



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

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**DELTA** CONSERVANCY

*A California State Agency*

# 2022 Implementation Plan

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## **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

<b>2022 Tasks</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
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

<b>2022 Tasks</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
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

<b>2022 Tasks</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
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

<b>2022 Tasks</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
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

<b>2022 Tasks</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
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