian habitat and improve water quality through improved cattle management practices on approximately 525 acres of active farmland along Lindsey Slough
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 2/11/2022
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Restoration of Priority Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Implementation)
Amount Spent	\$942,631 (\$145,798 unspent)
County	Sacramento
Project ID	Prop 1-1608
Grantee	Sacramento County Regional Parks
Overview	Restore 110 acres of freshwater wetlands to benefit listed species
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 1/28/2021
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Investigations of Restoration Techniques that Limit Invasion of Tidal Wetlands (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$104,452 (\$21,398 unspent)
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1612
Grantee	The Regents of the University of California (UC Davis)
Overview	Identify improved methods for tidal wetland revegetation that reduce invasion by non-native plants at Dutch Slough
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 11/30/2021
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Bay Point Habitat Restoration Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$2,100,000 (\$13,718 unspent)
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1701
Grantee	East Bay Regional Park District
Overview	Restore 44 acres of wetland and grassland and 5,595 linear feet of saline emergent marsh channel at Bay Point Regional Shoreline Park
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 12/31/2021
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$592,500 (\$886.63 unspent)
County	Yolo
Project ID	Prop 1-1712
Grantee	City of West Sacramento
Overview	Develop a detailed habitat restoration plan to restore disturbed riparian habitat, control non-native species, improve pond water quality, and improve the ability of the Bees Lakes area to support listed species
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 4/27/2021
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review. Grantee submitted a full proposal (Project ID P1-2201) for Cycle 5 implementation funding.

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program has \$50 million to support multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities. The Grant Program is a two-step process, requiring both a concept proposal and a full proposal. Full proposals are subject to a rigorous scoring and evaluation process by both staff and a professional review panel and are recommended for funding based upon score and funding availability.

CONTACT

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FIGURE 1. MAP OF PROPOSITION 1 PROJECTS

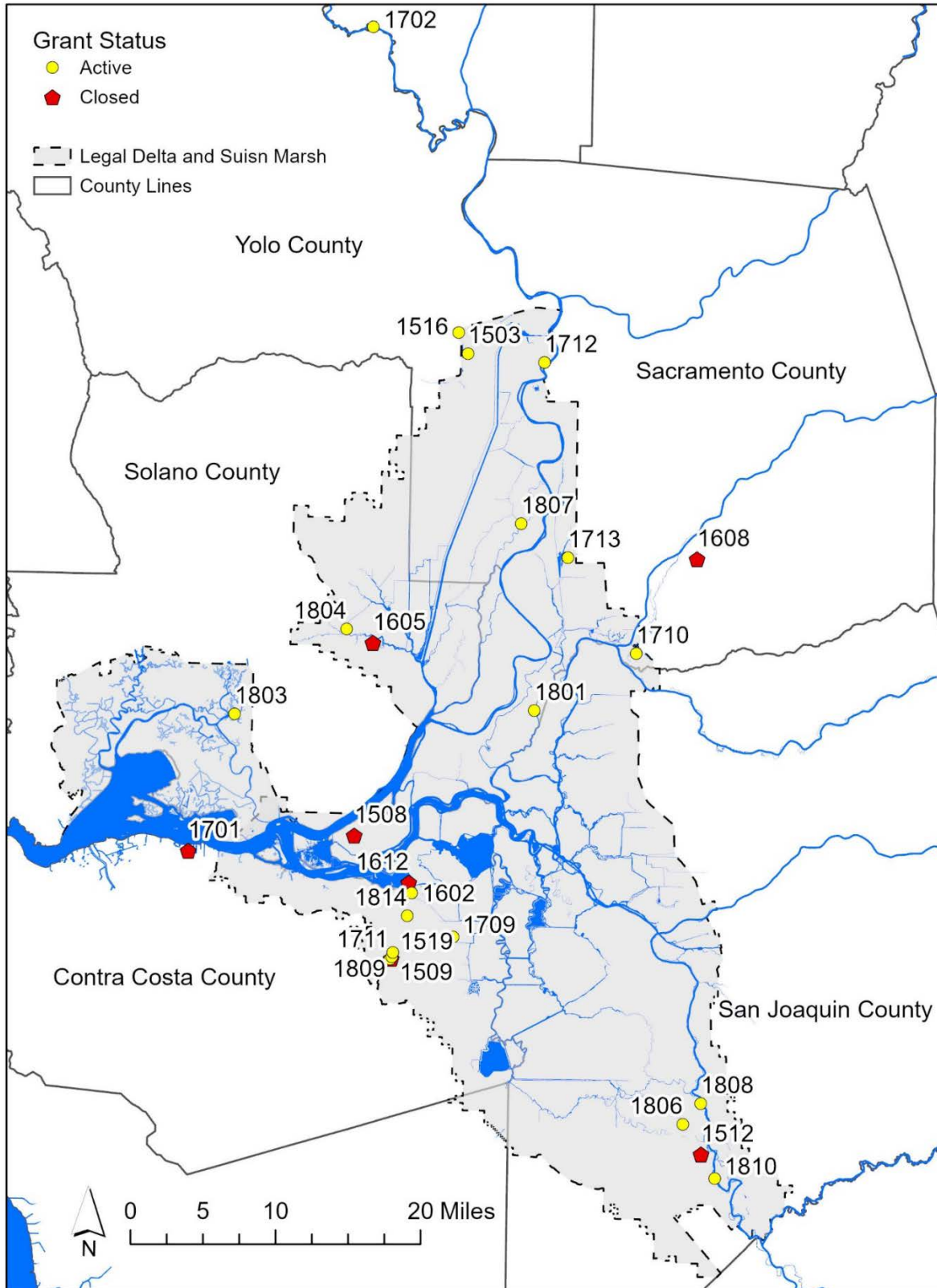


FIGURE 1: SUMMARY OF CYCLE 5 FULL PROPOSALS UNDER REVIEW

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	Funding Priority(ies)	Notes
P1-2203	Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access	East Bay Regional Park District	Planning	\$390,000	Contra Costa	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement; Water Quality Improvement	Applicant is a current grantee (Project ID P1-1701).
P1-2204	Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration	Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District	Implementation	\$427,706	Contra Costa	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement	None.
P1-2207	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement, Phase 2	Ducks Unlimited	Implementation	\$887,516	Yolo	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement; Water-Related Agricultural Sustainability	The first phase of this project was jointly funded by the Delta Conservancy (Project ID P1-1503), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Wildlife Conservancy Board.
P1-2208	Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration	Solano Resource Conservation District	Implementation	\$353,025	Solano	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement; Water Quality Improvement	Applicant is a current grantee (Project IDs P1-1605, P1-1804). Planning for this project was funded by the Delta Conservancy (Project ID P1-1804).
P1-2209	Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh	Suisun Resource Conservation District	Implementation	\$542,546	Solano	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement; Water Quality Improvement	Applicant applied for funding in Cycle 4 (Project ID P1-1811) and was not selected for funding.

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	Funding Priority(ies)	Notes
P1-2211	Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction	Contra Costa Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Planning	\$350,000	Contra Costa	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement; Water Quality Improvement	Applicant applied for funding in Cycle 3 (Project ID P1-1703) and was not selected for funding.
P1-2212	Van Buskirk Multi-Benefit Ecosystem Restoration	American Rivers	Planning	\$467,848	San Joaquin	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement	Applicant is a current and former grantee (Project IDs P1-1509, P1-1519, P1-1702, P1-1711, P1- 1808, P1-1809).



Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Update Staff Report

This agenda item provides an update on the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP), a collaborative effort between Delta water users, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Delta Watermaster, and the Delta Conservancy. The objective of the program is to reduce drought stress in the Delta watershed, protect Delta water quality, and improve mutual understanding of agricultural practices and water conservation opportunities in different regions within the Legal Delta.

UPDATE

The Delta Drought Response Pilot Program has been exceedingly successful, resulting in strong partnership with the Delta farming community, significant water savings and better understanding of viable water conservation practices. Between January 19, 2022, and March 4, 2022, the program received 85 project proposals and approved 33 projects, enrolling just over 8,800 acres with an estimated water savings of 22,000 acre feet and expending all of the available funding. The solicitation was closed on March 4. Funded projects included a wide variety of practices and were well distributed throughout the Legal Delta. Conservancy staff have executed all 33 grant agreements and initial invoices are being processed. A list of project summaries is attached. Staff continues to develop an interagency agreement with the University of California Davis to assist with data gathering, monitoring, and synthesis.

DESCRIPTION

The Delta Drought Response Pilot Program is in response to consecutive dry years, low combined storage in State and federal Project reservoirs, and drought-constrained water deliveries to Project contractors. Funds are available to incentivize agricultural water users in the Legal Delta to take actions expected to reduce crop consumptive water use and protect water quality. Water conserved through incentivized actions in the Pilot Program will be allocated to protecting Delta water quality and will not be available for diversion or exports. By rigorously monitoring the outcomes and impacts of a variety of actions in different settings throughout the Legal Delta, the Pilot Program will provide data to support targeted water conservation/quality protection responses during sustained and/or future droughts.

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy entered into an interagency agreement with DWR to transfer \$10,000,000 to the Conservancy to develop and implement the grant program. The Conservancy worked with DWR and the Delta Watermaster (Program Partners) to develop the solicitation and application package and launched the program in mid-January 2022. The program offered Delta water users \$900 per enrolled acre for practices that reduce consumptive water use. Qualifying actions include, but are not limited to: 1. Foregoing a planned cash crop (e.g., maintaining idled farmland with appropriate drainage and appropriate healthy soil protections); 2. Shifting irrigation practices to conserve water, reduce or adjust timing of diversions, increase reuse, and/or protect water quality (e.g., converting to 60" furrows on flood-irrigated crops, foregoing a portion of the irrigation cycle, or replacing flood irrigation with

subsurface irrigation); and 3. Shifting to less water-intensive crops (e.g., cultivating small grains such as winter wheat or safflower that require little or no diversion of surface water for irrigations, instead of a more water-intensive summer crop like corn or tomatoes).

The Program Partners established a Selection Committee that reviewed applications and made recommendations for funding based on guidance established by the Program Partners. Due to the time-sensitive nature of the program, Staff presented funding recommendations to the Conservancy Board Chair and Vice Chair for approval.

The Conservancy will enter into an interagency agreement with the University of California Davis to assist with data gathering, monitoring, and synthesis of data from the pilot projects to ensure information resulting from the program will inform best practices for water conservation in sustained or future drought. All data will be made accessible to the public.

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Figure 1. Draft Map of Drought Response Pilot Program

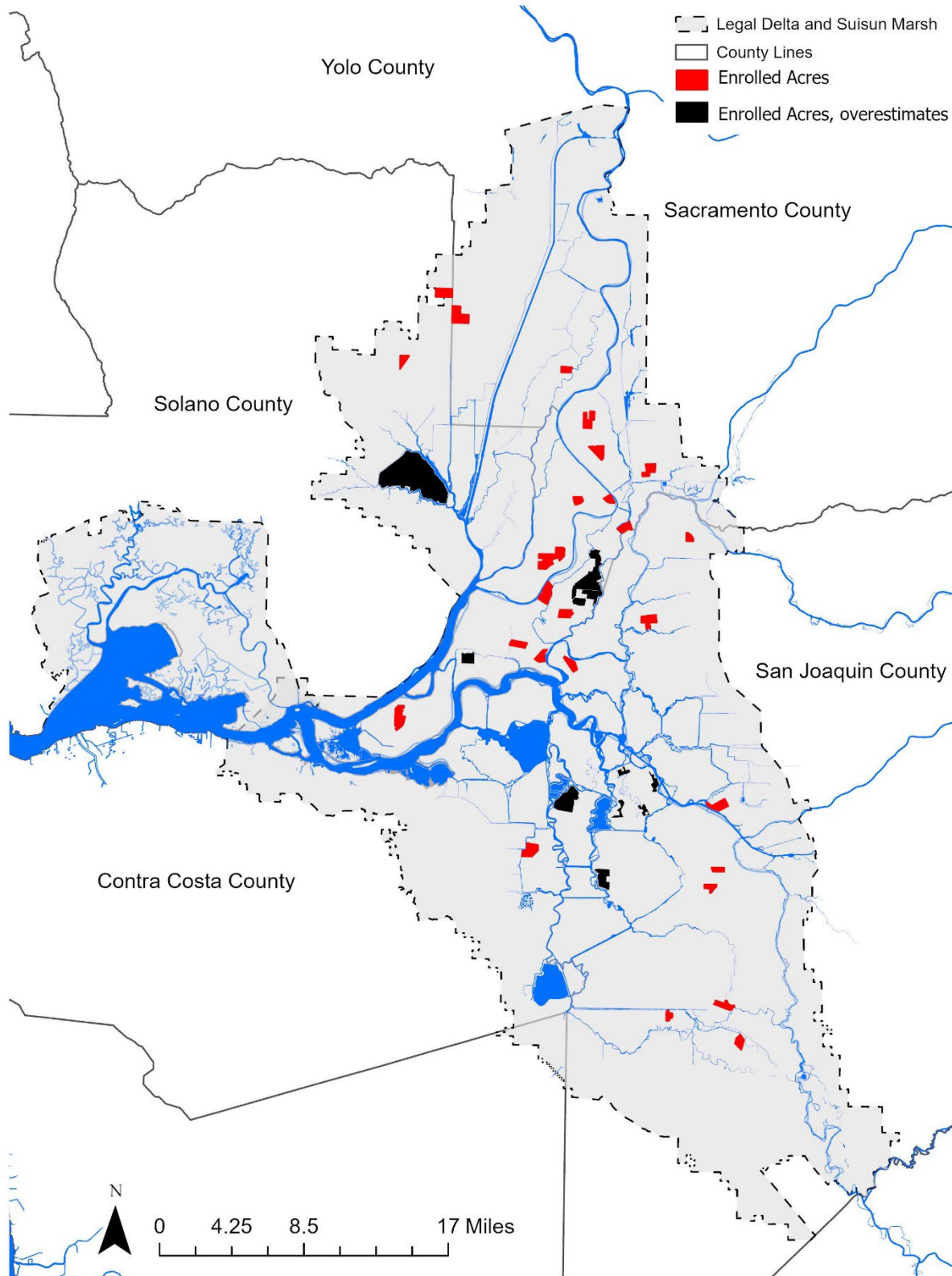


Figure 1 shows enrolled acreage (red) and over estimates of acreage (black) for which accurate maps are still being finalized. Two applications are not included in this draft of the map, but this data will be added when available.



Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Overview

PROJECT SUMMARIES

DDRPP04

- **Grantee:** Deadhorse LP
- **Amount Awarded:** \$167,400
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 186
- **Project Title:** Deferred Drainage and Unirrigated Crop Substitution

DDRPP07

- **Grantee:** J.H. Johnson & Sons, Inc.
- **Amount Awarded:** \$107,100
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 119
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Optimize Soil Cover

DDRPP08/09

- **Grantee:** Joe Sanchez Farms, Inc.
- **Amount Awarded:** \$226,800
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 252
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation of Alfalfa, and Rye Grass Hay and Pasture

DDRPP10

- **Grantee:** Mello Locke Ranch
- **Amount Awarded:** \$161,244
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 179.16
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation of Alfalfa

DDRPP11

- **Grantee:** Jackson Land & Cattle, LP
- **Amount Awarded:** \$292,500
- **County:** Contra Costa
- **Acres:** 325

- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Optimize Soil Cover at Jackson Ranch

DDRPP12

- **Grantee:** Ryan Katsuki
- **Amount Awarded:** \$274,725
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 305.25
- **Project Title:** Forego Corn Crop and Discontinue Irrigation of Triticale

DDRPP13

- **Grantee:** Aaron Beaver
- **Amount Awarded:** \$179,100
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 199
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Optimize Soil Cover

DDRPP14

- **Grantee:** Ross Rasmussen
- **Amount Awarded:** \$405,000
- **County:** Solano
- **Acres:** 450
- **Project Title:** Discontinue Irrigation of Pasture

DDRPP15

- **Grantee:** Knob Hill Mines, Inc. dba Hastings Island Land Company
- **Amount Awarded:** \$337,500
- **County:** Solano
- **Acres:** 375
- **Project Title:** Install Drip Irrigation and Safflower

DDRPP17

- **Grantee:** Jaques Brothers Farming Co.
- **Amount Awarded:** \$147,600
- **County:** San Joaquin
- **Acres:** 164
- **Project Title:** Single Mid-summer Irrigation of Mature Alfalfa

DDRPP22

- **Grantee:** Jaques Brothers Farming Co.
- **Amount Awarded:** \$180,000
- **County:** San Joaquin
- **Acres:** 200
- **Project Title:** Forego a Second Carrot Crop; Manage Prior Crop Residue

DDRPP25

- **Grantee:** Hubert Denis VanDeMaele
- **Amount Awarded:** \$317,700
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 353
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation in Fields and Optimize for Dryland Barley and Corn

DDRPP26

- **Grantee:** KC Farming LLC
- **Amount Awarded:** \$400,500
- **County:** Solano
- **Acres:** 445
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Optimize Soil Cover

DDRPP28

- **Grantee:** Anna Solari
- **Amount Awarded:** \$243,000
- **County:** San Joaquin
- **Acres:** 270
- **Project Title:** Severely Limit or Withhold Surface Irrigation; Maintain Ground Cover

DDRPP31

- **Grantee:** Coleman M. Foley, Jr.
- **Amount Awarded:** \$405,000
- **County:** San Joaquin
- **Acres:** 450
- **Project Title:** Forgo Corn Planting and Maintain Healthy Soil Cover

DDRPP33

- **Grantee:** Mike Stokes Farming LLC
- **Amount Awarded:** \$90,900
- **County:** San Joaquin
- **Acres:** 101
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Optimize Soil Cover

DDRPP34

- **Grantee:** D&L Farms, Inc.
- **Amount Awarded:** \$450,000
- **County:** San Joaquin
- **Acres:** 500
- **Project Title:** Reducing Irrigation Using Different Crops

DDRPP35/41

- **Grantee:** Steven Dinelli
- **Amount Awarded:** \$343,638
- **Counties:** Sacramento and San Joaquin
- **Acres:** 381.82
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation of Grain Corn and Optimize for Dryland Grain Corn Crops

DDRPP37

- **Grantee:** Dennis Katsuki/DK Ag
- **Amount Awarded:** \$323,100
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 359
- **Project Title:** Forego Irrigation of 162 Acres of Triticale, and 197 Acres of Barley

DDRPP39

- **Grantee:** Richard Carli
- **Amount Awarded:** \$179,190
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 199.1
- **Project Title:** Forgo Corn Planting and Maintain Healthy Soil Cover

DDRPP40

- **Grantee:** Zuckerman Family Farms
- **Amount Awarded:** \$450,000
- **County:** San Joaquin
- **Acres:** 500
- **Project Title:** Forego Planting Corn on 500 acres, Plant Non-irrigated Small Grains (Triticale and Barely)

DDRPP42

- **Grantee:** Doug Chan Farms
- **Amount Awarded:** \$432,900
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 481
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Optimize Soil Cover

DDRPP44

- **Grantee:** Tyler II TIC
- **Amount Awarded:** \$214,200
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 238
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Plant Dryland Safflower

DDRPP45

- **Grantee:** Anthony Borba
- **Amount Awarded:** \$94,500
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 105
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Optimize Soil Cover

DDRPP46

- **Grantee:** Wallace Chan Farms, Inc.
- **Amount Awarded:** \$159,300
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 177
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Plant Dryland Safflower

DDRPP47

- **Grantee:** John C. Backer
- **Amount Awarded:** \$119,700
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 133
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Optimize Soil Cover

DDRPP48

- **Grantee:** Vincent Chavier
- **Amount Awarded:** \$255,600
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 284
- **Project Title:** Forgo Corn Planting and Maintain Healthy Soil Cover

DDRPP49

- **Grantee:** Del Carlo Farms, Inc.
- **Amount Awarded:** \$214,200
- **County:** San Joaquin
- **Acres:** 238
- **Project Title:** Forego Planting Tomatoes, Plant Non-Irrigated Safflower

DDRPP51

- **Grantee:** Louis Biagioni
- **Amount Awarded:** \$157,500
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 175
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Optimize Soil Cover

DDRPP52

- **Grantee:** Bruce Gornto
- **Amount Awarded:** \$180,000
- **County:** Sacramento
- **Acres:** 200
- **Project Title:** Forgo Irrigation of Existing Alfalfa and Plant Wheat

DDRPP57

- **Grantee:** Frank D. Mills
- **Amount Awarded:** \$254,700
- **County:** San Joaquin County
- **Acres:** 283
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Optimize Soil Cover

DDRPP59

- **Grantee:** Dutra Hay & Grain
- **Amount Awarded:** \$112,500
- **County:** Yolo
- **Acres:** 125
- **Project Title:** Forgo Irrigation on Existing Alfalfa

DDRPP60

- **Grantee:** Rivercrest Nut Co. LP
- **Amount Awarded:** \$90,000
- **County:** San Joaquin
- **Acres:** 100
- **Project Title:** Eliminate Irrigation and Optimize Soil Cover



**Community Enhancement Grant Programs Update
Staff Report**

PROGRAM UPDATE

The term “Community Enhancement Program” refers to a collection of projects that support and enhance communities and economies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh. Projects in this program are funded through the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and the Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Program funds. The Proposition 68 Grant Program is designed to promote a robust Delta economy, support the vitality of Delta communities, and allow staff to provide guidance to project proponents as they develop proposals to meet these goals. Of the \$12 million allocated to the Conservancy, a minimum of \$8.7 million is available for grants. The CAR Grant Program is a General Fund allocation and is designed to promote multi-benefit projects within the areas of climate resiliency, public access, and natural resources restoration. Of the \$5.25 million allocated to the Conservancy, a minimum of \$4,987,500 is available for projects.

As of May 11, 2022, there are five active projects, three awarded projects, three working proposals, and five inactive proposals. The total amount of funding for active projects, awarded projects, and working proposals is \$8,613,419.

In the following tables, the DAC/SDAC designations indicates whether the project serves a disadvantaged community (DAC) or a severely disadvantaged community (SDAC), as confirmed by the Delta Conservancy SDAC policy. Proposition 68 requires that 20 percent of the allocation go to projects that support SDAC communities; twenty percent of the Delta Conservancy’s allocation is \$2,400,000. Of the \$3,609,396 for active, awarded, or requested Proposition 68 projects, \$3,271,553 (91 percent) are expected to support SDAC communities.

ACTIVE PROJECTS (TOTAL AMOUNT OBLIGATED: \$2,861,213)

Project Name	Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse & Delta Welcome Center (Acquisition)
Amount Awarded	\$310,373
County	Yolo
Project ID	P6802
Grantee	Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
Overview	Acquire 1.13-acre parcel to serve as the permanent home of the restored 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 05/02/2022
New Information	Grantee is working with seller to complete land acquisition.

Project Name	Southport Levee Recreational Trail (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$337,863
County	Yolo
Project ID	P6803
Grantee	City of West Sacramento
Overview	Create planning documents for preparation of paving of 5.6 miles of levee top for recreational use
DAC/SDAC	Neither
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/20/2021
New Information	The consultant team developed a draft Opportunities and Constraints map for an April stakeholder meeting; over 20 people participated, providing feedback that is being incorporated into three concept plans for the Project.

Project Name	Pittsburg Boat Launch Facility & Central Harbor Park Upgrade (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$172,155
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	P6804
Grantee	City of Pittsburg
Overview	Create planning documents for preparation of recreational and safety enhancements to the Boat Launch Facility & Central Harbor Park
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 10/01/2021
New Information	The grantee developed two design alternatives for the Project, and held a community event in April. Over 40 residents participated and results were shared with the City's Waterfront and Economic Development Subcommittee, and direction was given to R.E.Y. Engineers to complete the 35 percent design plans.

Project Name	Asian American Heritage Park Development (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$554,772
County	Sacramento
Project ID	P6811
Grantee	Delta Educational Cultural Society
Overview	Create a .07-acre park that will include culturally relevant objects and interpretive exhibits on the history and heritage of the Chinese and Japanese immigrants who once occupied the Asian American Historic District of Isleton
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 03/11/2022
New Information	The grantee is working on setting up their office in the newly-restored Quong Wo Sing building. They are working with a web designer to showcase the Project and are also working on a contract for the landscaping contractor.

Project Name	Pacific Flyway Center: Walk in the Marsh (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$1,486,050
County	Solano
Project ID	CAR01
Grantee	Pacific Flyway Fund
Overview	Build three miles of ADA-compliant hiking trails, boardwalks, and educational signage throughout restored wetlands in Suisun March
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 03/22/2022
New Information	The grantee's engineering firms have reconciled all requests and comments from the Army Corp of Engineers and permitting is on track. Pacific Gas and Electric completed their engineering plans to provide three-phase power to the site.

APPROVED PROJECTS (TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED: \$2,010,956)

Project Name	Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$44,500
County	Sacramento
Project ID	P6805
Grantee	Isleton Museum
Overview	Purchase museum-quality display cases to house historical artifacts within the Isleton Museum, located in the newly-renovated Bing Kong Tong Building.
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	Signed grant agreement expected in July

Project Name	Discover the Delta Education Center (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$223,456
County	Sacramento
Project ID	P6806
Grantee	Discover the Delta Foundation
Overview	Update 2009 building plans to meet current building codes and obtain updated approvals and permits to implement construction of the Delta Education Center.
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	Signed grant agreement expected in July

Project Name	Clarksburg Schoolhouse Restoration and Delta Welcome Center (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$1,743,000
County	Yolo
Project ID	P6813
Grantee	Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
Overview	Restore the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse (fully-restored building, interior and exterior displays, and landscaping) and develop a Delta Welcome Center.
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	Signed grant agreement expected in July

WORKING PROPOSALS (TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$3,741,250)

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	DAC/SDAC	Proposal Status
P6808	Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments	Sacramento County	Planning	\$223,277	Sacramento	SDAC	Before the board
CAR02	Bees Lakes Public Access	City of West Sacramento	Implementation	\$2,422,484	Yolo	Neither	Under review
CAR03	Conversion of Non-Farmable Land to Reduce Green House Gas Emissions	Metropolitan Water District	Implementation	\$1,095,489	San Joaquin	DAC	Developing full proposal

INACTIVE PROPOSALS (TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$4,098,911)

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	DAC / SDAC	Status
P6807	Clarksburg Branch Line Trail	City of West Sacramento	Planning	\$250,000	Yolo	Neither	On hold per applicant request
P6812	Stockton Waterways	Port of Stockton	Planning	\$900,000	San Joaquin	SDAC	Project being reconsidered by applicant
P6815	Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Project	East Bay Regional Park District	Planning	\$390,000	Contra Costa	SDAC	Under Prop. 1 review

BACKGROUND

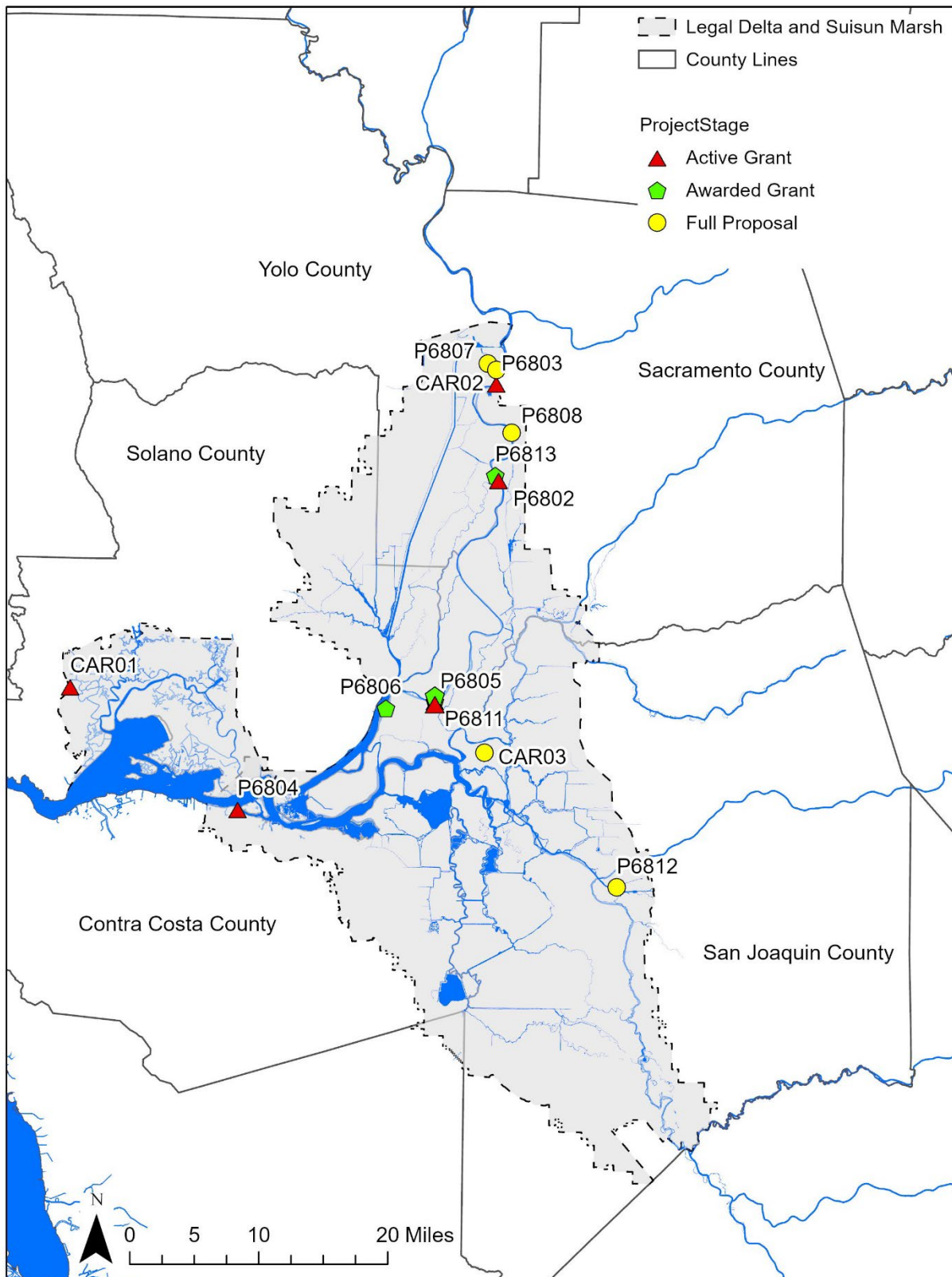
Proposition 68 is the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 45) that was passed by California voters on June 5, 2018. Proposition 68 makes \$12,000,000 available to the Conservancy to use for the purposes specified in its governing statute (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act, Public Resources Codes, Division 22.3). The Conservancy is using the Proposition 68 allocation to fund projects in the Conservancy’s Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program that support community and economic development in the Delta in a manner that is complementary to ecosystem restoration and other Conservancy programs. The grant program began accepting concept proposals on January 6, 2020.

Chaptered on September 23, 2021, the Budget Act of 2021 (Senate Bill 170, Item 3875-101-0001 of Section 2.00) provided the Conservancy with \$5,250,000 for projects that support climate resiliency, community access, and natural resource restoration activities (collectively known as Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Funding).

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FIGURE 1. MAP OF LOCATION AND STATUS OF COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS PROJECTS





**Request for Approval to Enter into an Interagency Agreement with the Regents of the University of California for \$1,497,611 to Provide Monitoring Support for the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program
Staff Report**

This agenda item provides background on a proposed interagency agreement with the Regents of the University of California to monitor impacts of water conservation practices on field-level water budgets (10.1) and the draft Scope of Work and Tasks for the agreement (10.2). The content of the Scope of Work and Tasks is final, but minor writing changes may still occur during final review.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Executive Officer to execute the proposed interagency agreement with the Regents of the University of California.

DESCRIPTION

The proposed interagency agreement (Contract) between the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) and the Regents of the University of California (Davis, hereafter University) for \$1,497,611 would measure and estimate water budgets for up to six fields in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) in support of the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP). The University and the Delta Conservancy will work with the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP) Oversight Committee to choose six field sites that can provide data to verify how different water conservation strategies affect field-level water budgets. A Field Selection Memorandum will document the rationale behind the fields identified for the study.

For each field site, the University shall acquire and install one set of research-grade eddy covariance, biometeorological, and soil measurement equipment to continuously measure and monitor micrometeorological conditions including evapotranspiration and carbon dioxide exchange. In addition to continuous evapotranspiration measurements, the University shall equip each field with the proper instruments to collect the following measurements that will enable the calculation of the full water budget: continuous soil moisture to be monitored at six locations that provide vertical profiles at nine depths down to 40 inches, soil core sampling twice per year at multiple locations across each field to quantify change in soil moisture storage at depths down to eight feet, which will account for depths beyond the root zone), local precipitation, applied water through irrigation, and runoff. Before the initiation of any sampling, the University will work with each individual landowner across the six fields to explain the full sampling schedule, the spatial extent and locations of sampling equipment, and field access needs for sampling. Due to supply chain delays in obtaining equipment, in the first year, the University will be working with data available from previous studies of annual crops in the Delta and use common modeling approaches and available data ([OpenET](#)), to estimate evapotranspiration. In the following project years, the University anticipates including the full deployment of field equipment to refine the model and remote sensing ET estimates.

After collecting data, the University shall calculate the monthly water budget for each field. The University shall analyze and perform quality assurance and quality control on collected field data (including, but not limited to, plant evapotranspiration, soil evaporation, precipitation, irrigation, carbon dioxide emission/sequestration, soil water storage, shallow groundwater level, and runoff). In the final year of the agreement, the University shall submit a Water Budget Calculations Memorandum to the Delta Conservancy documenting and summarizing the field measurements and calculations.

OpenET is a service that uses best available science to provide easily accessible satellite-based estimates of evapotranspiration for improved water management across the western United States. The water budgets calculated for each of the field sites will also be used to assess the application of OpenET to estimate consumptive water use of these six fields, recommend improvements to OpenET, and recommend improvements to the calculation of the OpenET ensemble value as applicable. The University shall use eddy covariance systems as the most direct way to measure evapotranspiration and CO₂ exchange known to the date, to ground truth the OpenET remote sensing product as an ensemble of multiple remote sensing products and evaluate the individual products involved in OpenET estimation of crop water use. The scope of this task will depend on the products and data provided by OpenET, which will either be via the publicly available products or the application programming interface (API). The University shall develop a OpenET Remote Sensing Evapotranspiration Memorandum to document the comparison between the ground measurements and the remote sensing products used in OpenET methodology.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

Move the Board authorize the Executive Officer to enter into an interagency agreement with the Regents of the University of California to Provide Monitoring Support for the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program.

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Request for Approval to Enter into an Interagency Agreement with the Regents of the University of California for \$1,497,611 to Provide Monitoring Support for the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program

Scope of Work and Tasks

SCOPE OF WORK

The Regents of the University of California Davis (University) shall assist the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (State) to (1) measure and estimate water budgets for up to six fields in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and (2) assess the application of OpenET to estimate consumptive water use of these six fields, recommend improvements to OpenET, and recommend improvements to the calculation of the OpenET ensemble value as applicable. The University and the State will work with the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP) Oversight Committee to choose six field sites. Before the initiation of any sampling, the University will work with each individual landowner across the six fields to explain the full sampling schedule, the spatial extent and locations of sampling equipment, and field access needs for sampling. For each field site, the University shall acquire and install one set of research-grade eddy covariance, biometeorological, and soil measurement equipment to continuously measure and monitor micrometeorological conditions including evapotranspiration and CO₂ exchange. In addition to continuous evapotranspiration measurements, the University shall equip each field with the proper instruments to collect the following measurements that will enable the calculation of the full water budget: (1) continuous soil moisture to be monitored at six locations that provide vertical profiles at nine depths down to 40 inches, (2) soil core sampling twice per year at multiple locations across each field to quantify change in soil moisture storage at depths down to eight feet, which will account for depths beyond the root zone), (3) local precipitation, (4) applied water through irrigation, and (5) runoff. After collecting data, the University shall calculate the monthly water budget for each field

TASKS

Task 1 – Coordination for field selection

The University shall attend up to three (3) 1-hour meetings related to field selection with the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP) Oversight Committee or other group formed and designated by the State. Based on criteria proposed by the University, the University shall prioritize fields recommended for measurements. The DDRPP Oversight Committee and the University will consider representative crop types (including field fallowing), irrigation types and status, and field size (minimum 20 acres because large and uniform sites increase data quality from eddy covariance measurements). A Field Selection Memorandum (Deliverable 1.1) will document the rationale behind the fields identified for the study. Due to supply chain delays in obtaining equipment, in the first year, the University will be working with data available from

previous studies of annual crops in the Delta, and use common modeling approaches (i.e., various levels of theoretical complexity for suite of estimates) and OpenET, to estimate ET. In the following project years, the University anticipates including the full deployment of field equipment to refine the model and remote sensing ET estimates.

Task 2 – Instrumentation and Measurement

The University will enter into agreements (either formal or informal) with each individual landowner to host the sampling equipment for two or more consecutive years. For each of the six selected fields, the University shall install measurement systems to collect data on a half-hourly basis: (1) one eddy covariance system to measure evapotranspiration and carbon dioxide dynamics, (2) one rain gauge per field to continuously measure precipitation, (3) six vertical profile sensors for soil moisture measurements at nine depths using Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR) down to 40 inches below surface, and (4) one pressure transducer in a shallow well at each field to monitor the shallow groundwater table (down to 8 feet below surface if possible). At the beginning and end of each growing season, across all six fields the University shall conduct soil core samples at multiple locations within each field site for depths down to eight feet (unless there are limitations at individual fields such as tile drainage system being lower than 8 ft) to measure soil water storage beyond the root zone. The soil samples will be used as a backup method to determine the change in soil water storage if the soil moisture profile sensors fail or are damaged. In addition, the University shall deploy either self-logging flowmeters or weirs with pressure transducers at the inlet and outlet of each field to quantify irrigation applications and potential surface runoff, depending on the irrigation type and need for selected sites.

During the entire measurement period, the University shall download data daily by remote access. Approximately every 14 days, instrumentation will be maintained and repaired, and data will be directly downloaded. To avoid data loss, the University will aim to repair equipment within 72 hours if an outage occurs. The University will alert the State promptly via email about any data gaps greater than 72 hours. The University shall download data and conduct quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) to review collected data on a regular basis and maintain the collection of data during the full year. The University shall regularly submit all field measurement records in MS Excel spreadsheet or another agreed upon format (Deliverable 2.1).

On behalf of the Principal Investigator (Suvočarev), The University may purchase equipment under this Agreement only if specified in the budget tables in Exhibit B and equipment will only be considered for purchase approval if no other equipment under the purview of the University Principal Investigator (Suvočarev) is available and suitable for the project. Equipment includes nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one (1) year and an approximate unit price of \$5,000 or more, as well as theft-sensitive items of equipment costing less than \$5,000 (such as electronics). All equipment purchased or built by the University is owned by the University during the Funding Term. The University is required to provide documentation that the equipment costs are fair and reasonable and maintain accountability for all property purchased and to keep, and make available to the State, adequate and appropriate records of all equipment purchased with funds from this agreement.

The State may, at its option, repair any damage or replace any lost or stolen items and deduct the cost thereof from the University's invoice to the State, or require the University to repair or replace any damaged, lost, or stolen equipment to the satisfaction of the State with no expense to the State. In the event of theft, a report must be filed immediately with the California Highway Patrol (State Administrative Manual (SAM), § 8643). During the field deployment, the University shall build a protective fence around the eddy covariance towers for improved equipment safety.

The University shall maintain an inventory record for each piece of equipment purchased with funds provided under the terms of this Agreement, which shall be submitted to the State by the University (Deliverable 2.2). At a minimum, the inventory record of each piece of equipment shall include:

- a) The date acquired.
- b) The cost of the equipment, including the cost of any necessary accessories and all incidental costs incurred to put the asset into place and ready for its intended use.
- c) A serial number.
- d) The model identification number (on purchased equipment).
- e) Any other information or description of the equipment.
- f) Identification of the Agreement number under which the equipment is acquired.
- g) The location, use, and condition of the equipment.
- h) Any ultimate disposition information including date of disposal and sale price of the equipment.

If the fair market value of equipment purchased with these funds is \$5,000 or more per item at the Funding End Date of this Agreement or if the equipment is theft-sensitive, the use and management of the equipment after the Funding Term is subject to approval by the State. Title may be retained by the University or State upon end of the Funding Term; final disposition will be determined and approved by the State. The University agrees to promptly initiate arrangements to account for and return said equipment if required by State.

- a) A request for disposition of equipment shall be submitted in writing to the State for approval, not less than 90 calendar days prior to the Funding End Date. The request shall include:
 - The current fair market value of each piece of equipment purchased with grant funds.
 - A description of the proposed disposition.

- b) Requests shall be approved or denied, or an alternate disposition offered, by the University no later than 60 business days from the date the request for disposition is received.

Should this Agreement be cancelled for any reason, any equipment purchased with grant funds may be retained by the University or State, at the State's sole discretion. The University agrees to promptly initiate arrangements to account for and return said equipment if required by the State.

Task 3 – Data Analysis and Water Budget Calculation

The University shall analyze and perform QA/QC on collected field data (including, but not limited to, plant evapotranspiration, soil evaporation, precipitation, irrigation, carbon dioxide emission/sequestration, soil water storage, shallow groundwater level, and runoff) monthly (see Deliverable 2.1). The University shall provide water budget calculations monthly, or other frequency agreed upon in writing by the State, for each of the six experimental fields over the entire measurement period, and inform the State of the draft results monthly or at another frequency agreed upon in writing by the State. The shallow well with pressure transducer will be used for monitoring shallow ground water levels, down to 8 feet (unless there is a limitation in digging to the depth of 8 ft, in which case the well will be installed at lower depth). In the final year of the agreement, the University shall submit one draft (Deliverable 3.1) and one final (Deliverable 3.2) Water Budget Calculations Memorandum to the State documenting and summarizing the field measurements and calculations.

Task 4 – Ground Truth OpenET Based on Direct Measurements

The University shall use eddy covariance systems (including 3D sonic anemometers, infrared gas analyzers, four-component net radiometers, and soil heat flux instrumentation), as the most direct way to measure evapotranspiration and CO₂ exchange known to the date, to ground truth the OpenET remote sensing product as an ensemble of multiple remote sensing products and evaluate the individual products involved in OpenET estimation of crop water use. QA/QC, energy balance closure analysis, and correction will be performed on the eddy covariance data. The scope of this task will depend on the products and data provided by OpenET, which will either be via the publicly available products or the application programming interface (API). The University shall develop a draft (Deliverable 4.1) and final (Deliverable 4.2) OpenET Remote Sensing Evapotranspiration Memorandum to document the comparison between the ground measurements and the remote sensing products used in OpenET methodology.

Task 5 – Meetings and Presentations

The University shall prepare for and attend up to ten (10) project meetings per year in the Delta Region. The purpose of these meetings can include, but is not limited to, updating and problem solving with the DDRPP Oversight Committee or briefing to the stakeholders. The University shall develop meeting materials (Deliverable 5.1) including agendas and presentations in MS PowerPoint format. Finally, the University will follow up each meeting with notes (Deliverable 5.2).

Task 6 – Contract Management

The University shall submit to the State quarterly progress reports (Deliverable 6.1) and invoices (Deliverable 6.2). Invoices shall adhere to the guidelines set out in the University Terms and Conditions. The University shall document all activities and expenditures in quarterly progress reports, including work performed by subcontractors. Progress Report shall directly address tasks, timelines, deliverables, and associated costs as scheduled in Scope of Work and Budget; deliverables should be included as attachments to the report. The description of activities shall be in sufficient detail to provide a basis for payment of invoices. The State reserves the right to require reports more frequently than quarterly, if necessary, but no more than once a month. The University must submit a Draft Final Report (Deliverable 6.3) to the State for review and approval no less than 30 days prior to the Funding End Date. The Draft Final Report shall use a report template provided by the State and will summarize the life of the Agreement and describe the results of the work and of the project. Following any comments from the State, the University shall submit the revised Final Report (Deliverable 6.4) for review and approval within 60 days after the Funding End Date. A final Progress Report will also be due at the time of the Final Report. The University must post the Final Report on their website and submit the link to the State.



**Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for the Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments Planning Project
Staff Recommendation**

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program funding for the Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments Planning Project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Applicant	County of Sacramento
Project ID	P6808
Project Type	Planning
County	Sacramento
Funding Request	\$223,277
Total Project Cost	\$223,277
Funding Recommendation	\$223,277

RECOMMENDATION

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$223,277 in grant funding for the Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments project (P6808) proposed by the County of Sacramento. Conservancy staff prepared the text below based on staff's best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with members of the County of Sacramento. Staff followed the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Grant Guidelines, approved by the Conservancy Board December 2019, in working with the applicant and assessing this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

The Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments project is a two phase project that seeks to ultimately install two gateway monuments (freestanding structure or sign) and one interpretive sign in the unincorporated community of Freeport. The purpose of the project is to highlight Freeport's role as: one of the eleven designated Legacy Communities in the Delta; the Northern Gateway to the Delta; the last leg of the National Memorial Victory Highway; and an important historical role in the California gold rush. This proposal (Phase One) will develop a conceptual signage plan, conduct community outreach, prepare preliminary design, and complete environmental clearance for the second phase of the project. The exact gateway monument types will be determined during the Phase One effort. The County will also seek to obtain Caltrans preliminary approval for the project concept and signage infrastructure located within their State right-of-way. The subsequent Phase Two effort, not part of this grant proposal, will include right-of-way acquisition, final design, and construction contract award, implementation, and project management.

Environmental Compliance

This planning project is not considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project does include the completion of the CEQA process for the implementation phase of the project (Phase Two). The County will act as the CEQA Lead Agency and expects to prepare an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for Phase Two of the project.

Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC)

Proposition 68 requires that at least 20 percent of all funding be spent on projects that serve severely disadvantaged communities, which are defined as “a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average” (PRC 45 Sec. 80008(a)(1)). Located in Sacramento County, at the intersection of Cosumnes River Boulevard and Freeport Boulevard (State Route 160), the Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments project serves a severely disadvantaged community.

Cost Share

Although the County of Sacramento will not contribute cost share, it is notable that they have secured considerable commitments of time, labor, donations, and monetary support for other components of the project as described in the Local and Institutional Support section above.

CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND LOCAL PRIORITIES

The project is consistent with Proposition 68 and the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code sections 32300-32381) and strategic plan. This project is consistent with priorities outlined in the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan and the Delta Protection Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan.

LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Residents and businesses in the Freeport community established the Freeport Citizens Community, a citizens advisory committee to spearhead the renovation of Freeport. Working with the County, the committee is an important supporter of this project, providing their dedication, time, and expertise to the project. Additionally, the project has wide community support, as evidenced by 17 letters of support from local businesses, community organizations, and area governments, including Delta Legacy Communities, Delta Shores Development, California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau, County of Sacramento, Regional Parks, and a number of local businesses in and around Freeport.

BACKGROUND

Proposition 68 is the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Public Resources Code Division 45) that made \$12,000,000 available to the Conservancy for uses specified in its governing statute (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act, Public Resources Codes, Division 22.3). The Conservancy will use Proposition 68 funds to support projects in the Conservancy's Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program. Unlike competitive grant programs, this program was designed to allow Conservancy staff to collaborate with project applicants to develop proposals that meet the Conservancy and Proposition 68 goals. When applicants submit concept proposals, staff review the proposal to assess viability and appropriateness with program goals. If the concept proposal is suitable, staff then guide applicants

as they develop a full proposal for consideration of Proposition 68 funding. The Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments project is the eighth full proposal staff has presented for the Conservancy Board to consider an award of grant funds.

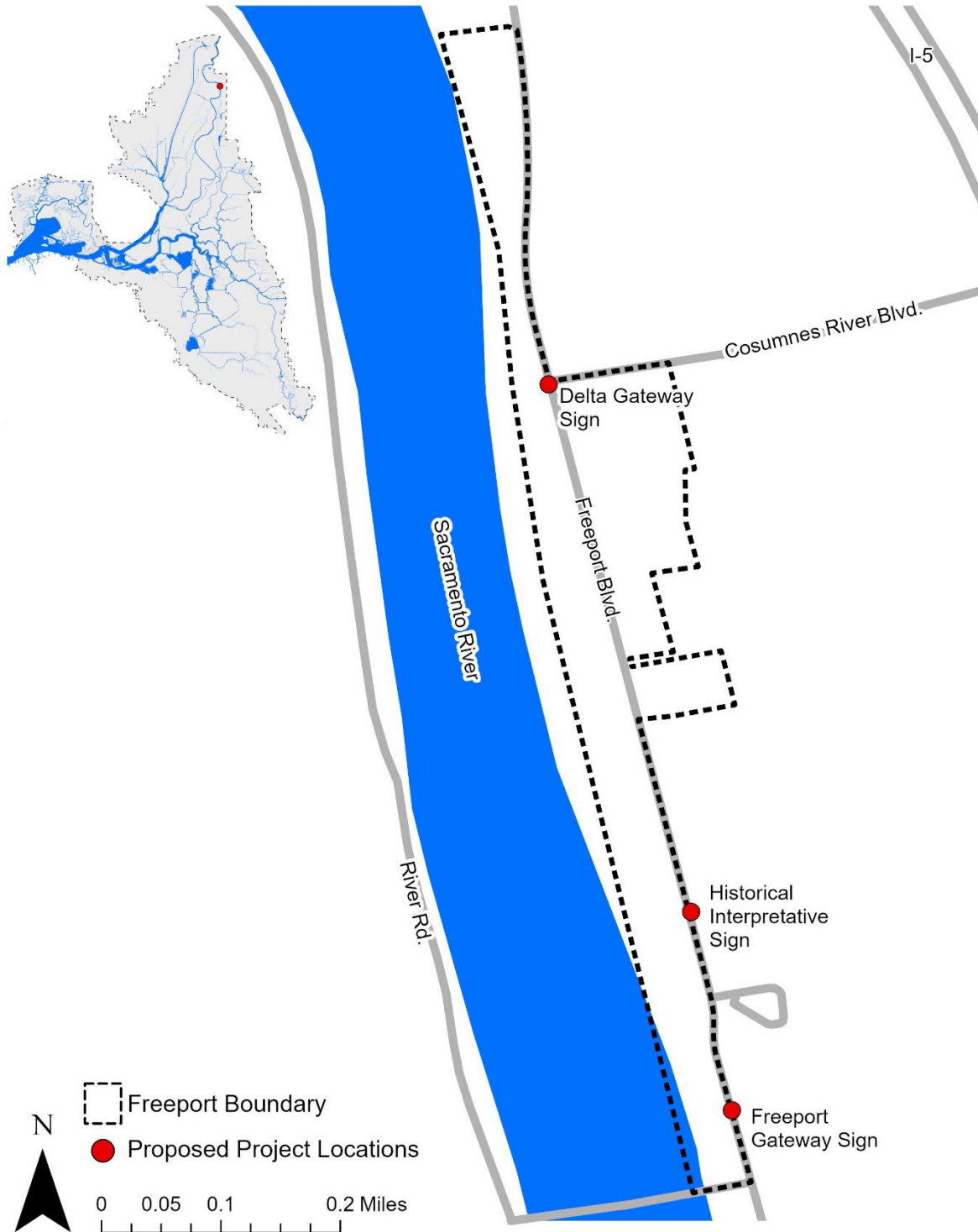
SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move to award funding up to \$223,277 to the County of Sacramento from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments project.

CONTACT

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FIGURE 1. MAP OF THE FREEPORT DELTA GATEWAY MONUMENTS PROJECT AREA





Consideration of Amendment to Budget, Scope, and Term of Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Agreement for Delta Working Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning Project Staff Report

Grantee	Solano County Resource Conservation District
Project Number	Prop 1-1804
Award Year	2019
County	Solano County
Category	Planning
Original Award Amount	\$347,481.60
Amended Request Amount	\$347,481.60
Request	Budget, Scope, and Term Amendment

This agenda item presents findings for project sites located outside the legal Delta and a request to amend the budget, scope, and extend the term of the grant agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve findings for project sites located outside the Delta and approve the amended budget, scope, and term extension.

DESCRIPTION

The Grantee requests to move funds between budget line items, engage landowners on project sites outside the Legal Delta, and extend the term of the agreement from November 1, 2022 to March 15, 2024. The request is a result of the reluctance of previously identified landowners to commit to the planning projects amid the economic and social uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The Grantee requests to shift \$52,200 from Subcontractors and General Operating Expenses to Personnel Services. Subsequently, the Grantee requests to shift \$6,933 from Personnel Services to Indirect Costs to account for increased costs from added Personnel Services. Finally, the Grantee requests shifting \$2,000 from Personnel Services to Travel Expenses to address a budget error. The Grantee does not request any changes to the total Grant award.

The Grantee requests to include two sites located outside the legal Delta that would result in the exclusion of livestock from waterways. The expanded project sites will: be located within five miles of the Legal Delta, be along a waterway that drains to the Delta, and will provide water quality benefits to the Delta.

This project is planning for a future implementation project that will, in part, take place outside of the legal Delta. Public Resources Code (PRC) section 32360.5 requires the Board make certain findings if it approves funding for activities outside the Delta. Staff recommends the Board find that an implementation project resulting from the planning will meet the following requirements: (1) the project implements the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan by protecting and improving water quality, combating harmful species, and working with ranchers and farmers to develop wildlife-friendly farming systems on agricultural lands; (2) the project is consistent with the requirements of any applicable state and federal permits; (3) the Conservancy has given notice to affected local jurisdictions and the Delta Protection Commission and will work with the applicant to address any comments; (4) the Conservancy has given notice to the Coastal Conservancy and has received no comments; and (5) the project will provide significant benefits to the Delta by improving water quality, controlling invasive species, and expanding habitat to sites along waterways hydrologically connected to the Delta and serve as a model for infrastructure improvements and practices that can benefit the environmental and economic vitality of agricultural operations in the Delta and adjacent areas.

BACKGROUND

In May of 2019, as part of Cycle 4 of the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program, the Board awarded grant funds for the Delta Working Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning project. The objective of this planning project is to develop shovel-ready design plans and secure all necessary permits in order to mimic or restore the function of floodplains, riparian forest, and wetlands. Project implementation will provide tangible habitat and water quality benefits, create corridors between historic marshland and upland habitat, and contribute to the economic and environmental sustainability of working agricultural lands. This is the first amendment requested for this project. One of the project sites, Ulatis Creek, has completed shovel-ready designs and submitted an implementation proposal through the Cycle 5 Proposition 1 solicitation.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Two separate motions are required.

Move that the Board approve findings for project sites located outside of the legal Delta for the Delta Working Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning Project grant agreement with Solano County Resource Conservation District.

Move that the Board approve an amendment to the grant agreement with Solano County Resource Conservation District for Prop 1-1804 to shift funds across budget line items, allow project sites outside of the Legal Delta, and extend the grant term to March 15, 2024.

CONTACT

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Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) Lead Agency Determination for the Riparian Restoration at River Garden Farms Staff Report

This agenda item provides an overview of the information provided to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (13.1) to support a CEQA Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) Lead Agency Determination for the Riparian Area 1 Restoration Project at River Garden Farms Project (Project), a resolution (2022-01) making this determination for the Board's consideration (13.2), and the Notice of Exemption to be filed by staff (13.3) should the Board adopt the resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board as the Lead Agency under CEQA declare the Project exempt by adopting Resolution 2022-01 in line with Section 21080.56 of the California Public Resources Code.

DESCRIPTION

American Rivers (AR) is working with the Delta Conservancy and Audubon California to complete Project CEQA compliance requirements. Audubon California obtained conditional funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to complete restoration activities at the project site; these funds will be released by WCB to Audubon California upon fulfillment of CEQA compliance requirements. American Rivers obtained funding from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to complete CEQA for the Project (P1-1702) on behalf of Audubon California. AR approached the Delta Conservancy about acting as CEQA lead agency because the Conservancy funded planning activities for the Project and other agencies with some discretionary authority over the Project were not able (WCB) or triggered via permit issuance (County) to act as lead agency. Since the Project is intended exclusively to enhance the ecosystem and has very minor construction activities that are only related to habitat restoration, the Conservancy Staff prepared and submitted, on April 20, 2022, a Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) concurrence request to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director per Public Resources Code 21080.56.

BACKGROUND

Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 155, on September 23, 2021, adding Section 21080.56 to California Public Resources Code. This section provides a new CEQA statutory exemption until January 1, 2025, for fish and wildlife restoration projects that meet certain requirements. Conservancy staff have been working with the project proponent, AR, to have the Conservancy act as the Lead CEQA Agency and apply for the new CEQA Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) for the Project, which is northwest of the legal Delta. Conservancy Staff met with the CDFW SERP team twice to go over the SERP process and to review the draft application materials. For additional information, look to the recording of CDFW's [SERP Workshop](#) or the [SERP website](#).

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board adopt Resolution 2022-01, which finds that the Riparian Area 1 Restoration Project at River Garden Farms project is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.56.

CONTACT

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**RESOLUTION NO. [2022-01]****RESOLUTION OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY ADOPTING THE FINAL NOTICE OF EXEMPTION AND MAKING LEAD AGENCY DETERMINATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) prepared and submitted a Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) concurrence request to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director for the Riparian Area Restoration 1 at River Garden Farms Project (Project) per Public Resources Code 21080.56; and

WHEREAS, American Rivers is working with the Delta Conservancy and Audubon California to complete project CEQA compliance requirements. Audubon California obtained conditional funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to complete restoration activities at the project site; these funds will be released by WCB to Audubon California upon fulfillment of CEQA compliance requirements. American Rivers obtained funding from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to complete CEQA for the Project (P1-1702) on behalf of Audubon California; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy is the lead agency on the Project, and the Board is the decision-making body for the proposed Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project location is 19 acres within the River Garden Farms property. River Garden Farms is a 15,000-acre farm located along the Sacramento River a few miles north of Knights Landing, a Central Valley town in Yolo County that is approximately 20 miles northwest of Sacramento, California. The Project location is adjacent to Road 98A to the west and borders the 14A irrigation canal, which is connected to the Sacramento River via the Reclamation District 108 (RD 108) pump station. The Project is a climate-resilient, bird-friendly restoration project with the goal of creating and improving habitat for birds and other key species. The Project will install 15.8 acres of Mixed Riparian Forest (MRF), Mixed Riparian Thicket (MRT), and a grassland and forb understory along the levee slope adjacent to the farm and 3.2 acres of the Willow Scrub (WS) community on the canal-side of the levee via native plant restoration. The Project is one of seven locations that have planned restorations on the River Garden Farms property. This will create a wildlife corridor between the Sacramento River and Roosevelt Ranch, which hosts 2,530 acres of restored wetlands on private lands enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. See 'Riparian Area 1' in Restoration Planning Project at River Garden Farms: Riparian Restoration Design (supporting documents found at [this link](#)); and

WHEREAS, the Project's restoration designs use three woody plant communities (MRF, MRT, and WS) with an understory layer of forbs and grasses. The planting pattern for the woody plant associations have been designed to achieve a network of dense riparian vegetation for cover, breeding sites, and dispersal corridors for riparian birds, pollinators, and other wildlife of conservation concern. These woody plant communities will benefit a variety of Neotropical migrant songbirds, which require dense

shrubby vegetation. Abundant blackberry and rose will form dense thickets expanding formation of a lush riparian habitat, and coyote brush, blue elderberry, and shrubby willows will function as trellis species and provide habitat structure. The Project site is currently dominated by non-native grasses and will require site preparation before native vegetation planting and seeding can begin. Site preparation activities include clearing debris, weeds and thatch, and discing soils. After the site is prepared, there will be approximately 15.8 acres of farm-side plantings, including the MRF, MRT, and grassland and forb understory on the farm-side of the levee, and 3.2 acres of WS plantings on the canal-side of the levee. MRF community will be located on the two exterior rows of the farm-side plantings. These rows have already been planted by a volunteer program at 20 feet on center, so the MRF community will be installed between existing plantings, resulting in a spacing of 10 feet on center. The aisle ways between the MRF plantings and the MRT community will be seeded with native grasses. The MRT community will be planted in the three interior rows on the farm side planting. The center row of the MRT has already been planted by a volunteer program on 20-foot centers, so the MRT community will be installed between these existing plantings, resulting in a 10-foot plant spacing. The outer two rows of this community are not currently planted and will be installed with 10-foot plant spacing. The aisle ways between the MRT community rows will be seeded with native forbs. On the canal-side of the levee, the WS community will be installed in a single row. Each tree or shrub will be planted with two Santa Barbara sedge plugs, one on either side of the plant. Plans for vegetation plantings are based on a site-specific planting design and utilize a palette of locally occurring species to promote quick growth of an herbaceous floodplain community along with several varying types of riparian forest. See 'Riparian Area 1' in Restoration Planning Project at River Garden Farms: Riparian Restoration Design (supporting documents found at [this link](#)); and

WHEREAS, the Project is adjacent to a section of the Sacramento River constrained by the narrow floodway, bordered by agricultural land, levees, and farmer berms for much of its length, and largely separated from its historic floodplains. There will be no in-stream work conducted as part of this project; planting will be on the banks only. Irrigation will occur during the project to support establishment of planted vegetation. After the Project ends, planted vegetation will be supported by seepage from the canal. The 14A irrigation canal is filled with water year-round; annual maintenance of one to two weeks' duration may occur, during which water levels are reduced, but the canal is never completely dewatered. The 14A irrigation canal is filled with water via the El Dorado Bend Pumping Plant on the Sacramento River (only during summer months), and from RD108 lands via the Sycamore Slough Reuse Pumping Plant. There is no hydraulic connection between Canal 14A and the Colusa Drain. Water rights information may be obtained from RD 108 or publicly available records. Irrigation water for plantings will not originate from the canal, but rather a mix of other farm-side system sources to the south of the canal. Existing aquatic habitat in the canal is perennial, with seasonally varying water depths of one to ten feet. There are occasional patches of canal-side emergent vegetation, and very sparse, mature riparian vegetation. Significant inflows to the canal are only from El Dorado Bend Pumping Plant diversions during the summer months, and RD108 lands drain water via the Sycamore Slough Reuse Pumping Plant. Fish access to, and presence in, the canal is unknown. The El Dorado Bend Pumping Plant is prohibited from operating during winter and spring months coinciding with salmonid migration in the mainstem Sacramento River. Fish access may be possible via the unscreened intake of the El Dorado Bend Pumping Plant, but this has not been previously documented. The project is not designed to enhance fish habitat, nor will it alter canal operations or hydrology. For full riparian restoration design plans for the Project, see 'Riparian Area 1' in Restoration Planning

Project at River Garden Farms: Riparian Restoration Design (supporting documents found at [this link](#)); and

WHEREAS, the Project's expected environmental benefits include the creation of riparian cover for Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV) focal birds in accordance with conservation actions identified in the CVJV Implementation Plan, which provides a cohesive vision for bird conservation in the Central Valley within the context of the entire Pacific Flyway in association with four international bird conservation initiatives. This project is a Priority 2 riparian restoration project located within the boundaries of the CVJV. The CVJV's conservation objective for riparian habitat in the 2020 Implementation Plan is 8,377 acres by 2030 for the Sacramento Planning Region and 33,332 acres valley-wide. The proposed project will contribute 19 acres to the CVJV's overall habitat objective for riparian habitat in the Sacramento Planning Region and benefit three of the highlighted bird groups in the plan: riparian land birds, grassland-oak savannah land birds, and at-risk bird species (see Table ES-1 on page iv of the Central Valley Joint Venture 2020 Implementation Plan, supporting documents found at [this link](#)). CVJV birds expected to benefit from habitat restoration at the site include: CVJV At-Risk Species such as Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) and Oak Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*); and Focal Riparian Songbirds, such as Ash-Throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), and Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*). Additionally, plantings will create and enhance important habitat for key species. Specifically, planting elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) clusters will create habitat for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) and planting of forbs and grasslands will create habitat for Giant Garter Snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) and Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The Project will create an important wildlife linkage between the Sacramento River and permanently protected wetlands at Roosevelt Ranch two miles to the south. Finally, the project will directly sequester carbon through the addition of soil and woody biomass, contributing to the state's Natural and Working Lands Climate Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, stakeholder outreach took place between American Rivers (AR) and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation on March 15, 2022, where AR staff provided Laverne Bill, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's cultural and natural resources manager, information specific to the Project (see correspondence dated March 15, 2022 in supporting documents at [this link](#)). Audubon California obtained letters of support from Ducks Unlimited, Reclamation District 108, and the Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV), a partnership of 19 public and private government agencies, science and conservation organizations, and corporations who work collaboratively to protect, restore and enhance habitats for birds (see letters of support at [this link](#)); and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Exemption was prepared for the Project by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000-21177) and CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000-15387); and

WHEREAS, consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21081.6(a)(2), the documents which constitute the record for this project are located at the offices and the website of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy and may be inspected by any person; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy determines this project meets all the SERP requirements described in Public Resources Code section 21080.56; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy determines the Project:

a) Is exclusively intended to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in recovery of California native fish and wildlife and the habitat which they depend (21080.56. (a)),

The lead agency has determined that this project is exclusively both (a) a project to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance in the recovery of California wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend and (b) a project to restore or provide habitat for California wildlife. As outlined in Table 1 on page 3 of the Restoration Planning Project at River Garden Farms: Riparian Restoration Design document (supporting documents found at [this link](#)), this project intends to restore lost riparian habitat for migratory birds, resident birds, and other sensitive species and create a wildlife movement corridor through achieving the following objectives: (1) establishing healthy riparian and hedgerow habitat that provides immediate (less than 3 years) habitat benefits and has a high probability of long-term survivorship; (2) maximizing the habitat benefits to birds and other species by incorporating understory plant species with structural diversity to produce cover, breeding sites, food sources, and safe dispersal options; (3) providing rapid cover for a wide range of bird species, including neo-tropical migrants and Central Valley Joint Venture focal species; (4) enhancing riparian habitat connectivity; and (5) sequestering carbon in soil and tree biomass.

b) May have incidental public benefits, such as public access and recreation (21080.56. (b)),

The lead agency has determined that this project will have incidental public benefits that include increased carbon storage, improvements to water quality, and improved climate resiliency through enhancement of ecological function of degraded habitat to improve durability to climatic shifts (Keeley et al. 2018, Seavy et al. 2009, supporting documents found at [this link](#)). The project area is on private land that will not be open to public access and recreation. See page 17 of 2021 Wildlife Conservation Board Pacific Flyway Conservation 2020 Full Application Form for more information (supporting documents can be found at [this link](#)).

c) Results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery. Includes procedures and on-going management for protection of the environment (21080.56. (c)),

Long-Term Net Benefits to Climate Resiliency: The lead agency has determined that the Project results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency. First, this project creates climate resiliency through restoration of wildlife habitat linkages, as ecosystems with greater connectivity, complexity, redundancy, and extent tend to have greater resilience. The Project creates high-value habitat corridors to accommodate wildlife movement between the Sacramento River and Roosevelt Ranch's expansive wetlands to the south of the project site. Numerous scientific studies, including Keeley et al. 2018 (supporting documents found at [this link](#)), have demonstrated that improved habitat connectivity promotes species persistence in response to climate change.

Next, as climate change increases temperatures, individuals and ecosystems will need to migrate to areas with more shade and cooler temperatures during periods of high heat (see page 42 of *Climate Change and the Delta: A Synthesis*, supporting documents found at [this link](#)). To make this restoration more resilient to climate change, the Project's design includes diverse vegetation species and high variability in vegetation structure, height, and light availability. This will create varied habitat for wildlife, including temperature refugia during periods of extreme heat.

Finally, long-term management actions (including plant health surveys, weed/pest control, and other actions to ensure the health of planted vegetation; see *Maintenance & Management Plan* for complete description of maintenance and management activities, supporting documents found at [this link](#)) are planned for a period of 25 years after the project's end date. These post-implementation management actions will ensure that the soil and woody biomass added to the project area will continue to thrive and sequester atmospheric carbon long after project implementation is complete.

Long-Term Net Benefits to Biodiversity: The lead agency has determined that the project results in long-term net benefits to biodiversity by producing habitat and cover for the numerous bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species known to use the areas in and around the project site. According to the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) database (CDFW 2008), 198 bird species have ranges known to overlap with the River Garden Farms property; 107 of these have been detected on the River Garden Farms property through monitoring efforts including Floodplain Forest Bird Surveys, winter waterbird surveys of flooded rice fields, Healthy Soils Program cover crop surveys, and alfalfa field surveys. Additionally, CWHR indicates that 41 species of mammals have ranges that overlap with the River Garden Farms property, as well as 18 species of amphibians and reptiles. The CVJV's conservation objective for riparian habitat in the 2020 Implementation Plan is 8,377 acres by 2030 for the Sacramento Planning Region where the Project is located and 33,332 acres valley-wide. This Project will contribute to this objective and benefit three of the highlighted bird groups in the plan: riparian land birds, grassland-oak savannah land birds, and at-risk bird species.

Long-Term Net Benefits to Sensitive Species Recovery: The lead agency has determined that the project results in long-term net benefits to sensitive species recovery. The Central Valley Joint Venture's (CVJV) riparian habitat conservation objectives are based on population and breeding density objectives for a group of 12 focal bird species (please see page 14 of 2021 WCB Grant Application for a complete list of focal bird species, all supporting documents can be found at [this link](#)). Among these are numerous Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV) focal species and species with special status, including those identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in the State Wildlife Action Plan (CDFW 2015). Eight of these species have the potential to be supported by the project. Additionally, seven of the CVJV's grassland-oak savannah focal species and five at-risk species will be supported by the project. CVJV Focal Birds to benefit from habitat restoration include: Focal Riparian Songbirds, such as Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Nuttall's Woodpecker; Focal Oak Woodland Birds, such as Acorn Woodpecker, Yellow-Billed Magpie, and Western Bluebird; and At-Risk Species, such as Swainson's Hawk and Oak Titmouse. Other species of wildlife to benefit from project implementation include federally-threatened Giant Garter Snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), Valley Longhorn Elderberry Beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). Please see page 15 of WCB Grant Application for a complete list of other species of wildlife expected to benefit from the project (supporting documents found at [this link](#)). Additionally, the 2014 Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) Conservation Strategy cites the Central Valley's importance as the Pacific Flyway's most important waterfowl wintering area in the Pacific Flyway, supporting up to 60 percent of the total Flyway bird population in some years, and higher proportions of certain populations (see page 113 of *2014 Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy for Restoration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley Regions*, supporting documents found at [this link](#)). A 2021 Audubon Society study estimates that 107 million migratory land birds use the Central Valley in the spring and 147 million in fall (DeLuca et al. 2021, supporting documents found at [this link](#)).

Procedures and Ongoing Management for the Protection of the Environment: The lead agency has determined that the project includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment. During project implementation, the project will use best management practices such as low-impact site preparation activities and planting activities to install vegetation onsite (see pages 12-13 of Restoration Planning Project at River Garden Farms: Riparian Restoration Design document for more information, supporting documents found at [this link](#)).

The Project will conduct monitoring and reporting during the three year grant term of project implementation (2022-2025). The Project monitoring will assess the effectiveness of the Project with respect to its objectives and associated performance measures, and to ensure that the restoration continues to provide long-term carbon sequestration, water quality, and wildlife habitat benefits. Monitoring data will be made available to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and Point Blue's California Avian Data Center (see page two of Monitoring and Reporting Plan, supporting documents found at [this link](#)). The team responsible for monitoring is comprised of Audubon California, Point Blue Conservation Science, and River Partners. Audubon California has overall project management responsibilities and is responsible for coordination of project monitoring. Audubon will also be responsible for collecting the vegetation habitat value, bird, connectivity, and carbon storage data under the guidance of Point Blue. Point Blue will assist Audubon California with monitoring design, data management, and analyses. Point Blue will also train Audubon staff to collect multiple-benefit monitoring data including vegetation structure and diversity, bird, and carbon storage using Point Blue's draft protocol "Protocol for Evaluating the Multiple-Benefits of Riparian Restoration in California." (Dybala et al. in prep, supporting documents found at [this link](#)) River Partners will monitor vegetation health including cover, vigor, and survival, of all woody and seeded species. Baseline monitoring will be conducted in year one, post-planting vegetation monitoring will occur in years two and three on an annual basis. Plant survivorship will also be monitored monthly. Baseline bird diversity data will be collected in year one of the project. Bird data will be collected in the spring/summer and soil carbon data will be collected after the first rain in the fall/winter. Post-planting monitoring will occur in years two and three on an annual basis and will begin one year after the final plantings have been completed. Visual surveys for general plant health will occur monthly during the term of the grant and will include looking for plant stress and other factors that may be affecting plant survivorship. Monitoring for the vegetation, birds, and carbon storage metrics beyond the term of the grant is not explicitly funded. However, the team fully expects to have a regular presence on the farm for years to come as they secure funding for and implement other restoration projects that have been planned. Therefore, it is highly likely that there will be many opportunities for them to perform ongoing monitoring of the restoration's metrics. See the Monitoring and Reporting Plan for a complete description of the Performance Measures table summarizing the project's performance measures relative to the five project objectives (supporting documents found at [this link](#)).

Finally, long-term, post-maintenance management activities such as plant health surveys, weed/pest control, and other actions are planned for a period of 25 years after the project grant's end date and will be the responsibility of the owner of the River Garden Farms property. Management tasks and responsibilities will include visual plant health surveys to assess plant stress and determine if corrective action must be taken, invasive weed management (expected to be minimal after the grant period, as vegetation is designed to be self-sustaining, and planted seed mixes contain highly competitive native grasses; will include mowing and spot-spraying of undesirable vegetation annually); irrigation (while irrigation should not be required, the landowner may determine the need for supplemental water),

pest management (while pest management should not be required, the property landowner will be responsible), and plant replacement (not expected due to irrigation during first three years of establishment; however, if needed, plant replacement will be responsibility of landowner and incorporated into other implementation projects on the property). Please see *Maintenance and Management Plan* for a complete description of maintenance and management activities (supporting documents found at [this link](#)).

d) Has construction activities solely related to habitat restoration (21080.56. (d)),

The lead agency has determined that the Project does not include any construction activities, except for construction activities solely related to habitat restoration. Site preparation activities include clearing debris, weeds and thatch, and discing soils. Restoration activities will also include installation of a temporary irrigation system prior to planting; this irrigation system will be removed once plants have become established at the site. After project end, vegetation will use seepage from nearby Canal 14A as its sole water source. See page 12 of project design plans in the *Restoration Planning Project at River Garden Farms* document for more information (supporting documents found at [this link](#)). New container plants will be installed via hand digging. Grass and forb understories will be drill-seeded when possible, and mechanically broadcast seeded when this is not possible. Following broadcast seeding, or attached to the seeder, a light-duty ring roller, Fuerst tine harrow, or similar device shall be used to ensure light soil coverage of broadcast seed. Please refer to pages 12-13 of project design plans within the *Restoration Planning Project at River Garden Farms* document for more information (supporting documents found at [this link](#)).

e) Consistent with Public Resources Code § 21081.6(a)(1), adopts the Notice of Exemption, and

f) The Delta Conservancy hereby authorizes and directs staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD THIS MAY 25, 2022.

VOTE

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

Lead Agency Certification

I certify that I have the authority to determine whether a project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15025(a)(1), and this project meets all the requirements described in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, and that I have submitted all the determinations required therein necessary to obtain the concurrence of the Director of Fish and Wildlife

Don Nottoli, Board Chair

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Sacramento

From: (Public Agency): Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta C
1450 Halyard Dr. Suite #6
West Sacramento, Ca 95691

(Address)

Project Title: Riparian Area Restoration 1 at River Garden Farm

Project Applicant: American Rivers

Project Location - Specific:

River Garden Farms is a 15,000-acre farm located along the Sacramento River a few miles north of Knights Landing, a small Central Valley town in Yolo County that is approximately 20 miles northwest of Sacramento.

Project Location - City: Knights Landing Project Location - County: Sacramento

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project is a climate-resilient, bird-friendly habitat restoration that will install 19 acres of native plants with the goal of creating and improving habitat for birds and other key species.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: American Rivers

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code 21080.56

Reasons why project is exempt:

As lead agency, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has determined that the sole purpose of the Project is to enhance habitat, and it does not include any construction activities, except for those solely related to restoration. The Project will results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the environment.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Dr. Rachel Wigginton Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-375-4994

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Board Chair

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____



Final Outcomes of the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory (DARI) Mapping Project Staff Report

This agenda item presents the final outcomes of the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory (DARI) mapping project, supported by competitive grant funds awarded to the Delta Conservancy by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The technical work was led by the Aquatic Science Center (ASC) and concluded in March 2022. The slides for presentation to the Board can be found [at this link](#).

DESCRIPTION

The purpose of DARI was to catalogue the surface waters, wetlands, and other aquatic resources of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) using a standardized approach developed by a working group of experts and agency staff. This work provided a geospatial inventory of aquatic resources that could be used as a common base map for the Delta. Additionally, DARI provides a baseline of the aquatic resources present in the Delta today, which can be used to analyze change on the landscape as restoration and climate change progress. A similar mapping approach was used to create the California Aquatic Resource Inventory (CARI) that provides a map of the aquatic resources across the state. The final map DARI dataset has been incorporated into CARI and made publicly available through [EcoAtlas](#).

The procedures for developing and updating DARI were developed by a working group including members from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delta Stewardship Council, US Fish and Wildlife Service, State Water Resource Control Board, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, and the Delta Conservancy. The standard operating procedures for updating the dataset will allow end users to provide updates and corrections consistently. Quality control for updating DARI will be performed by SFEI-ASC. In addition to these procedures, the working group developed a common wetland classification system that takes into consideration the unique ecology of the Delta.

DARI maps all channels and wetlands, including woody wetlands such as wetlands vegetated with willows, and may partially capture riparian areas. However, DARI does not include polygons for riparian areas. Riparian areas are important to capture as their loss has affected water quality and habitat conditions and presented numerous challenges for resource managers related to water management and land use planning. Due to the importance of capturing riparian areas and the newly completed DARI dataset, ASC piloted the use of the Riparian Zone Estimation Tool ([RipZET](#)) in the Delta. This pilot exercise was the final deliverable of the DARI contract and provides the groundwork for future efforts to map riparian habitats of the Delta.

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy, supported by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through a Wetland Program Development Grant, contracted the Aquatic Science Center (ASC) to

develop a Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory (DARI). The DARI project developed a comprehensive resource inventory specifically formulated with the Delta's unique ecology in mind. DARI provides a standard regional approach to wetland classification and mapping to support wetland restoration planning, tracking, and reporting.

CONTACT

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Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
rachel.wigginton@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
(916) 375-4994



Potential Agenda Items for the July 27, 2022 Board Meeting

Staff is seeking input from the Board regarding additional agenda items for the July 27, 2022 Board meeting.

Potential items include:

- Delta Conservancy Board Elections
- Consideration of Award(s) of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant(s)
- Consideration of Awards for Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Cycle 5 grants
- Overview of Delta Carbon Management
- Delta Conservancy 2022 Implementation Plan Status Update

CONTACT

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