



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

*A California State Agency*

## **BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

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**July 27, 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. Questions and public comment can be addressed to [contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov) prior to, and during the meeting.

### **Join by Teleconference**

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

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions**
3. **Public Comment** (New Business)
4. **Board Elections** (Action Item)
5. **Consent Calendar** (Action Item)
  - Approval of May 25, 2022 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items (Attachment)
6. **Executive Officer's Report**, Campbell Ingram
  - Program Update (Attachment)
  - Nutria Eradication Program Update (Attachment)
  - Budget and Expenditure Report (Attachment)
7. **Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Update**, Dr. Trevor Fox (Attachment)
8. **Community Enhancement Grant Program Update**, Martha Ozonoff (Attachment)
9. **Consideration of Awards and Applicable Resolutions to Adopt California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Responsible Agency Findings for the Fifth Cycle of the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program**, Dr. Sarah Lesmeister (Attachments) (Action Item)
10. **Consideration of Award of a Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Grant Funds for Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Planning Project**, Dr. Sarah Lesmeister (Attachment) (Action Item)

11. **Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Responsible Agency Findings and Award of Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Grant for Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration and Public Access Project**, Martha Ozonoff (Attachments) (Action Item)
12. **Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt a 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)
13. **Delta Fish Friendly Farming Program Update**, Dr. Rachel Wigginton (Attachment)
14. **EcoRestore Update**, Charlotte Biggs
15. **Delta Stewardship Council Update**, Amanda Bohl
16. **Delta Protection Commission Update**, Erik Vink
17. **Delta Conveyance Update**, Janet Barbieri
18. **Potential Agenda Items for the October 26, 2022 Board Meeting**, Campbell Ingram (Attachment)
19. **Public Comment**
20. **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](mailto: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.



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## May 25, 2022, Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

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### AGENDA ITEMS

#### Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Don Nottoli.

#### Agenda Item 2 – Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

After roll call, agenda items were heard by the Board in the order indicated below.

#### Board Members Present:

- Don Nottoli
- Sandi Matsumoto
- Bryan Cash
- Richard Gillihan
- Mitchel Mashburn
- Katherine Miller, by teleconference
- Karen Mitchoff
- Jim Provenza- joined after 1<sup>st</sup> vote at 9:13

#### Ex-Officio Members Present:

- None

#### Liaison Advisors and Counsel Present:

- Marge Kolar
- Erik Vink
- Nicole Rinke, Counsel, by teleconference

#### Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None

#### Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar

**Motion:** Supervisor Mashburn moved, seconded by Board Member Cash that the Board approve the following.

- March 23, 2022, Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 7 ayes.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report**

The Executive Officer briefly highlighted several items within the written report. Some further updates include the Deputy Executive Officer position was reclassified to a Career Executive Assignment B, to broaden the applicant pool. COVID procedures are completed, and anticipating union approval, as staff return to in-person work on June 13<sup>th</sup>, reporting twice per month at a minimum. The Governor’s May revise for the fiscal year 2022-2023 state budget includes over 55 million for the Conservancy with a potential one-time allocation of approximately 41 million for the Conservancy. Staff presented the Budget and Expenditure Report.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Consideration of Delta Conservancy Draft 2022 Implementation Plan**

The Executive Officer presented the Draft 2022 Implementation Plan in a format consistent with the recently approved 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was adopted in January 2022, which pushed out the Implementation Plan schedule.

**Motion:** Supervisor Mitchoff moved, seconded by Supervisor Mashburn that the Board approve the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 2022 Implementation Plan as presented in this item.

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

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

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report. The Cycle 5 solicitation closed with 4.7 million in requested funding. Projects were scored by staff and external reviewers and site visits are scheduled for June. Funding recommendations are planned for the July board meeting. The applicant for Prop 1 project 1809 withdrew their proposal for Cycle 4 funding due to the lack of landowner support.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Update**

The Conservancy executed 33 grants, enrolling 8,800 acres, with estimated water savings of 22,000 acre feet. Staff continues to develop an interagency agreement with the University of California Davis to assist with data gathering, monitoring, and synthesis.

At 9:32 a.m. Vice Chair Matsumoto assumed control of the meeting while Supervisor Nottoli stepped out.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Community Enhancement Grant Programs Update**

The name of this agenda item has been updated from the Proposition 68 Update to Community Enhancement Grant Programs Update, to refer to a collection of projects that support and enhance communities and economies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh. Staff highlighted items from the staff report and further reported the program has five executed grants, and three awarded grants with grants expected to be executed in July. There are two proposals in process with anticipated grant consideration later this year. Staff is in communication with potential grantees on further concept proposals.

Supervisor Nottoli returned to the meeting at 9:41 a.m. and assumed control at the meeting.

**Agenda Item 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**

Conservancy staff presented a recommendation to enter into an interagency agreement with UC Davis to support monitoring of the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program grants to help assess consumptive use savings and overall effectiveness of the Program.

**Motion:** Supervisor Mitchoff moved, seconded by Supervisor Mashburn, to 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.

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 Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments Planning Project**

Conservancy staff presented a recommendation to develop a conceptual signage plan, conduct community outreach, prepare preliminary design, and complete environmental clearance for two gateway monuments (freestanding structure or sign) and one interpretive sign in the unincorporated community of Freeport.

**Motion:** Supervisor Nottoli moved, seconded by Supervisor Provenza, 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.

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

**Agenda 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**

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report to allow a shift among budget line items, provide a 15-month extension, and allow project sites outside of the legal Delta.

**Motion:** Supervisor Mashburn moved, seconded by Supervisor Mitchoff, 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.

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

**Motion:** Supervisor Mashburn moved, seconded by Supervisor Mitchoff, that the Board approve an amendment to the grant agreement with Solano County Resource Conservation District to shift funds across budget line items, allow project sites outside of the Legal Delta, and extend the grant term to March 15, 2024.

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

**Agenda 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**

This agenda item was pulled and will be brought to a later meeting.

**Agenda Item 14 – Overview of the “Reorienting to Recovery” CA Central Valley Salmon Recovery Project**

Gary Bobker and Lindsay Tryba, Associate with Kearns and West, presented a slide presentation on Reorienting to Recovery salmon recovery project. The initial report was released in March 2022 and they outlined the next steps in the project.

**Agenda Item 15 – Final Outcomes of the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory (DARI) Mapping Project**

Staff along with Cristina Grosso, Program Managing Director at the Aquatic Science Center, and Joseph Morgan, Project Officer at the Environmental Protection Agency, shared a slide presentation and commentary on the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory Mapping Project.

**Agenda Item 16 – Eco Restore Update including a Summary of the Yolo Bypass Working Agreement**

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

**Agenda Item 17 – Delta Stewardship Council Update**

Amanda Bohl, Special Assistant for Planning and Science at the Delta Stewardship Council, presented an update.

**Agenda Item 18 – Delta Protection Commission Update**

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

**Agenda Item 19 – Delta Conveyance Update**

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

**Agenda Item 20 – Potential Agenda Items for the July 27, 2022 Meeting**

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

**Agenda Item 21 – Public Comment**

None

**BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED** by Chair Nottoli at 11:24 a.m.

**Meeting Date: July 27, 2022**

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**Agenda Item: 5**

**Attachment: 1**

**CONTACT**

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## Executive Officer's Report July 27, 2022

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### PROGRAM UPDATE

#### STAFFING UPDATE

Sadly, we must say our final goodbyes to Debra Kustic. Debra has been an exceptional Deputy Executive Officer and leader in our organization for over five years. Her contributions to the organization and team are far too many to list. She has a wonderful ability to effectively plan and strategize for the future, coach staff (myself included), and keep the trains running on time. Debra's last official day in the office was July 15, 2022, but she will be attending the meeting and there will be an opportunity to sign a going away gift. We wish Debra a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

Please welcome Karen Buhr, our new Deputy Executive Officer. Karen will start with the Conservancy on August 15, 2022. She will oversee Conservancy operations and programs. Karen has been the Executive Director of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts for the past twelve years where she has done amazing work increasing capacity and funding levels for RCDs across the state.

Please welcome Maya Garrett, our new Ecological and Community Programs Analyst. Maya started with the Conservancy on July 18, 2022. She will focus on providing project initiation and management of the Conservancy's Community Enhancement Program. Maya comes to us from the State Water Resources Control Board, where she was the lead analyst that oversaw development of programmatic deliverables for the federal and state environmental protection agencies.

Please welcome Anjali (Anji) Shakya, our new Ecological Program Environmental Scientist. Anji started with the Conservancy on July 18, 2022. She will focus on providing project management and close-out of the Conservancy's Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program. Anji comes to us from the University of Michigan where she recently served as a Graduate Student Instructor while completing her Master of Science degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

#### COVID-19 UPDATE

The Conservancy's Telework Policy has been approved by the Department of General Services and is currently being reviewed by the unions. Once finally approved, the policy supports a generous telework program requiring staff work in the office one day every other week and at other times as operational needs dictate.

#### IT SERVICES UPDATE

The Delta Conservancy has entered into a \$150,000 interagency agreement with the Department of Water Resources to provide information technology shared services and computer resources. The term of the agreement is from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2025. We are working to get hybrid meeting equipment set up in the conference room. The setup will enable remote and in-person participants to see and hear each other and the goal is to have it ready for the October Board meeting.



## **ECOLOGICAL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

### **Nutria Eradication:**

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

### **Delta Drought Response Pilot Program:**

The DDRPP continues to monitor efficacy and savings resulting from water conservation practices conducted by the farming operations enrolled in the program. Selection Committee members have been conducting site visits to verify practices, identify appropriate fields for comparison, and get feedback on the practices and Program from grantees. Given ongoing drought conditions, staff have been working with the Department of Water Resources and the Delta Water Master's Office to plan for implementation of the Program again this fall.

### **Delta Carbon Program:**

The Conservancy continues to work with a large partnership to support the development of projects that stop subsidence and related carbon emissions. The Program focusses on converting lands that are currently too wet to farm into permanent managed wetlands and converting dry land farming to rice cultivation. Both practices re-wet the drained agricultural soils and stop the microbial oxidation of the highly organic peat soils that causes subsidence and directly emit CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere. The Governor's May Revise included substantial funding for the Conservancy to support this work. While funds for the Climate and Energy package have been appropriated, the final distribution will be negotiated in the Legislature in August.

## **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. An update on the FFF Program will be provided during Agenda Item 13.

### **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 amended Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment, adopted by the Council during their June 23, 2022 meeting, includes a recommendation to create a restoration subcommittee of the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC). Initially, the DPIIC restoration subcommittee (subcommittee) has been staffed by the Conservancy and the Council. Since the last subcommittee meeting on March 14, 2022 and the subsequent approval of the subcommittee's goal and objectives by the DPIIC, Conservancy and Council staff has been working to develop a workplan with specific actions that will support the subcommittee's goals and objectives. In addition, Council and Conservancy staff have begun meeting to plan the first Delta Restoration Forum, which would bring together diverse stakeholders and provide a meaningful forum for community participation in restoration efforts. Planning for this effort has just begun, but staff will update the Board as the planning progresses.

Staff continue to facilitate the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team. The next DIISC Team quarterly meeting will take place on August 9, 2022. As part of California Invasive Species Action Week, Dr. Rachel Wigginton (Senior Environmental Scientist, DIISC Team Facilitator) gave a lunchtime seminar about early detection and rapid response to invasive species in the Delta and the DIISC Team's work to address this issue. The talk can be viewed at this link: <https://youtu.be/oG9KLL4qjQE>.

Staff attended the quarterly meeting of the Interagency Adaptive Management Implementation Team (IAMIT) on June 17, 2022. Conservancy staff provided an update to the IAMIT on the activities of the DPIIC restoration subcommittee. The meeting also included a briefing from Council staff on the Delta Plan Chapter Four draft amendment, group reflections on the Council's recent adaptive governance brownbag series, and an update from the Delta Independent Science Board on their recently completed Monitoring Enterprise Review.

**BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

There were no staff directives from the May 25, 2022 meeting.

**DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE**

Agenda Item 6 (3): Budget and Expenditure Report

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**CONTACT**

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Nutria Eradication Program Update

### Field Update July 12, 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 4,500 landowners for over 9,300 parcels in 14 counties
- Set up 6,367 camera stations (1,447 currently active)
  - Conducted 56,727 camera checks
- Confirmed nutria within > 500 sites
- Deployed over 7,101 trap sets for a total of 88,181 trap nights
- Taken or accounted for the take of 2,997 nutria (since Mar 2017)
  - Merced- 1,946
  - Stanislaus- 891
  - San Joaquin- 110
  - Fresno- 37
  - Mariposa- 12
  - Madera- 1 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)

Of 2,997 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.12 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
- 3,375 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	145	703	4.9
2022	60	195	3.3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>2,997</b>	<b>8.3</b>

**SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY  
BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE REPORT  
July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022  
Preliminary**

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Personal Services (PS)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
1	Salaries & Wages	\$1,082,618	\$1,072,185	\$10,433	99%
2	Temporary Help	\$39,589	\$36,545	\$3,044	92%
3	Benefits	\$572,733	\$565,235	\$7,498	99%
4	<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$1,694,940</b>	<b>\$1,673,965</b>	<b>\$20,975</b>	<b>99%</b>

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Operating Expenditures and Equipment (OE & E)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
5	General Expense	\$25,212	\$16,441	\$8,771	65%
6	Printing	\$4,280	\$3,462	\$818	81%
7	Communications	\$5,000	\$3,711	\$1,289	74%
8	Postage	\$243	\$175	\$68	72%
9	Travel-In State	\$3,065	\$1,493	\$1,572	49%
10	Training	\$6,819	\$4,319	\$2,500	63%
11	Facilities Operation	\$103,123	\$102,924	\$199	100%
12	Contracts & Personal Services-External	\$53,000	\$6,814	\$46,186	13%
13	Contracts & Personal Services-Interdepartmental	\$124,600	\$58,143	\$66,457	47%
14	Information Technology	\$52,168	\$50,355	\$1,813	97%
15	Central Administrative Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
16	Non-Capital Asset Purchases	\$57,464	\$4,732	\$52,732	8%
17	Other items of Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
18	Unallocated Operating Expense & Equipment	\$48,945	\$0	\$48,945	0%
18	Multi Year Support Appropriation				
19	Proposition 1 Program Support	\$458,674	\$0	\$458,674	0%
20	Proposition 68 Program Support	\$455,512	\$0	\$455,512	0%
21	Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Support	(\$71,404)	\$0	(\$71,404)	0%
22	Climate, Access and Restoration Program Support	\$245,657	\$0	\$245,657	0%
24	Grants and Subventions	\$13,133,500	\$3,162,860	\$9,970,640	24%
25	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$14,705,856</b>	<b>\$3,415,429</b>	<b>\$11,290,427</b>	<b>23%</b>

Line Number	TOTALS	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
26	<b>TOTAL PS &amp; OE &amp; E</b>	<b>\$16,400,796</b>	<b>\$5,089,394</b>	<b>\$11,311,402</b>	<b>31%</b>
27	REIMBURSEMENT	(\$8,058,795)	(\$8,016,326)	(\$42,469)	99%
28	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,342,001</b>	<b>(\$2,926,932)</b>	<b>\$11,268,933</b>	<b>-35%</b>



**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**

Staff will present funding recommendations for the Delta Conservancy’s Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program fifth cycle as part of Agenda Item 9.

**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.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve Project (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$2,263,472.00
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1801
<b>Grantee</b>	Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust
<b>Overview</b>	Acquire a conservation easement on 275 acres of farmland to ensure that it remains as wildlife friendly agriculture
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 12/29/2020
<b>New Information</b>	Project is ongoing.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Blacklock Restoration: Phragmites Control Study (Planning)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$387,440
<b>County</b>	Solano
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1803
<b>Grantee</b>	Department of Water Resources
<b>Overview</b>	Test methods for controlling invasive species in future restoration at the Blacklock restoration site
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 3/17/2020
<b>New Information</b>	Project is on track to close 11/01/2022.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Delta Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning (Planning)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$347,481
<b>County</b>	Solano
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1804
<b>Grantee</b>	Solano Resource Conservation District
<b>Overview</b>	Planning for restoration and enhancement of waterways and edge habitats on working lands in Solano County
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 12/19/2019
<b>New Information</b>	Amended grant agreement expected 07/31/2022.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Project, Phase 2 (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$265,254
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1806
<b>Grantee</b>	San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
<b>Overview</b>	Outreach and planning to advance the Paradise Cut Flood Bypass in San Joaquin County
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 9/23/2020
<b>New Information</b>	Project is ongoing.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$984,695
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1807
<b>Grantee</b>	Reclamation District 999
<b>Overview</b>	Planning for habitat and flood control enhancements along Elk Slough
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 7/10/2020
<b>New Information</b>	Project is ongoing.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Lower San Joaquin Riparian Corridor (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$522,027
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1808
<b>Grantee</b>	American Rivers
<b>Overview</b>	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along the lower San Joaquin River
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 5/3/2021
<b>New Information</b>	Project is ongoing.

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

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Nutria Eradication Project, Phase 2 (Implementation)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$8,483,080
<b>County</b>	Multiple
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1813
<b>Grantee</b>	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>Overview</b>	Surveys for and removal of invasive species to minimize or avoid impacts to wetland habitats and water quality.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 6/8/2020
<b>New Information</b>	Project is ongoing.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Oakley Creekside Park Restoration (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$436,465
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1814
<b>Grantee</b>	City of Oakley
<b>Overview</b>	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along Marsh Creek
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 12/11/2020
<b>New Information</b>	Project is ongoing.

**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.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms: Improving aquatic habitat resiliency on working lands along the Sacramento River (Planning)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$647,701
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1702
<b>Grantee</b>	American Rivers
<b>Overview</b>	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
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 1/22/2019
<b>New Information</b>	Grantee is exploring Cutting the Green Tape statutory CEQA exemption for one riparian site that is otherwise ready for implementation (See Item 12 on the agenda for this Board meeting).

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Planning)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$1,225,000
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1709
<b>Grantee</b>	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
<b>Overview</b>	Advance planning for restoring wetlands and managing and treating storm water on public land in Knightsen
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 3/20/2019
<b>New Information</b>	Project is ongoing.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Implementation)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$8,700,800
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1710
<b>Grantee</b>	Department of Water Resources
<b>Overview</b>	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
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 4/30/2020
<b>New Information</b>	Project is ongoing.



<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2 (Implementation)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$990,543
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1711
<b>Grantee</b>	American Rivers
<b>Overview</b>	This agreement has been cleared to expire on 6/30/22.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Funding ended 06/30/2022.
<b>New Information</b>	Project is complete. Conservancy staff are working to complete closeout.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Stone Lakes Restoration Project (Planning)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$635,573
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1713
<b>Grantee</b>	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
<b>Overview</b>	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
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 4/2/2019
<b>New Information</b>	Project is ongoing.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Nutria Eradication Project (Implementation)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$1,125,577
<b>County</b>	Multiple
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1718
<b>Grantee</b>	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>Overview</b>	Eliminate nutria from all known and discovered locations in California to prevent nutria from causing significant ecological damage in the Delta
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Funding ended on 4/30/2022
<b>New Information</b>	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.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Dutch Slough Revegetation (Implementation)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$2,900,000
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1602
<b>Grantee</b>	Reclamation District 2137
<b>Overview</b>	Establish and maintain 468 acres of native tidal marsh, riparian, and grassland vegetation at the Dutch Slough restoration site
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Funding ended 05/01/2022.
<b>New Information</b>	The project is complete. Conservancy staff are working to complete closeout.

**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.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project (Implementation)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$2,026,814
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-003
<b>Grantee</b>	Ducks Unlimited
<b>Overview</b>	Implement habitat and working landscape enhancements in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Funding ended 03/31/2022
<b>New Information</b>	The project is complete. Conservancy staff are working to complete closeout.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Implementation)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$836,409
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-009
<b>Grantee</b>	American Rivers
<b>Overview</b>	Convert denuded flood control channel at the confluence of Marsh, Sand, and Deer Creeks into a healthy stream corridor
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Funding ended 12/31/2021.
<b>New Information</b>	The project is complete. Conservancy staff are working to complete closeout.

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

**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](mailto:prop1grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov).

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

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

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Spent</b>	\$99,924 (\$217 unspent)
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-012
<b>Grantee</b>	San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
<b>Overview</b>	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
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Closed as of 6/30/2019
<b>New Information</b>	Closed; a final report is available for review.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Lower Marsh and Sand Creek Watershed Restoration Planning Project (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Spent</b>	\$73,493 (\$2,391 unspent)
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-019
<b>Grantee</b>	American Rivers
<b>Overview</b>	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
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Closed as of 12/31/2019
<b>New Information</b>	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 P1-1814 grant.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project (Implementation)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$444,464 (\$1,398 unspent)
<b>County</b>	Solano
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1605
<b>Grantee</b>	Solano Resource Conservation District
<b>Overview</b>	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
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Closed as of 2/11/2022
<b>New Information</b>	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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

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

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

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan (Planning)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$592,500 (\$886.63 unspent)
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1712
<b>Grantee</b>	City of West Sacramento
<b>Overview</b>	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
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Closed as of 4/27/2021
<b>New Information</b>	Closed; a final report is available for review. Grantee submitted a full proposal for Climate, Access, and Resiliency (see item 12) for 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.

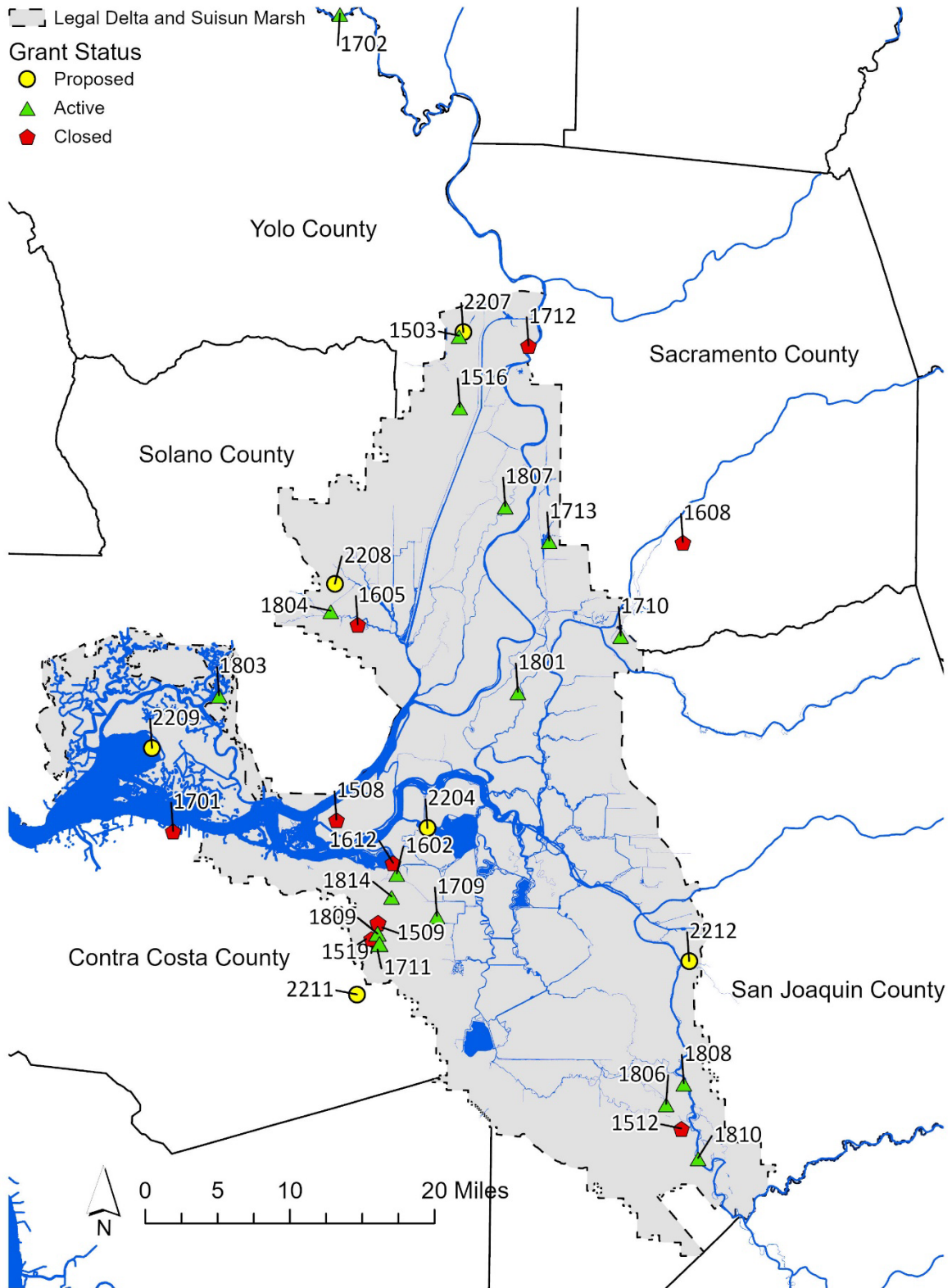
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Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

[prop1@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:prop1@deltaconservancy.ca.gov)

(916) 376-4023

FIGURE 7.1. MAP OF PROPOSITION 1 PROJECTS



Two active projects (1718, 1813) and one closed project (1505) are not mapped due to their large spatial coverage.





**Community Enhancement Grant Program Update  
Staff Report**

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**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 currently 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 July 14, 2022, there are eight active projects, one awarded project with grant development underway, four working proposals, and three inactive proposals. The total amount of funding for active projects, awarded projects, and working proposals is \$11,579,116.

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 \$5,784,396 for active, awarded, or requested Proposition 68 projects, \$5,446,553 (94 percent) is expected to support SDAC communities.

**ACTIVE PROJECTS (TOTAL AMOUNT OBLIGATED: \$4,872,169)**

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

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Southport Levee Recreational Trail (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$337,863
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	P6803
<b>Grantee</b>	City of West Sacramento
<b>Overview</b>	Create planning documents for preparation of paving of 5.6 miles of levee top for recreational use.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	Neither
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 12/20/2021
<b>New Information</b>	The City and Consultant Team completed two rounds of stakeholder meetings with staff and community members to identify trail alignment and amenity priorities. Three preliminary concept plans and cost estimates have been completed and provided to the stakeholder team for review and feedback.

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

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$44,500
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	P6805
<b>Grantee</b>	Isleton Museum
<b>Overview</b>	Purchase museum-quality display cases to house historical artifacts within the Isleton Museum, located in the newly-renovated Bing Kong Tong Building.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 6/17/2022
<b>New Information</b>	Grantee working with subcontractor to source museum display cases.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Discover the Delta Education Center (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$223,456
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	P6806
<b>Grantee</b>	Discover the Delta Foundation
<b>Overview</b>	Update 2009 building plans to meet current building codes and obtain updated approvals and permits to implement construction of the Delta Education Center.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 6/27/2022
<b>New Information</b>	Grantee is working on grant management solicitation package.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Asian American Heritage Park Development (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$554,772
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	P6811
<b>Grantee</b>	Delta Educational Cultural Society
<b>Overview</b>	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.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 03/11/2022
<b>New Information</b>	Grantee met with Sacramento State University to recruit masters level students for the project. Landscape architect is working on final design plans and interpretive designer submitted outline for interpretive signage.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Clarksburg Schoolhouse Restoration and Delta Welcome Center (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$1,743,000
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	P6813
<b>Grantee</b>	Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
<b>Overview</b>	Restore the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse (fully-restored building, interior and exterior displays, and landscaping) and develop a Delta Welcome Center.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of July 2022
<b>New Information</b>	Grantee is working on grant management solicitation package.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Pacific Flyway Center: Walk in the Marsh (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$1,486,050
<b>County</b>	Solano
<b>Project ID</b>	CAR01
<b>Grantee</b>	Pacific Flyway Fund
<b>Overview</b>	Build three miles of ADA-compliant hiking trails, boardwalks, and educational signage throughout restored wetlands in Suisun March
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 03/22/2022
<b>New Information</b>	The grantee is in the process of finalizing the project engineering and landscape plans. Additionally, several cost estimates for grading to lay the foundation for the project pathways have been received.

**APPROVED PROJECTS (TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED: \$223,277)**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Freeport, Delta Gateway Monuments (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$223,277
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	P6808
<b>Grantee</b>	Sacramento County
<b>Overview</b>	Create planning documents in preparation of the installation of two gateway monuments and one interpretive sign in Freeport.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Pending
<b>New Information</b>	The grant agreement is with Sacramento County for review and Board approval; signed grant agreement expected fall 2022.

**WORKING PROPOSALS (TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$6,483,670)**

<b>Project ID</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	<b>Proposal Status</b>
<b>P6814</b>	Delta Aquatic Center	Community Foundation of San Joaquin	Planning	\$2,175,000	San Joaquin	SDAC	Under review
<b>CAR02</b>	Bees Lakes Public Access	City of West Sacramento	Implementation	\$2,373,800	Yolo	Neither	Before the board (Agenda Item 12)
<b>CAR03</b>	Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Project	East Bay Regional Park District	Planning	\$390,000	Contra Costa	SDAC	Before the board (Agenda Item 10)

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	DAC/SDAC	Proposal Status
CAR04	Conversion of Non-Farmable Land to Reduce Green House Gas Emissions	Metropolitan Water District	Implementation	\$1,544,870	San Joaquin	DAC	Under review

**INACTIVE PROPOSALS (TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$1,540,000)**

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

**BACKGROUND**

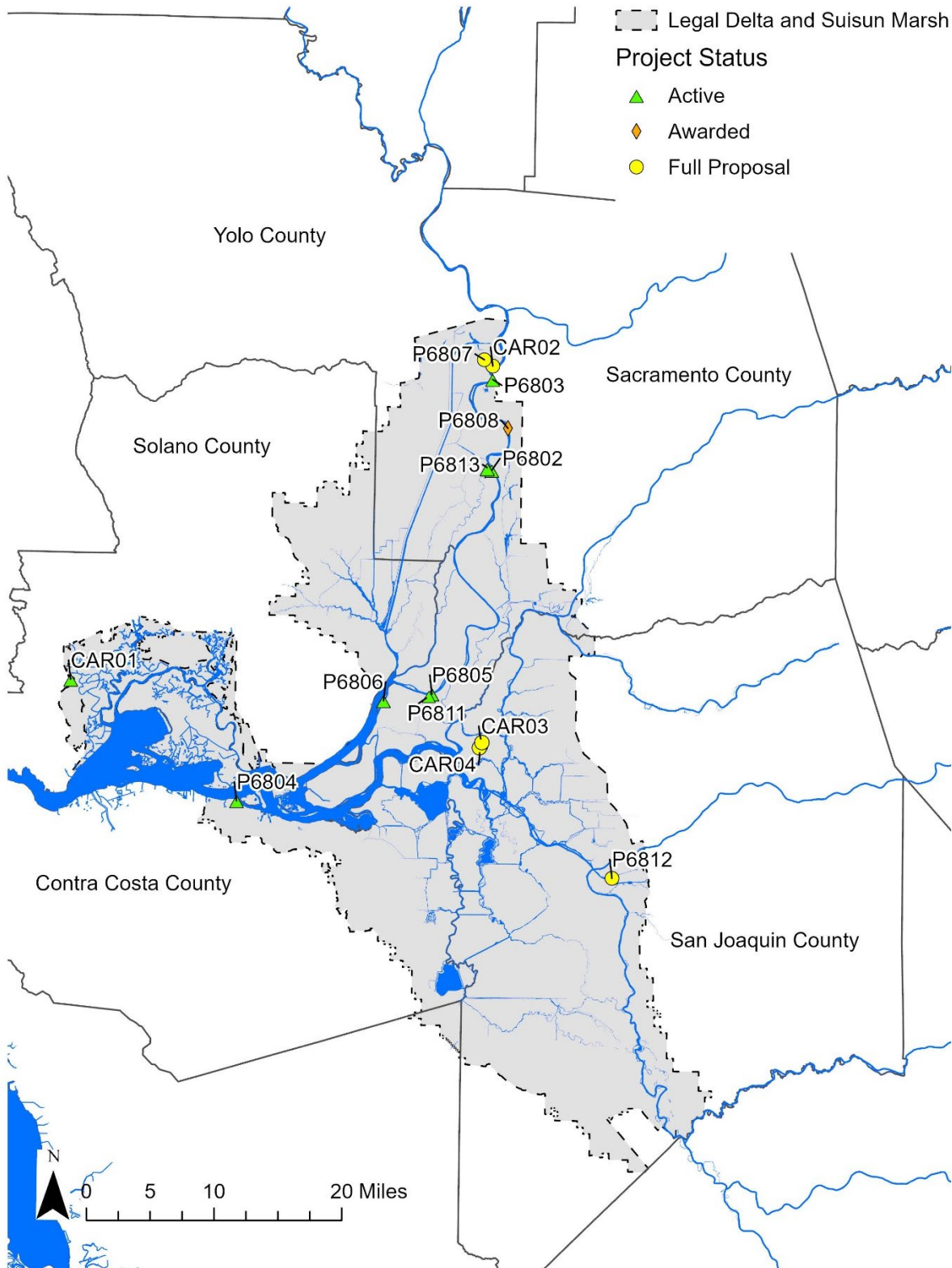
Proposition 68 is the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 45) that was passed by California voters on June 5, 2018. Proposition 68 makes \$12,000,000 available to the Conservancy to use for the purposes 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).

**CONTACT**

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 (916) 375-2088

**FIGURE 8.1. MAP OF LOCATION AND STATUS OF COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS**





**Consideration of Awards and Applicable Resolutions to Adopt California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Responsible Agency Findings for the Fifth Cycle of the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program  
Staff Report**

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This agenda item presents staff’s funding recommendations for the Cycle 5 proposal solicitation of the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program to the Board for consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board approve Proposition 1 grant funding for six projects.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Conservancy received eight full proposals requesting a total of approximately \$4,739,050. One applicant withdrew their proposal during the review process, resulting in seven proposals for Proposition 1 funding consideration. For more information about the Cycle 5 project proposals received by the Conservancy, please see Table 1 and the attached map below.

Proposals went through a two-part review process to assess their administrative and technical qualifications. Delta Conservancy staff conducted an administrative review of proposals to ensure that they were eligible, complete, and consistent with program requirements. This process included visits to verify all project sites and review of legal matters by the Department of Justice’s Deputy Attorney General retained by the Conservancy. Conservancy staff notified local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes about projects within their jurisdiction and provided them the opportunity to comment. In addition to local notifications, the Conservancy solicited and considered comments from the Delta Stewardship Council regarding projects’ adaptive management, best available science, and Delta Plan consistency.

To assess their technical qualifications, all proposals were reviewed by Delta Conservancy staff and at least four external reviewers on the Professional Review Panel. The Professional Review Panel consists of state and federal agency experts from the Delta Protection Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Water Resources, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the State Water Resources Control Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Delta Stewardship Council. External reviewers evaluated only the proposals and criteria relevant to their expertise.

The overall merit of the proposals was evaluated based on 10 evaluation criteria (adopted by the Board on January 27, 2021) and scored based on a point scale totaling 100 points. Staff and external professional reviewers evaluated proposals based on the criteria below.

1. Project Description (13 points)
2. Project Team (5 points)
3. Budget (7 points)
4. Cost Share (5 points)
5. Cost Leveraging (3 points)
6. Alignment with State Priorities (15 points)
7. Long Term Viability (5 points)
8. Readiness (12 points)
9. Local Support (15 points)
10. Scientific Merit (20 points)

Conservancy staff compiled internal and external scores and held meetings with reviewers, where applicable, to normalize scoring. All scores were averaged to determine a final score for each proposal. Per the Board-approved Grant Guidelines, only proposals scoring 75 points or more may be considered for funding.

#### Staff Recommendations

The attachments to this Staff Report include a comprehensive analysis for six projects that met the 75-point minimum threshold to be considered for funding. The seventh project (Project ID P1-2203) is recommended for consideration of funding through the Conservancy's Climate, Access, and Restoration general fund allocation (see Agenda Item 10). Staff will present each of the six projects to the Board for individual consideration. The Board will consider each individually.

#### Proposals Recommended for Funding

Staff recommends that the Board award funding for six proposals expending \$ 3,035,255 of the \$3,498,133 available for Cycle. Staff anticipates executing grant agreements between August 2022 and March 2023, as projects are ready.

The projects recommended for funding are anticipated to produce the following benefits:

- Advance planning or implementation of multi-benefit restoration projects for floodplain, wetland, and riparian ecosystems, and working lands; and
- Significantly reduce invasive nonnative species.
- Improve hydrological connectivity and management for floodplain, wetland, and riparian ecosystems, and working lands



**BACKGROUND**

The Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program provided \$50 million to support multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:**

Project specific language is provided in each of the attached staff recommendations.

**CONTACT**

Sarah Lesmeister, Ecological and Community Programs Manager

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

[prop1@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:prop1@deltaconservancy.ca.gov)

(916) 375-2087

**Table 1.** Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program, Cycle 5 Staff Funding Recommendations

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	County	Category	Amount Recommended	Final Score	Recommended Action
P1-2203	Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Project	East Bay Regional Park District	Contra Costa	Planning	\$390,000	88	Approve using CAR funding (Agenda Item 11)
P1-2204	Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration Project	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	Contra Costa	Implementation	\$427,706	87	Approve
P1-2207	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase II	Ducks Unlimited	Yolo	Implementation	\$887,516	93	Approve
P1-2208	Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project	Solano Resource Conservation District	Solano	Implementation	\$359,639	91	Approve
P1-2209	Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh	Suisun Resource Conservation District	Solano	Implementation	\$542,546	93	Approve
P1-2211	Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction	Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Contra Costa	Planning	\$350,000	79	Approve
P1-2212	Van Buskirk Multi-Benefit Ecosystem Restoration Project	American Rivers	San Joaquin	Planning	467,848	88	Approve



**Consideration of Award of Proposition 1 Grant Funds for Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration Project  
Staff Recommendation**

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This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 1 Grant Program funding for the Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration Project.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
<b>Project ID</b>	2204
<b>Project Type</b>	Implementation
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$427,706
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$475,226
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$427,706
<b>Score</b>	87/100

**RECOMMENDATION**

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$427,706 in grant funding for the Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration Project proposed by the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District conditional upon successful resolution of equipment purchases requirements and weed removal methodology. Staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application. Conservancy staff and the Professional Review Panel consisting of the following agencies: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Water Resources, Delta Protection Commission, and the Delta Stewardship Council, have scored this proposal against the established criteria. Conservancy staff contacted local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes via the local notification process to receive comments and ensure project support. Prior to entering into a grant agreement, staff will work with the applicant to further refine the project’s scope of work.

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The proposed Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal Project will test and identify workable solutions to remove invasive weeds, improve habitat value, and prevent further spread of invasive weeds in the Franks Tract State Recreation Area and nearby restoration sites. Little Franks Tract is a smaller part of the Franks Tract State Recreation Area, located on the northwest side of the Recreation Area between Bradford Island, the Webb Tract, and Bethel Island (see Figure 9.2). Proposed target species include, but are not limited to, *Cortaderia selloana* (pampas grass), *Arundo donax* (giant reed), *Rubus armeniacus* (Himalayan blackberry), *Phragmites* spp. (common reed), or *Cynara cardunculus* (artichoke thistle). Management of the State Recreational Area is challenging because the majority of the area, except part of the proposed project site located on the surrounding levee, is underwater and

is only accessible by air or boat. In partnership with the California Department of State Parks and Recreation, the applicant will work to determine the extent of the invasive plant problem and outline and test a potential path to addressing the long-term invasive weed issue in the larger Franks Tract region. By removing the invasive weeds and replanting with natives, the applicant plans to return ecosystem function to the area and increase habitat value. This project will remove invasive species and promote native plant re-establishment, enhancing habitat, protecting, and improving water quality and quantity, and restoring Delta plant habitats along levees. This project that will inform future projects to address the extensive invasive weed problem at Little Franks Tract.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

This implementation effort is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). On June 21, 2022, Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District, as the Lead Agency under CEQA, submitted a Notice of Exemption, finding the project categorically exempt from CEQA because it is a small (less than five acres) habitat restoration project (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 15333). As a CEQA responsible agency for this exempt project, the Conservancy Board need take no further CEQA actions. The NOE has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and can be accessed at this link: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2022060462>.

### **COST SHARE**

The cost share amount is 11 percent of the project budget. The applicant will provide cost share match of \$7,350 for fuel for boat transportation and \$5,000 for California Conservation Corps services. California State Parks, the landowner for this project, will provide \$40,170 of in-kind services through staff time from a Senior Environmental Scientist, an Environmental Scientist, and a Forestry Aide to assist in completion of project deliverables.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STATE PRIORITIES**

The project is consistent with specific actions and priorities identified in Proposition 1, California Water Action Plan, Conservancy's governing statute, Conservancy's strategic plan, Delta Plan, state, and regional plans. This project will provide multi-benefit ecosystem restoration improvements to invasive weed laden sites that provide little habitat value.

### **LONG TERM VIABILITY**

The proposal addresses long-term management. California State Parks will perform long-term management of the project site after the funding period. The project will culminate in a long-term management report that will recommend, based on the discoveries through this project, the most successful strategies for treatment, and removal of invasive weeds.

### **LOCAL SUPPORT**

The proposal demonstrates local support. The applicant plans to engage with various stakeholders, and they do not believe the project will negatively affect local land uses. The applicant provided letters of support from California Department of Water Resources, Reclamation District 2137, California State Parks, Friends of the Marsh Creek Watershed, Ironhouse Sanitary District, and Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District.

### **SCIENTIFIC MERIT**

The proposal describes the scientific basis and incorporates the best available science into the project. The proposal describes efforts to develop an adaptive management approach consistent with the Delta Plan's adaptive management framework. The proposal notes climate impacts and benefits and mentions a mechanism for incorporating climate change considerations into the project. All invasive weed management techniques are determined through the Weed Control User Tool, a decision support tool created by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, the California Invasive Plant Council and the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The applicant proposes to purchase a boat and motor that will require additional consideration to meet applicable state policy and laws. The applicant shall work with Conservancy staff to resolve issues regarding equipment purchases prior to entering into a grant agreement with the Conservancy.

The project would include identification and utilization of the most appropriate methods for weed control within the Project area. Some project reviewers indicated that the use of herbicides on the site to remove invasive weeds may be infeasible, or require additional CEQA review, if the treatment area contains species of concern. The grant agreement will specify that only mechanical removal of invasive species would be used in locations where species of concern are present.

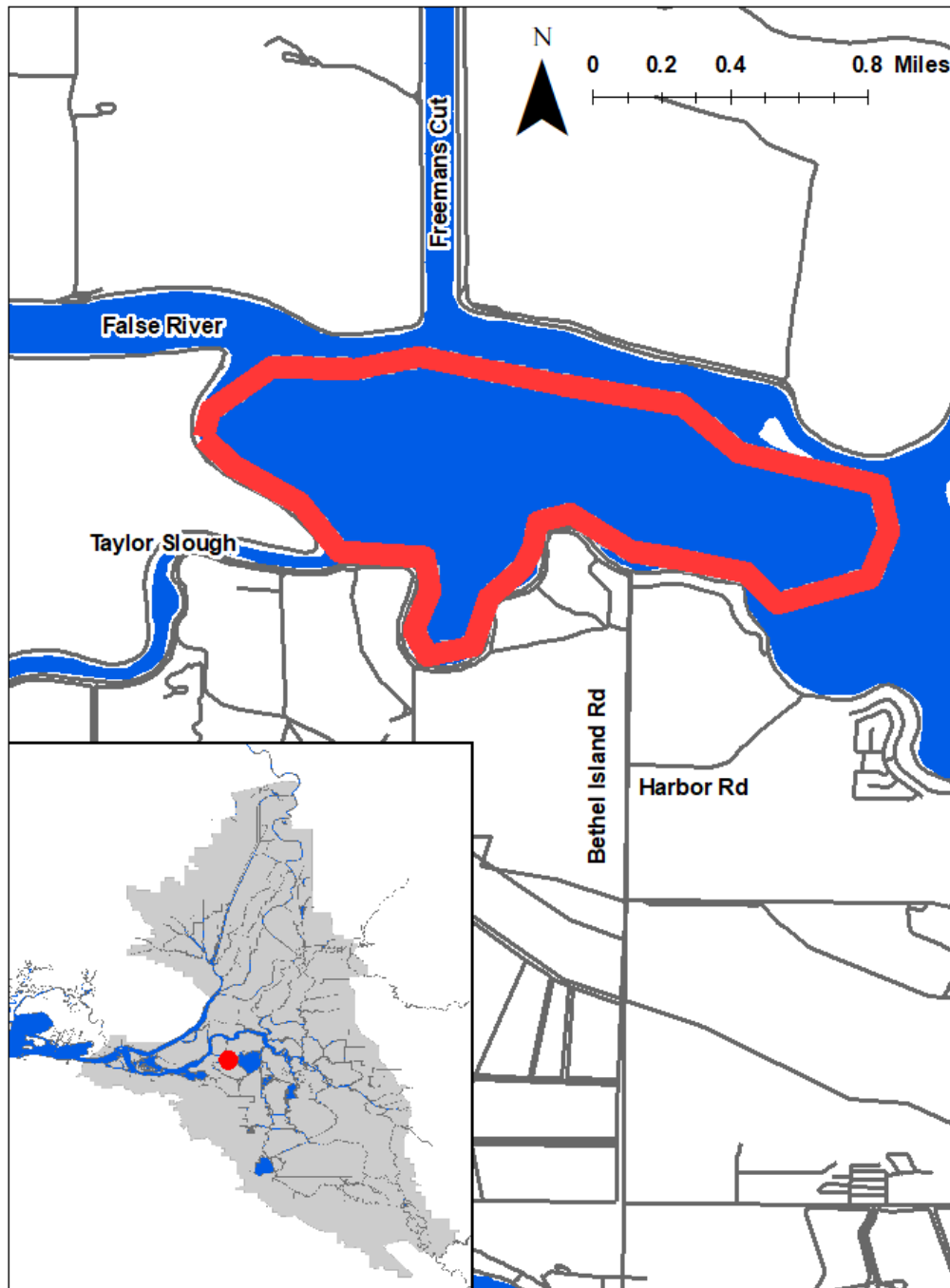
### **SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Move to award funding up to \$427,706 to the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District from the Proposition 1 Grant Program for the Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration Project conditional upon the items noted in the Additional Considerations section of the staff recommendation.

### **CONTACT**

Trevor Fox PhD, Environmental Scientist  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
[trevor.fox@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:trevor.fox@deltaconservancy.ca.gov)  
(916) 375-2088

FIGURE 9.2. LITTLE FRANKS TRACT INVASIVE WEED REMOVAL AND RESTORATION PROJECT AREA





**Consideration of Award of Proposition 1 Grant Funds for Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase Two  
Staff Recommendation**

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This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 1 Grant Program funding for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase Two.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	Ducks Unlimited, Inc
<b>Project ID</b>	2207
<b>Project Type</b>	Implementation
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$887,516
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$1,887,468
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$887,516
<b>Score</b>	93/100

**RECOMMENDATION**

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$887,516 in grant funding for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase Two proposed by Ducks Unlimited. The project proposal received overall favorable reviews from staff with no additional requirements. Staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application. Conservancy staff and the Professional Review Panel consisting of the following agencies: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delta Protection Commission, Delta Stewardship Council and California Department of Food and Agriculture scored this proposal against the established criteria. Conservancy staff contacted local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes via the local notification process to receive comments and ensure project support. Prior to entering into a grant agreement, staff will work with the applicant to further refine the project’s scope of work.

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The proposed Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase Two, is the final phase of a broader project that will construct hydrological improvements in the Yolo Bypass. The efforts will restore 220 acres of managed seasonal wetland, improve water management to enhance 1,803 acres of existing managed seasonal wetlands, and enhance 140 acres of semi-permanent wetland and 1,180 acres of wildlife-friendly agriculture. Phase one, which was completed in summer 2021, included construction of components one, three and five. This project, Phase two, will construct components two and four which will provide improved water control structures, a new pump station, and canal grading to help achieve the desired management capabilities necessary to implement moist-

soil best management practices, improve semi-permanent wetland habitat and improve wildlife-friendly rice farming. By increasing the management capabilities related to flood up and draw down rates, managed seasonal wetlands can produce greater germination density and abundance of seed yield and limit mosquito production. The project will use proven construction methods such as dewatering, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and other best management practices to achieve and verify the project objectives. The project will also increase public access by an average of seven days per year by reducing localized flooding resulting from insufficient capacity in the existing drainage and water supply system. This project is a continuation of a previously completed project (P1-1503), the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase One, funded in part by the Delta Conservancy.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

This implementation effort is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). On January 8, 2018 the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as the Lead Agency under CEQA, submitted a Notice of Determination based on the results of an Initial Study that found potential significant project impacts on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, and hydrology and water quality; determined all of the identified impacts can be reduced to insignificant levels through implementation of Mitigation Measures outlined in the Initial Study; and prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project to satisfy the requirements of CEQA.

On January 24, 2018, the Conservancy Board voted to approve resolution 2018-01, which adopted responsible agency findings for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Drainage Improvements Project and staff filed the corresponding CEQA Notice of Determination. These CEQA actions fulfill the Conservancy's role as a responsible agency for both phase one (P1-1503) and phase two (current proposal) of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Drainage Improvements Project.

### **COST SHARE**

The cost share amount is 53 percent of the project budget. The applicant will provide \$999,952 as cost leverage from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Duck Stamp Program to support administration, pre-construction surveys, construction management, site preparation, and purchasing and installation of water control structures.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STATE PRIORITIES**

The project is consistent with and directly and specifically links to multiple actions and priorities identified in the Conservancy's governing statute, the Conservancy's strategic plan, the Delta Plan, and in other state and regional plans. Considerations are made that will promote wildlife conservation, ecosystem restoration and economic development, enhance managed wetlands and working lands, and improve water quality.

### **LONG TERM VIABILITY**

The proposal describes long-term management that will cover the required 15-year duration. The project will be maintained and operated by California Department of Fish and Wildlife in accordance with the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Land Management Plan for a minimum duration of 15 years. Ongoing management funding will be provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The applicant



will remain a project partner and will aid in the long-term management by providing technical expertise and fundraising should unforeseen problems occur.

**LOCAL SUPPORT**

The proposal demonstrates local support and was originally conceived as one of 12 projects identified in the Yolo Bypass Drainage and Water Infrastructure Improvement study prepared by Yolo County in April 2014. This study included extensive interviews with local landowners, farmers, government representatives, water managers, wetland managers and non-government organizations with detailed knowledge of the Yolo bypass. The applicant notified adjacent landowners of the project, as required by California Environmental Quality Act, providing an opportunity to submit comments. Further, the project has received letters of support from Yolo County, Yolo Basin Foundation, Central Valley Joint Venture, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Cobra Farms, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Ducks Unlimited. Phase One of the project included extensive local outreach and dissemination of project information via social media. Phase Two will include similar efforts.

**SCIENTIFIC MERIT**

The proposal describes and references the scientific basis of the project and incorporates the best available science. The proposal demonstrates consideration for the accommodation of native and migratory species, farming of wildlife friendly rice crops, and improved substrata for critical invertebrate food sources. The proposal addresses concerns of future increased flood risk and makes sufficient effort to account for and mitigate the impact of those occurrences with researched backed methodologies.

**ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no additional considerations.

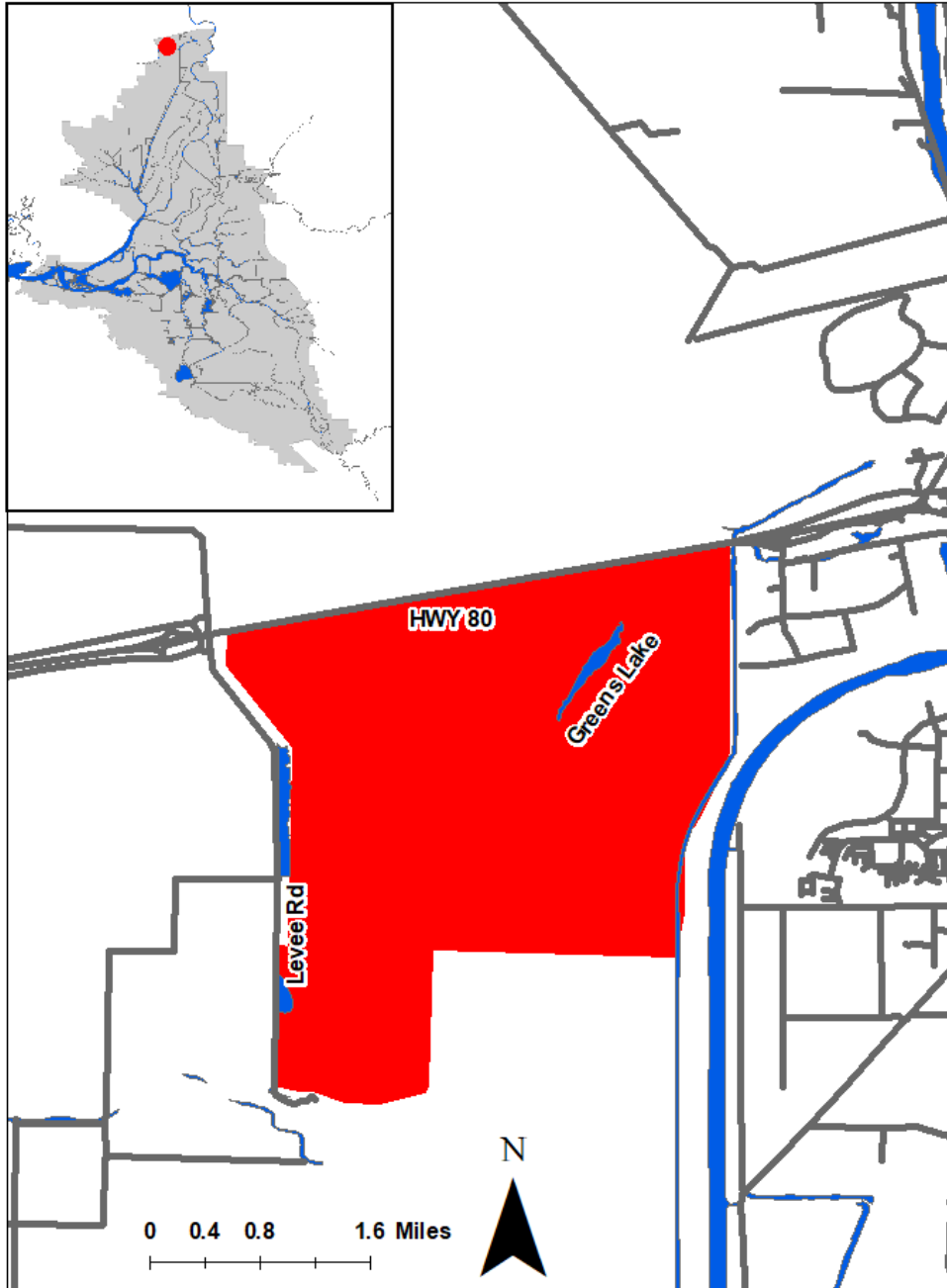
**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Move to award funding up to \$887,516.29 to the Ducks Unlimited from the Proposition 1 Grant Program for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase Two.

**CONTACT**

Trevor Fox, Environmental Scientist  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
trevor.fox@deltaconservancy.ca.gov  
(916) 375-2088

FIGURE 9.3. YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA HABITAT AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASE TWO PROJECT AREA



Meeting Date: January 24, 2017

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

*A California State Agency*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY ADOPTING RESPONSIBLE AGENCY FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) FOR THE YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

**Whereas**, the Yolo Bypass Drainage Project ("Project") is a proposal put forth by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. to improve water management and drainage for the Yolo Bypass; and

**Whereas**, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is the lead agency pursuant to CEQA (Public Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR § 15000 et seq.); and

**Whereas**, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife prepared an Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA in order to analyze all potential adverse environmental impacts of the project; and

**Whereas**, on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2018, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife considered and certified the Mitigated Negative Declaration including adoption of a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (attached as Exhibit A), and approved the Project ; and

**Whereas**, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. has requested funding from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) for the Project and the Delta Conservancy must, therefore, as a responsible agency, make certain findings prior to its approval of funding for the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY AS FOLLOWS:**

- a. The Delta Conservancy has, in its independent judgment, reviewed and considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's findings, which are incorporated herein by reference, and finds, as to those potential impacts within the Board's powers and authorities as a responsible agency, that the Mitigated Negative Declaration contains a complete, objective, and accurate reporting of the Project's potential impacts and that mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Project that avoid and/or substantially lessen any of the potentially significant effects of the Project.
- b. The Board further finds that no additional feasible mitigation measures within the Board's authority are necessary to reduce the environmental impacts of the project to less than significant levels.

Meeting Date: January 24, 2017  
Page 2

- c. The Delta Conservancy hereby authorizes and directs staff to file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse.
- d. The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings for this Resolution are located on the Delta Conservancy's website.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD THIS JANUARY 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

**VOTE**

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:



---

Katherine Miller, Board Chair

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

[X] Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814

[X] County Clerk
County of: Yolo
Address: 625 Court Street, Room B01 Woodland, CA 95776

From:

Public Agency: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Address: 1450 Halyard Dr. West Sacramento, CA 95691
Contact: Brian Keegan
Phone: (916) 376-4924

Lead Agency (if different from above): California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Address: 7329 Silverado Trail, Napa, CA 94558
Contact: Craig Weightman
Phone: (707) 944-5500

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2017122001

Project Title: Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvements Project

Project Applicant: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Project Location (include county): Yolo County, 2.5 miles east city of davis. 38.553540 North -121.624150 West

Project Description:

The proposed project includes five major improvements, identified as Project Components, that are being proposed to enhance the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's ability to manage wetland resources and agricultural operations within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Specific improvements include installing new water control structures, expanding canals, installing box culverts and two con-span bridges, replacing existing culverts, raising road grades, separating dual function ditches and relocating an existing water pump, and installing two new pumps.

This is to advise that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has approved the above (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

described project on January 24th, 2018 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

- 1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for this project.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at: The California Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research and the County Clerk-Recorder Office (see address)

Signature (Public Agency): [Signature] Title: Chair, Delta Conservancy Board

Date: 1/24/18 Date Received for filing at OPR:



**Consideration of Award of Proposition 1 Grant Program Funds for the Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project  
Staff Recommendation**

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This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 1 Grant Program funding for the Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	Solano Resource Conservation District
<b>Project ID</b>	2208
<b>Project Type</b>	Implementation
<b>County</b>	Solano
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$359,639
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$452,888
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$359,639
<b>Score</b>	91/100

**RECOMMENDATION**

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board consider the Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project prepared by Solano Resource Conservation District as the Lead Agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, and adopt Resolution 2022-01 that makes Responsible Agency Findings that all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the project to eliminate any significant effects on the environment, and that no additional mitigation measures within the Board’s authority are necessary.

Contingent upon the Board’s adoption of Resolution 2022-01, Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$359,639 in grant funding for the Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project proposed by the Solano Resource Conservation District conditional upon the applicant receiving a Delta Plan Certification of Consistency for the project and verification of water rights of the landowner. Staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application. Conservancy staff and the Professional Review Panel consisting of the following agencies: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delta Protection Commission, Delta Stewardship Council, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Department of Water Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service scored this proposal against the established criteria. Conservancy staff contacted local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes via the local notification process to receive comments and ensure project support. Prior to entering into a grant agreement, staff will work with the applicant to further refine the project’s scope of work.

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The proposed Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project will result in the installation of 20 acres of riparian woodland habitat along the north bank of Ulatis Creek in Solano County. A total of 1,880 native trees/shrubs and 25,000 forb/sedge plugs will be planted, 100 pounds of wildflowers will be seeded, and invasive plants (including *Arundo donax*) will be controlled throughout the project site. The proposed project will add 20 acres of habitat adjacent to a former project site, creating more continuous riparian habitat that provides valuable resources for wildlife, shades the waterline along Ulatis Creek, and showcase effective conservation efforts on working lands.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

This implementation effort is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). On October 20, 2021, Solano Resource Conservation District, as the Lead Agency under CEQA, submitted a Notice of Determination based on the results of an Initial Study that found potential significant project impacts on biological resources, cultural resources, and hydrology and water quality; determined all of the identified impacts can be reduced to insignificant levels through implementation of Mitigation Measures outlined in the Initial Study; and prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project to satisfy the requirements of CEQA. Conservancy staff, in fulfilling the Conservancy's role as a Responsible Agency, have reviewed these documents and findings, and staff recommends that the Board make Responsible Agency Findings concluding that all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the project to eliminate significant effects on the environment.

### **COST SHARE**

The cost share amount is 20 percent of the project budget. The applicant will provide \$6,000 as in-kind services through staff time to assist in regional and watershed conservation efforts. The landowner will provide \$62,000 in federal match from a grant with the United States Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentive Program and \$3,150 in-kind services through labor on managed grazing and project planning. Fibershed, a non-profit third party certifier of Climate Beneficial Wool, will provide \$12,099 in-kind match through labor for planting of native vegetation and \$10,000 to fund avian surveys and purchase of planting supplies.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STATE PRIORITIES**

The project is consistent with and directly and specifically links to multiple actions and priorities identified in the Conservancy's governing statute, the Conservancy's strategic plan, the Delta Plan, and in other state and regional plans. Considerations are made to promote wildlife conservation, ecosystem, and economic restoration, enhance flood plain habitat (with carbon sequestration benefits), and to help to improve water quality.

### **LONG TERM VIABILITY**

The proposal describes long-term management that will cover the required 15-year duration. The applicant will commit to working with the National Resource Conservation Service at the project site over 15 years, through 2041, to ensure project establishment and long-term success. Site visits by staff from the District will ensure continued communication with the landowners, visual assessment of plant establishment, and the opportunity to evaluate new management challenges that require updated approaches over the long-term.

### **LOCAL SUPPORT**

The proposal demonstrates local support and includes a resolution of support from the project's county Board of Supervisors. The proposal details an approach to inform and consult with affected parties and to avoid, reduce, and mitigate conflicts with existing and adjacent land uses. The applicant acquired letters of support from their cost sharing and cost leveraging partners, and formed close relationships with the Delta Stewardship Council, Solano County Water Agency, Point Blue Conservation science, and several other local and federal organizations.

### **SCIENTIFIC MERIT**

The proposal describes and references the scientific basis of the project and incorporates the best available science. The proposal demonstrates efforts to develop an adaptive management approach consistent with the Delta Plan's adaptive management framework and with sufficient capacity and resources to implement. The climate impacts/benefits are addressed, and the proposal provides a mechanism for incorporating climate change considerations into the project. An accurate estimate of the project's climate/carbon sequestration success will be evaluated over the 20 years post installation. Species richness surveys will be conducted pre and post installation to gather data on the project's outcome. The data will be made publicly available to help other researchers better understand similar reclamation projects.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Prior to submitting their proposal, the applicant shared with Conservancy staff reluctance from the landowner to record the landowner access agreement against the property deed with Solano County. The Conservancy typically requires that the access agreement be recorded against the property for projects on private land. The applicant, Solano Resource Conservation District (SRCD), has a long and successful partnership with the landowner and stated the landowner recently received a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program grant which also requires a 15-year contract. The NRCS grant is for separate conservation related work but at the same project site. The land has been owned by the same family for over one hundred years and the owners have a long history of supporting conservation efforts. The applicant requests that the Conservancy allow the landowner to sign a land access agreement but waive the requirement that the landowner record the land access agreement against the property deed. Given the landowner's longstanding commitment to conservation, their partnership with SRCD, and their corresponding grant from NRCS, staff recommends granting their request.

### **SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Three separate motions are required.

Move to adopt Resolution 2022-01, which makes Responsible Agency Findings that all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project.

Move to award funding up to \$359,639 to the Solano Resource Conservation District for Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project conditional upon the applicant receiving a Delta Plan Certification of Consistency and verification of water rights of the landowner.



Move to approve the applicant's request to waive the requirement for recording the executed grant agreement against the deed of the property, conditional upon the Conservancy receiving and approving a landowner access agreement.

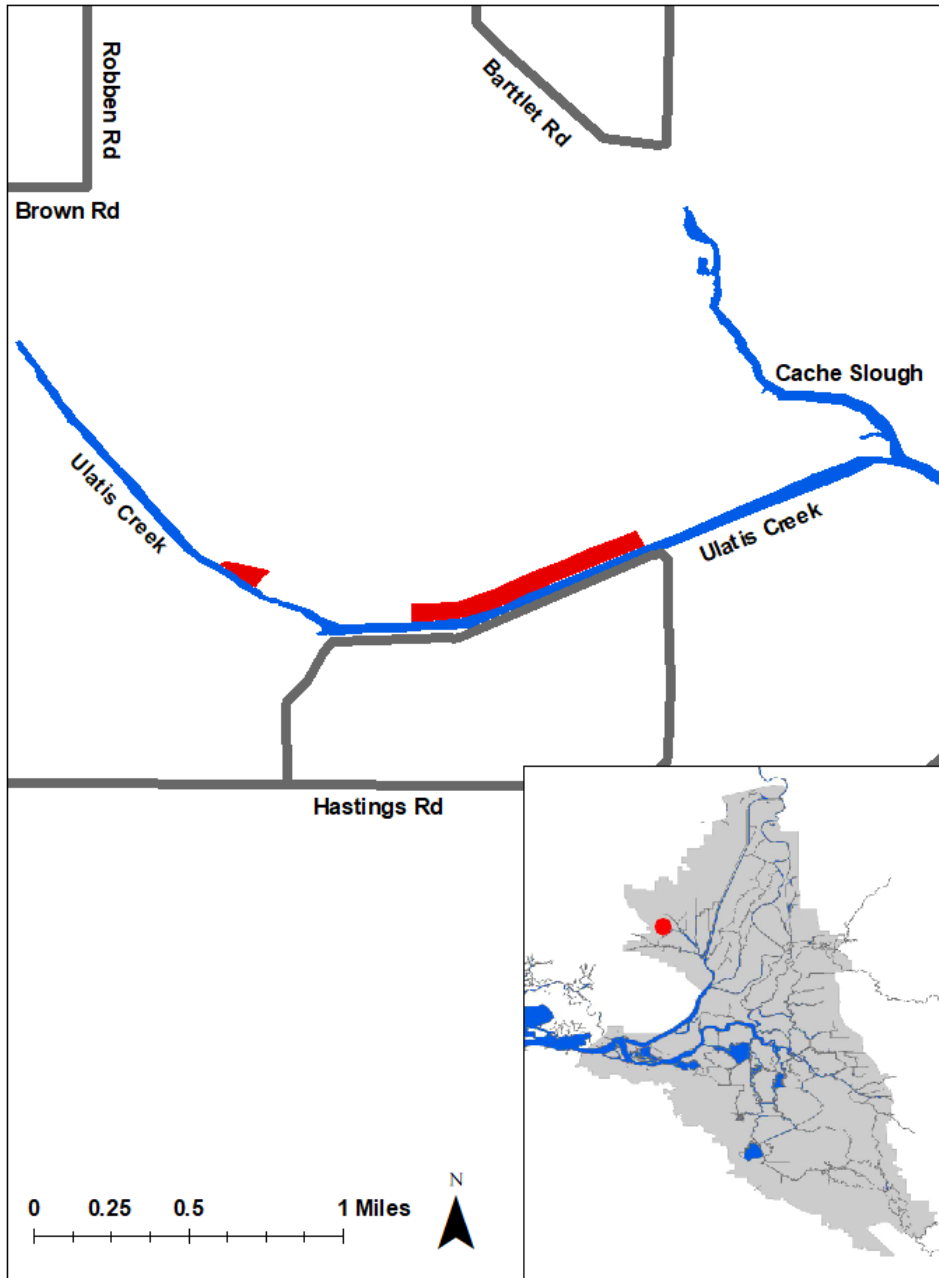
**CONTACT**

Trevor Fox, PhD, Environmental Scientist  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

[trevor.fox@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:trevor.fox@deltaconservancy.ca.gov)

(916) 375-2088

FIGURE 9.6 ULATIS CREEK HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT AREA





**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY ADOPTING RESPONSIBLE AGENCY FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE ULATIS CREEK HABITAT RESORATION PROJECT.**

**Whereas**, the Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project(Project)is a proposal put forth by the Solano Resource Conservation Districtto install 20 acres of riparian woodland habitat along the north bank of Ulatis Creek; and

**Whereas**, the Solano Resource Conservation Districtis the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR § 15000 et seq.); and

**Whereas**, the Solano Resource Conservation Districtprepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA in order to analyze all potential adverse environmental impacts of the project; and

**Whereas**, the Solano Resource Conservation Districthas requested funding from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) for the Project; and

**Whereas**, the Delta Conservancy must, as a responsible agency, make certain findings prior to approving funding for the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY AS FOLLOWS:**

- a. The Delta Conservancyhas, in its independent judgment, reviewed and considered the Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Projectand Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared by the Solano Resource Conservation District, which may be accessed via thewebsite linksincluded below, and finds, as to those potential impacts within the Delta Conservancy’s powers and authorities as a responsible agency, that the Mitigated Negative Declaration contains a complete, objective, and accurate reporting of the Project’s potential impacts and that mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Project that avoid and/or substantially lessen any of the potentially significant effects of the Project.
- b. The Board further finds that no additional feasible mitigation measures within the Board’s authority are necessary to reduce the environmental impacts of the project to less than significant levels.
- c. The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings for this Resolution are available through the Delta Conservancy’s website (<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/>).

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD THIS JULY 27, 2022.**

**VOTE**

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

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Mitchell Mashburn, Board Chair

**Supporting Documentation**

Solano Resource Conservation District Approval of Mitigated Negative Declaration, Solano Resource Conservation District Notice of Determination, and Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration <https://www.solanorcd.org/projects-and-programs/restoration/ulatis-creek-ceqa.html>

**Notice of Determination****Appendix D****To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
*U.S. Mail:* Street Address:  
P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk  
County of: Solano - County Admin Center  
Address: 675 Texas St. #6500, 6th floor  
Fairfield, CA 94533

**From:**

Public Agency: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
Address: 1450 Halyard Dr.  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
Contact: Rachel Wigginton  
Phone: (916)375-4994

Lead Agency (if different from above):  
Solano RCD  
Address: 1170 North Lincoln Street, #110  
Dixon, CA 95620  
Contact: Katherine Holmes  
Phone: (707)301-5779

***SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.***

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2021070447

Project Title: Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project

Project Applicant: Solano Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Project Location (include county): Southeast of intersection of Robben and Brown Roads, Solano County

**Project Description:**

The purpose of this project is to utilize a diverse suite of native plants to restore 20 acres of riparian woodland to the north bank of Ulatis Creek, thereby improving the ecological function of the area for the benefit of native plant and wildlife species. The project will result in the installation of 1,880 native trees and shrubs, 25,000 native forb and sedge plugs, and 100 pounds of native wildflower seed, while several species of invasive weeds will be controlled throughout the site.

This is to advise that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has approved the above  
( Lead Agency or  Responsible Agency)

described project on July 27, 2022 and has made the following determinations regarding the above  
(date)  
described project.

1. The project [ will  will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2.  An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [ were  were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [ were  were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

California Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research and the County Clerk-Recorder Office (addresses above).

Signature (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Chair, Delta Conservancy Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_



**Consideration of Award of Proposition 1 Grant Funds for Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh  
Staff Recommendation**

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This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 1 Grant Program funding for Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	Suisun Resource Conservation District
<b>Project ID</b>	2209
<b>Project Type</b>	Implementation
<b>County</b>	Solano
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$542,546
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$631,936
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$542,546
<b>Score</b>	93/100

**RECOMMENDATION**

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board consider the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan (Suisun Marsh Plan), and adopt Resolution 2022-02 that makes Responsible Agency Findings that the proposed project is consistent with the Suisun Marsh Plan, that no additional mitigation measures within the Board’s authority are necessary, and concurs with the lead agency’s statement of overriding considerations.

Contingent upon the Board’s adoption of Resolution 2022-02, Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$542,546 in grant funding for Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh (Project) proposed by the Suisun Resource Conservation District conditional upon successful resolution of concerns regarding tree removal and completion of the applicant’s California Environmental Quality Act responsible agency obligations. The project proposal received overall favorable reviews from staff. Staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application. Conservancy staff and the Professional Review Panel consisting of the following agencies: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Delta Protection Commission, Delta Stewardship Council, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Department of Water resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service scored this proposal against the established criteria. Conservancy staff contacted local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes via the local notification process to receive comments and ensure project support. Prior to entering into a grant agreement, staff will work with the applicant to further refine the project’s scope of work.

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The proposed Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh (Project) will improve habitat conditions in Suisun Marsh for fish, wildlife, and plants and improve water quality by installing new hydrological infrastructure at four project sites that will directly benefit 3,090 acres of managed wetlands. The four sites were identified from a previous Delta Conservancy funded project titled, "Suisun Marsh Improvement Assessment" that used hydrologic models to prioritize areas in Suisun Marsh that could benefit from habitat improvements. Specific project tasks outlined in this proposal include completion of all standard permitting processes, construction, and installation of infrastructure improvement elements (e.g., pipes and drains), and pre- and post-construction environmental monitoring to assess conditions and resilience to sea-level rise.

Results from the proposed managed wetland improvements will benefit Suisun Marsh and the Delta by enhancing ecosystem functions, wetland habitat diversity, seed-bearing plant production, carbon sequestration, improve water quality (e.g., minimize low dissolved oxygen during drainage), reduce mosquito production to protect public health and safety, and increase export of fish food resources.

### **COST SHARE**

The cost share amount is 14 percent of the project budget. The applicant will provide \$5,705 as cost leverage from state funds to support indirect expenses and \$20,595 as in-kind services through staff hours to oversee grant management and reporting costs. The landowners will provide a total of \$63,00 as cash to support project construction expenses.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

This implementation effort is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Beginning in the early 2000s, the Suisun Principal Agencies, a group of agencies with primary responsibility for Suisun Marsh management including CDFW, the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, led the development of the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan (Suisun Marsh Plan). The Suisun Marsh Plan intends to balance the benefits of tidal wetland restoration with other habitat uses in Suisun Marsh, such as salt marsh harvest mouse habitat, managed wetlands, public use, and upland habitat. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly California Department of Fish and Game), acting as the CEQA lead agency, found the Suisun Marsh Plan could have impacts on air quality, noise, utilities and public services, cultural resources, public health and environmental hazards, and cumulative impacts on cultural resources. Most impacts could be mitigated, and CDFW detailed this mitigation in a Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program; however, they also found approval of the Suisun Marsh Plan would result in the occurrence of significant effects to cultural resources that could not be mitigated. Pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21081(b), CDFW approved the Suisun Marsh Plan upon adopting a Statement of Overriding Considerations that the Suisun Marsh Plan would provide social, biological, and flood control benefits that override the significant and unavoidable impacts to cultural resources. On December 22, 2011, CDFW filed a Notice of Determination and made Findings of Fact and adopted Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Suisun Marsh Plan.

Conservancy staff, in fulfilling the Conservancy's role as a Responsible Agency, have reviewed these documents and findings, and staff recommends that the Board make Responsible Agency Findings concurring that implementation of the Project is consistent with CDFW's lead agency Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations that the Suisun Marsh Plan would provide social, biological, and flood control benefits that outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects to cultural resources and that all necessary mitigation measures within the Conservancy's jurisdiction have been included in the project to eliminate significant effects on the environment.

It should also be noted that the project activities may involve waters of the United States, which are covered by the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Regional General Permit 3. Regional General Permits authorize recurring activities at a regional level, such as the improvement and maintenance of managed wetland infrastructure in Suisun Marsh.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STATE PRIORITIES**

The project is consistent with and directly and specifically links to multiple actions and priorities identified in the Conservancy's governing statute, the Conservancy's strategic plan, the Delta Plan, and in other state and regional plans. Considerations are made to promote wildlife conservation, ecosystem and economic restoration, enhance managed wetlands and working lands, and improve water quality.

### **LONG TERM VIABILITY**

The proposal describes long-term management that will cover the required 15-year duration. Improvement of managed wetland circulation and drainage in Suisun Marsh will consist of installing water control structures that have an expected sustainability of at least 15-20 years. The proposed infrastructure (including stainless steel or high-density polyethylene) is resilient to the effects of brackish water and will persist in a rapidly changing environment including increasing salinity and rising sea levels. Each of the landowners are responsible for the long-term maintenance of the water control structures, have existing certified management plans, and will continue to implement them for the 15-year duration.

### **LOCAL SUPPORT**

The proposal demonstrates local support and includes a letter of support from the project's county's Board of Supervisors. The applicant provided letters of commitment from the four landowners and letters of support from stakeholders including the California Waterfowl Association, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Reclamation Districts 2127 and 2141.

### **SCIENTIFIC MERRIT**

The proposal describes and references the scientific basis of the project and incorporates the best available science. The proposal demonstrates efforts to develop an adaptive management approach consistent with the Delta Plan's adaptive management framework and with sufficient capacity and resources to implement. The climate impacts and benefits are addressed, and the proposal provides a mechanism for incorporating climate change considerations into the project.



### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The applicant proposes tree removal at one of the project sites. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) Suisun Marsh Protection Plan does not allow for the removal of certain trees. The Conservancy's grant agreement will not allow the removal of trees that would be inconsistent with BCDC's Suisun Marsh Protection Plan or the Suisun Marsh Plan. The Conservancy's grant agreement will require Suisun Resource Conservation District to verify CEQA responsible agency compliance.

### **SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Two separate motions are required:

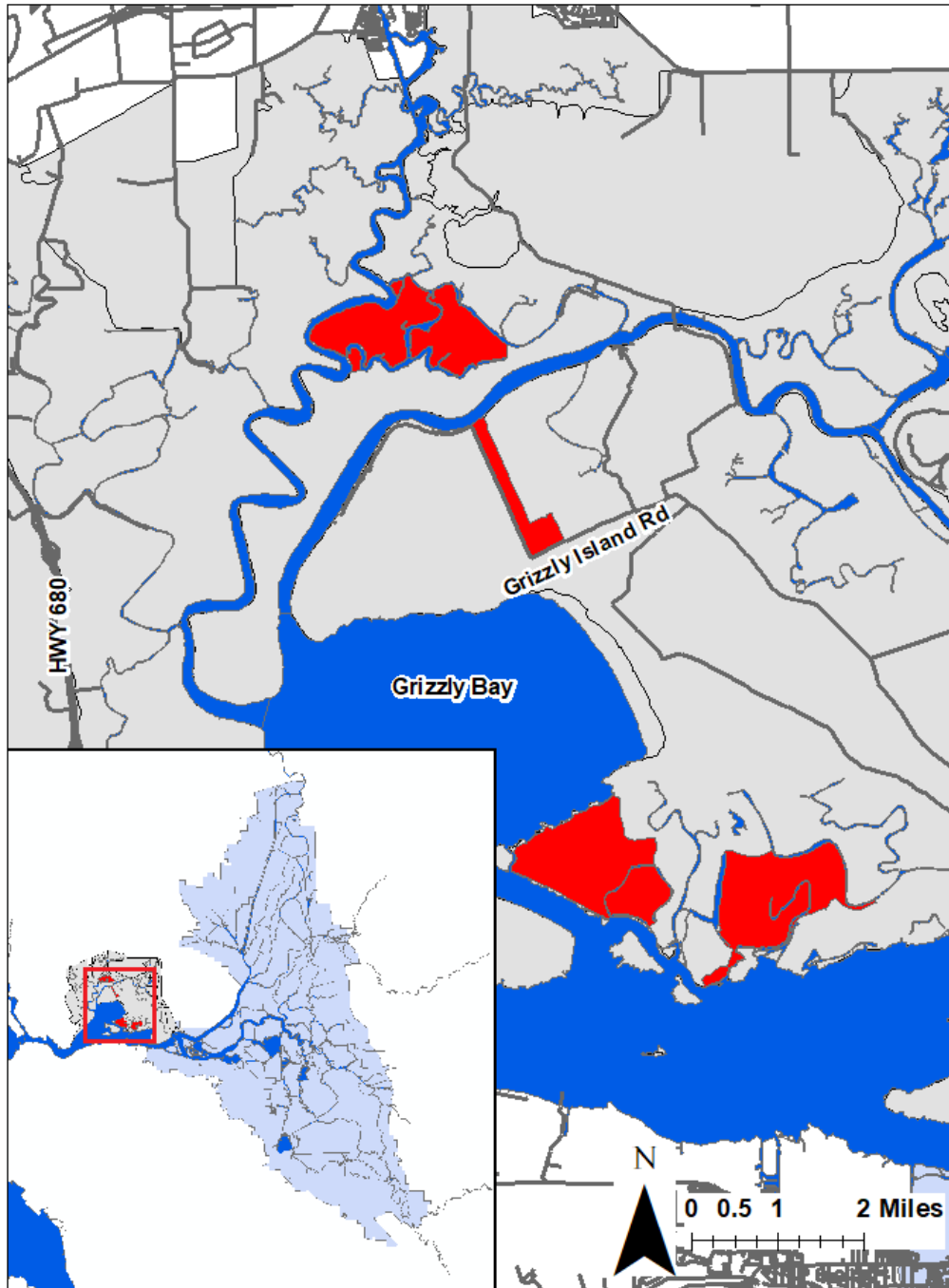
Move to adopt Resolution 2022-02, which makes Responsible Agency Findings that Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh implements the Suisun Marsh Plan and that all necessary mitigation measures have been included.

Move to award funding up to \$542,546 to the Suisun Resource Conservation District for Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh conditional upon the items noted in the staff recommendation.

### **CONTACT**

Trevor Fox PhD, Environmental Scientist  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
[trevor.fox@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:trevor.fox@deltaconservancy.ca.gov)  
(916) 375-2088

FIGURE 9.9 IMPROVING HYDROLOGICAL RESILIENCY OF MANAGED WETLANDS IN SUISUN MARSH PROJECT AREA





**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY ADOPTING RESPONSIBLE AGENCY FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR IMPROVING HYDROLOGICAL RESILIENCY OF MANAGED WETLANDS IN SUISUN MARSH.**

**Whereas**, Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh (Project) is a proposal put forth by Suisun Resource Conservation District to install new infrastructure to improve the habitats and water quality of four managed wetland areas totaling 3,090 acres, and a primary objective of the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan Environmental Impact Study/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) is to benefit the Marsh ecosystems by enhancing the ecological functioning of brackish managed wetlands; and

**Whereas**, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly the Department of Fish and Game) prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to CEQA and in collaboration with the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to analyze all potential adverse environmental impacts of the activities under the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan; and

**Whereas**, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR § 15000 et seq.); and

**Whereas**, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife filed a Notice of Determination and made Findings of Fact and adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Project as the CEQA lead agency. CDFW found approval of the Suisun Marsh Plan could have environmental impacts that could be mitigated through their Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program, but CDFW also found that approval of the Suisun Marsh Plan would result in the occurrence of significant effects to loss of cultural resources and cumulative cultural resources impacts. CDFW approved the Suisun Marsh Plan final EIR and cited in their Statement of Overriding Considerations the Suisun Marsh Plan would provide social, biological, and flood control benefits that outweighed these unavoidable adverse environmental effects; and

**Whereas**, the Suisun Resource Conservation District has requested funding from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) for the Project; and

**Whereas**, the Delta Conservancy must, as a responsible agency, make certain findings prior to approving funding for the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY AS FOLLOWS:**

- a. The Delta Conservancy has, in its independent judgment, reviewed and considered the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan and the final EIR prepared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation, and the United State Fish and Wildlife Service, which may be accessed via the website links included below, and finds, the Project implements the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan and that those potential impacts within the Delta Conservancy's powers and authorities as a responsible agency are completely, objectively, and accurately reported in the final EIR and that mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Project that avoid and/or substantially lessen most of the potentially significant effects of the Project.
- b. The Board further finds, Pursuant to PRC Section 21081(b), in concurrence with CDFW's Statement of Overriding Considerations (incorporated by reference and attached) that specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits outweigh the unavoidable adverse effects described in the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan Environmental Impact Study/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR).
- c. The Board further finds that no additional feasible mitigation measures within the Board's authority are necessary to reduce the environmental impacts of the project to less than significant levels.
- d. The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings for this Resolution are available through the Delta Conservancy's website (<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/>).

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD THIS JULY 27, 2022.**

**VOTE**

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

---

Mitchell Mashburn, Board Chair

**Supporting Documentation**

- Final EIS/EIR for Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan:  
[https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_details.php?Project\\_ID=781](https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=781)
- Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan:  
[https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/includes/documentShow.php?Doc\\_ID=17283](https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/includes/documentShow.php?Doc_ID=17283)
- CDFW Lead Agency Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations:  
[https://suisunrcd.org/wp-content/uploads/Permits/CDFW-Findings-of-Fact/P1-2209\\_CEQA-SMP\\_Findings-CDFW.pdf](https://suisunrcd.org/wp-content/uploads/Permits/CDFW-Findings-of-Fact/P1-2209_CEQA-SMP_Findings-CDFW.pdf)
- CDFW Lead Agency Notice of Determination:  
[https://suisunrcd.org/wp-content/uploads/Permits/CDFW-Findings-of-Fact/P1-2209\\_CEQA-SMP-NOD\\_CDFW.pdf](https://suisunrcd.org/wp-content/uploads/Permits/CDFW-Findings-of-Fact/P1-2209_CEQA-SMP-NOD_CDFW.pdf)

## Notice of Determination

## Appendix D

**To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
 U.S. Mail: Street Address:  
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk  
 County of: Solano - County Admin Center  
 Address: 675 Texas St. #6500, 6th floor  
 Fairfield, CA 94533

**From:**

Public Agency: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
 Address: 1450 Halyard Dr.  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
 Contact: Rachel Wigginton  
 Phone: (916)375-4994

Lead Agency (if different from above):  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Address: 715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
 Contact: Erin Chappell  
 Phone: 707) 428-2002

***SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.***

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2003112039

Project Title: Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan

Project Applicant: Suisun Resource Conservation District

Project Location (include county): Solano County

**Project Description:**

The project is located in the Suisun Marsh. The Suisun Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan, was pursued by the Suisun Principal Agencies, a group of agencies with primary responsibility for Suisun Marsh management, and is intended to balance the benefits of tidal wetland restoration with other habitat uses in the Marsh by evaluating alternatives that provide a politically acceptable change in Marsh-wide land uses. It relies on the incorporation of existing science and information developed through adaptive management.

This is to advise that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has approved the above  
 ( Lead Agency or  Responsible Agency)

described project on July 27, 2022 and has made the following determinations regarding the above  
 (date)  
 described project.

1. The project [ will  will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2.  An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [ were  were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [ were  were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

California Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research and the County Clerk-Recorder Office (addresses above).

Signature (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Chair, Delta Conservancy Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_



**Consideration of Award of Proposition 1 Grant Funds for Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction Planning Project**

**Staff Recommendation**

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 1 Grant Program funding for the Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction Planning Project.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
<b>Project ID</b>	2211
<b>Project Type</b>	Planning
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$350,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$599,898
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$350,000
<b>Score</b>	88/100

**RECOMMENDATION**

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$350,000 in grant funding for the Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction Planning Project proposed by Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (the District) conditional upon approval of findings for a project site located outside of the legal Delta. The project proposal received overall favorable reviews from staff with no additional requirements. Staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application. Conservancy staff and the Professional Review Panel consisting of the following agencies: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Delta Protection Commission, Delta Stewardship Council, Department of Water Resources, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service have scored this proposal against the established criteria. Conservancy staff contacted local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes via the local notification process to receive comments and ensure project support. Prior to entering into a grant agreement, staff will work with the applicant to further refine the project’s scope of work.

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The proposed Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction Planning Project will prepare plans to restore reservoir capacity and ecosystem functions, improve reservoir values and habitat resiliency to climate change, and reduce mercury output to downstream Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta habitats. Additionally, this project would be in conjunction with existing planning

efforts by East Bay Regional Park District and California State Parks to improve aesthetic value and recreation opportunities. The proposed planning project would take preliminary concept design plans to 100 percent design plans; conduct public engagement, outreach, and collaboration; complete necessary environmental compliance and permitting; and prepare a long-term monitoring and management plan that would also address performance measures and adaptive management.

The Marsh Creek Dam and Reservoir is located approximately one-half mile outside of the legal Delta near the City of Brentwood in Contra Costa County and is directly connected to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via Marsh Creek (see Figure 9.12). The dam and reservoir were constructed in 1962 with the sole purpose to provide flood protection to the downstream communities of Brentwood and Oakley. Over the last sixty years, the ecosystem function and associated wetland habitat has been reduced due to the accumulation of sediment in the reservoir. Additionally, the water and sediment entering the reservoir are contaminated with mercury originating from an upstream abandoned mercury mine at the base of Mount Diablo. The proposed improvements to Marsh Creek Reservoir would result in a multi-benefit implementation project that would increase reservoir capacity to, amongst other benefits, reduce total output of mercury-laden water and sediment that is carried downstream into the Delta; properly remove and contain up to 450,000 cubic yards of mercury laden sediment; restore up to 18 acres of riparian and three acres of wetland habitats to improve ecosystem function and values; install cattle exclusion fencing; and conduct public outreach.

#### **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 and securing necessary permits for the implementation phase of the project. Contra Costa County will act as the CEQA Lead Agency and expects to prepare an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for implementation phase of the project.

#### **COST SHARE**

The cost share amount is 42 percent of the project budget. The applicant will provide \$249,989 as in-kind services through staff time to preform grant management and reporting, participate in field assessments and technical surveys, conduct public outreach, assist in preparation of environmental compliance, and develop a monitoring and management plan.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STATE PRIORITIES**

The project is consistent with specific actions and priorities identified in Proposition 1, California Water Action Plan, the Conservancy's governing statute, the Conservancy's strategic plan and the Delta Plan. Considerations are made to assist fortifying the project region against future climate related flood issues, recovery of endangered and threatened species, as well as assisting in ecosystem restoration.

#### **LONG TERM VIABILITY**

The proposal describes how the proposed project will directly contribute to a specific on-the-ground project and that the lifespan will cover the required 15 year duration. The project was included in the 2021 seven-year Capital Improvement Plan by the District. With a shovel-ready project, the applicant would seek funding for implementation.



### **LOCAL SUPPORT**

The proposal demonstrates local support and includes a resolution of support from the project's county's Board of Supervisors. The proposal clearly details an approach to inform and consult with all affected parties and to avoid, reduce, or mitigate conflicts with existing and adjacent land uses. Letters of support were included from East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, American Rivers, East Bay Regional Park District, Contra Costa Clean Water Program, and the City of Brentwood.

### **SCIENTIFIC MERIT**

The proposal describes the scientific basis of the project and incorporates the best available science. The proposal describes efforts to develop an adaptive management approach consistent with the Delta Plan's adaptive management framework. The proposal describes climate impacts and benefits and includes a mechanism for incorporating climate change considerations into the project.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This project is planning for a future implementation project that will 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 restoring habitat at appropriate elevation in the Delta watershed and prioritizes and implements projects that restore Delta habitat; (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 state coastal Conservancy where the project is located and will work with the applicant to address any comments; and (5) the project will provide significant benefits to the Delta by improving water quality, reducing the pool of total mercury available for output to habitat downstream into the Delta, and restoring habitat in the Delta watershed.

### **SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Two separate motions are required.

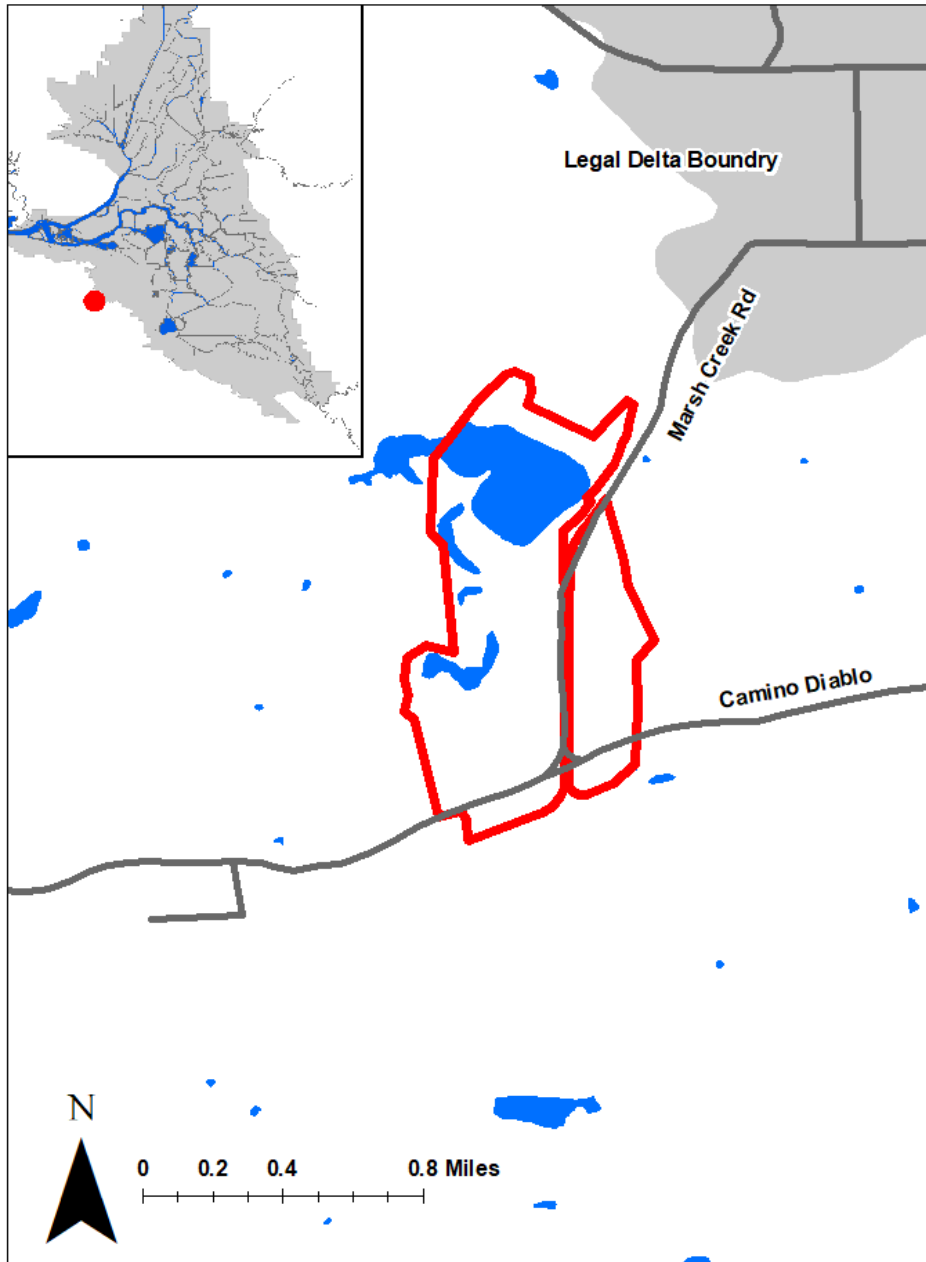
Move that the Board approve findings for a project site located outside of the legal Delta for the Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction Project with Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Move to award funding up to \$350,000 to the Contra Costa Flood Control and Water Conservation District from the Proposition 1 Grant Program for the Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction Project.

### **CONTACT**

Trevor Fox PhD, Environmental Scientist  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
[trevor.fox@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:trevor.fox@deltaconservancy.ca.gov)  
(916) 375-2088

FIGURE 9.12 MARSH CREEK RESERVOIR RESTORATION AND TOTAL MERCURY REDUCTION PROJECT AREA





**Consideration of Award of Proposition 1 Grant Funds for Van Buskirk Multi-Benefit Ecosystem Restoration Planning Project Staff Recommendation**

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 1 Grant Program funding for the Van Buskirk Multi-Benefit Ecosystem Restoration Planning Project.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	American Rivers
<b>Project ID</b>	2212
<b>Project Type</b>	Planning
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$467,848
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$472,548
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$467,848
<b>Score</b>	88/100

**RECOMMENDATION**

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$467,848 in grant funding for the Van Buskirk Multi-Benefit Ecosystem and Restoration Planning Project proposed by American Rivers conditional upon the applicant providing a landowner letter of support for the project. The project proposal received overall favorable reviews from staff with no additional requirements. Staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application. Conservancy staff and the Professional Review Panel consisting of the following agencies: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delta Protection Commission, Delta Stewardship Council, California Department of Food and Agriculture have scored this proposal against the established criteria. Conservancy staff contacted local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes via the local notification process to receive comments and ensure project support. Prior to entering into a grant agreement, staff will work with the applicant to further refine the project’s scope of work.

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The proposed Van Buskirk Multi-Benefit Ecosystem and Restoration Planning Project will result in a multi-benefit ecosystem restoration project on the former 192-acre Van Buskirk golf course located along the San Joaquin River in Stockton, California. In partnership with the City of Stockton and the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA), the proposed project will conduct agency coordination and community engagement; prepare conceptual restoration design plans; integrate nature-based design solutions and multi-benefit flood protection into planning; and seek implementation funding with project partners.

Currently, there are two concurrent, yet disparate, planning efforts converging at the Van Buskirk property. First, the United States Army Corps of Engineers is planning to fortify the levees bordering

the property to reduce flood risk in Stockton. Second, the City of Stockton is developing a plan to transform the former municipal golf course property into a park. This project would connect and leverage the existing planning efforts to create a multi-benefit project that would address the following goals: reduce flood risk due to levee failure, connect the San Joaquin River and sloughs to natural floodplains and riparian habitat, create public access or recreational opportunities along Delta waterways, and benefit a severely disadvantaged and socially vulnerable community.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

This planning effort is not considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For project implementation, the City of Stockton will be the CEQA lead agency for the park development and ecosystem restoration on the Van Buskirk property owned by the City of Stockton. Design Workshop is contracted by the City of Stockton to develop an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the park site pursuant to CEQA. The levees along Van Buskirk are included in the Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study Area. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed a Final Integrated Interim Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Study (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Lower San Joaquin River Project in 2018. USACE will be the lead NEPA agency and SJAFCA will be the lead CEQA agency. American Rivers will determine if the EIR/EIS covers a levee setback as part of this planning grant.

### **COST SHARE**

The cost share amount is one percent of the project budget. The applicant will provide \$4,700 as cash to support unrecovered indirect and direct costs. While not a part of the planning project, the applicant states that the USACE, SJAFCA, and California Department of Water Resources will contribute \$845 million, \$135 million, and \$318.5 million, respectively, to implement the Lower San Joaquin River Project.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STATE PRIORITIES**

The project is consistent with and directly links to multiple actions and priorities identified in Proposition 1, California Water Action Plan, Conservancy's governing statute, Conservancy's strategic plan, the Delta Plan, and other state and regional plans. The project is a multi-benefit project that will safeguard Delta communities, restore riparian habitat for sensitive species, and create high-quality recreational opportunities for the residents of Stockton.

### **LONG TERM VIABILITY**

The proposal describes how the proposed project will contribute to a specific on-the-ground project. The proposal describes long-term management and addresses the intent to maintain for the required 15-year duration. The City of Stockton is investing time, staff, and resources to develop the park plan, as well as maintain the park in perpetuity.

### **LOCAL SUPPORT**

The proposal demonstrates local support. The applicant has received letters of support from Restore the Delta, River Partners, and the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency. The applicant proposes a task to continue public outreach to address community concerns.

### **SCIENTIFIC MERIT**

The proposal describes and references the scientific basis of the project and incorporates the best available science. The proposal addresses concerns of future increased flood risk and makes sufficient effort to account for and mitigate the impact of those occurrences with researched backed methodologies. The project cites over a dozen listed species that would benefit from habitat restoration including the Valley elderberry beetle, greater sandhill crane, Swainson's hawk, riparian brush rabbit, Chinook salmon, green sturgeon, and steelhead.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The applicant has worked with the landowner and has a tentative agreement that they support the planning project. Staff will ensure there is landowner support prior to executing the grant agreement.

### **SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Move to award funding up to \$467,848 to American Rivers from the Proposition 1 Grant Program for the Van Buskirk Multi-Benefit Ecosystem Restoration Project conditional upon the applicant providing a landowner letter of support for the project.

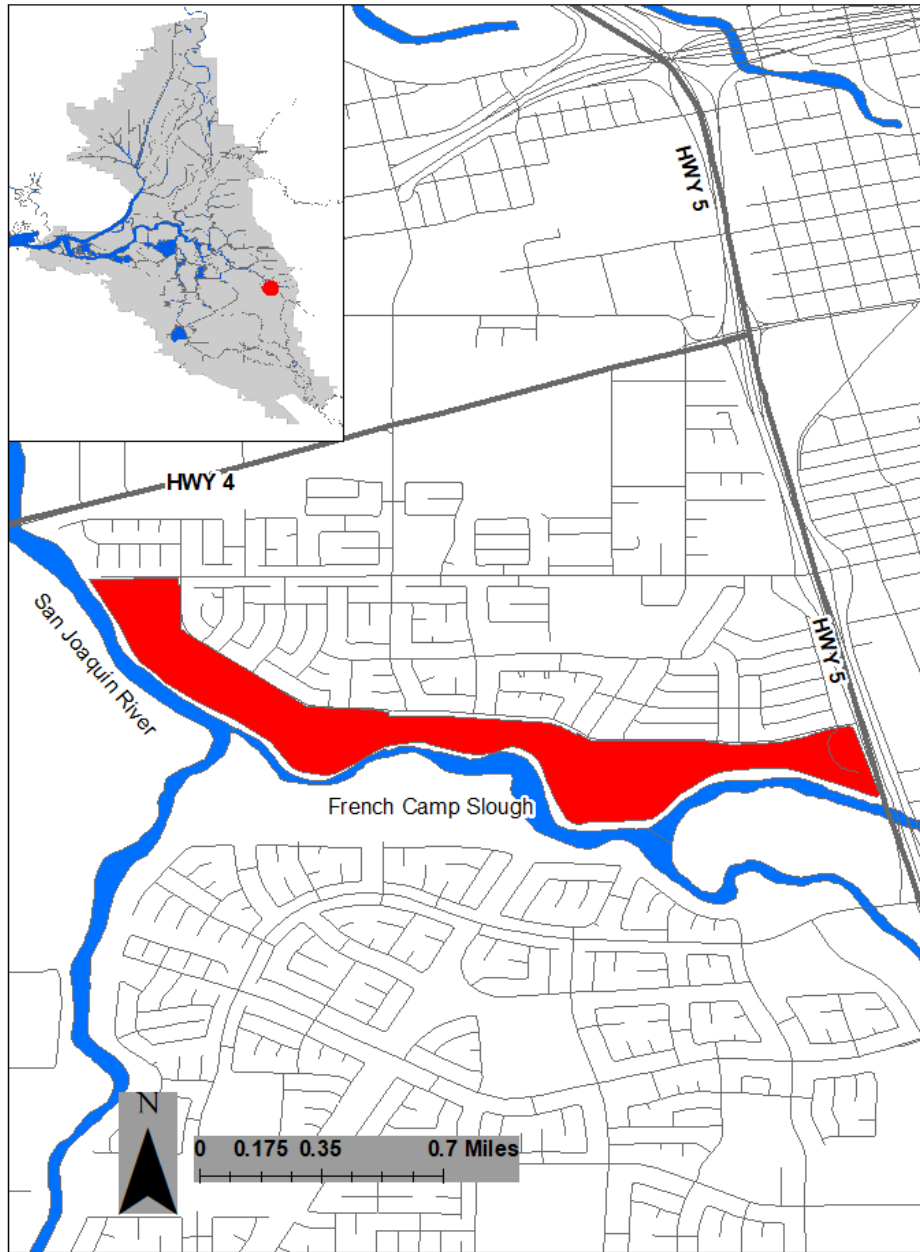
### **CONTACT**

Trevor Fox PhD, Environmental Scientist  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

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(916) 375-2088

FIGURE 9.13 VAN BUSKIRK MULTI-BENEFIT ECOSYSTEM PLANNING PROJECT AREA





**Consideration of Award of Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Grant Funds for Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Planning Project  
Staff Recommendation**

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This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Grant funding for the Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Planning Project.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	East Bay Regional Park District
<b>Project ID</b>	CAR03
<b>Project Type</b>	Planning
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$390,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$570,000
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$390,000

**RECOMMENDATION**

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$390,000 in grant funding for the Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Planning Project proposed by the East Bay Regional Park District. Conservancy staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the applicant’s Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 applications. Conservancy staff and the Professional Review Panel consisting of the following agencies: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Protection Commission, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Department of Water resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have reviewed the proposal. Conservancy staff contacted local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes via the local notification process to receive comments and ensure project support. Prior to entering into a grant agreement, staff will work with the applicant to further refine the project’s scope of work.

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The proposed Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Planning Project will develop a sea level rise adaptation plan and a vegetation management plan to support the long term sustainability of 1,648 acres of open water, wetlands, and upland habitat. The Big Break Regional Shoreline (Big Break) provides habitat for 70 bird species and several mammals of which six special-status species are known to occur within the parkland. Additionally Big Break provides essential and diverse public access to the Delta with outdoor exhibits, trails, a fishing pier, a kayak launch site, and a designated trailhead for the San Francisco Bay Water Trail. Additionally Big Break features a one-of-a-kind visitors center that connects the Park to the Delta through educational and recreational programs.

The Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Planning Project will lay the foundation for a multi-benefit habitat restoration, enhancement, and public access components. Specific activities proposed in this planning grant include, but are not limited to, the following: flood risk assessment, topographic survey, vegetation and wetland mapping, cultural resource risk assessments, permit evaluation and timing strategies, construction phases timeline, and marsh circulation and hydrology assessment. When complete, the project team will have specific and actionable plans that lead directly to implementation of projects that would maintain ecological function and public access while withstanding climate change, sea level rise, and changing conditions.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

This planning effort is not considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

#### **COST SHARE**

The cost share amount is 32 percent of the project budget. The applicant will provide \$180,00 as in-kind services through staff time to perform grant management, administration, and reporting; review existing conditions; develop conceptual designs; and conduct public outreach.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STATE AND LOCAL PRIORITIES**

The project is consistent with and links to multiple actions and priorities identified in the Conservancy's governing statute, the Conservancy's strategic plan, the Delta Plan, and in other state and regional plans. The plan will provide multiple benefits, including flood protection during persistent rainfall and flooding events, water quality improvements, improved habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species, and additional opportunities for naturalist programming.

#### **LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

The proposal demonstrates local support and includes a resolution of support from the project's county's Board of Supervisors. The proposed project is deeply rooted in Big Break's Land Use Plan, which the applicant developed in collaboration with the community when Big Break was originally acquired. At the time, planners saw the potential for the site and wanted to create a park that maximized the natural resources while balancing the area's need for public access all while honoring the concerns and requests of the community. Additionally, the community has played an essential role in shaping Big Break's interpretive and recreation programming.

#### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The applicant submitted the proposed project under the Conservancy's Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grant programs. After evaluating the proposal through both grant programs, Conservancy staff determined that components of the project were ineligible under the Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grant programs. Conservancy staff and the Professional Review Panel (Proposition 1 requirement) reviewed the proposal and it received consistently high evaluations across all reviewers. Conservancy staff determined that all elements of the proposed project are ideally suited for Climate, Access, and Restoration funding. By funding through CAR, the result is a single cost-effective, comprehensive, and multi-benefit project that will benefit the Delta ecosystem and community.



**BACKGROUND**

Chaptered on September 23, 2021, the Budget Act of 2021 (Senate Bill 170, Item 3875-101-0001 of Section 2.00) provided the Delta Conservancy with \$5,250,000 for projects that support climate resilience, community access, and natural resource protection activities (collectively known as Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Funding). Of the total, \$4,987,500 is available for projects.

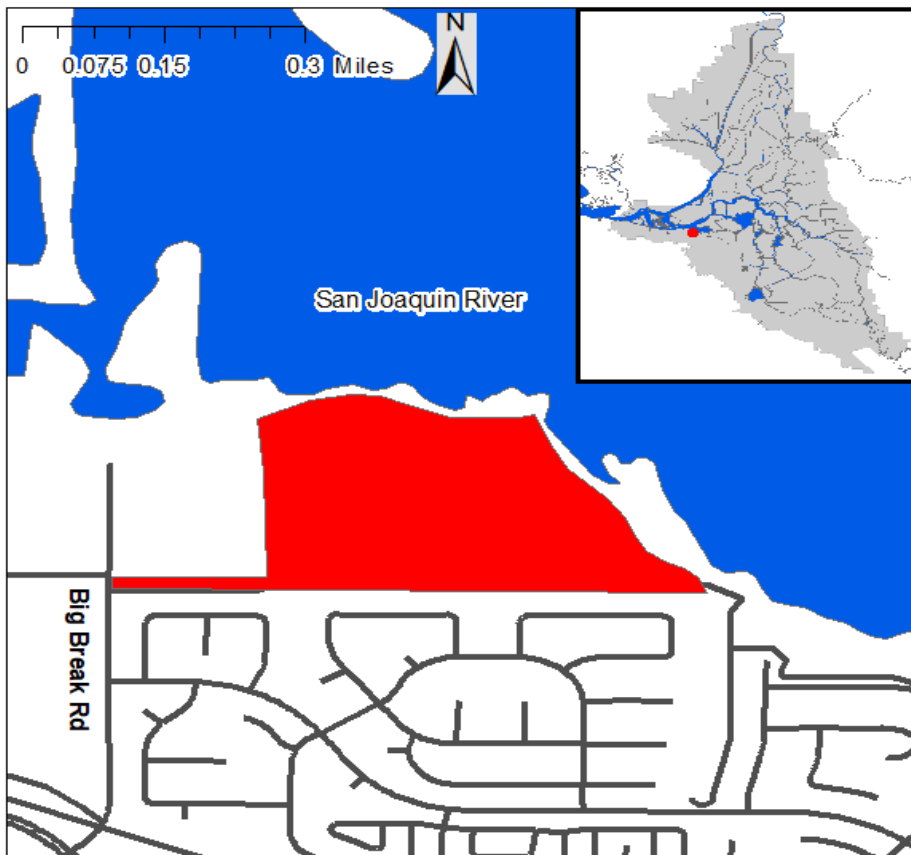
**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Move to award funding up to \$390,000 to the East Bay Regional Parks District from the Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Grant Program for the Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Planning Project.

**CONTACT**

Sarah Lesmeister, Ecological and Community Programs Manager  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
[sarah.lesmeister@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:sarah.lesmeister@deltaconservancy.ca.gov)  
(916) 375-2087

FIGURE 10.1 MAP OF THE BIG BREAK REGIONAL SHORELINE RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT





**Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Responsible Agency Findings and Award of Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Grant Funds for Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration and Public Access Project Staff Recommendation**

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This agenda item presents for Board consideration a resolution to adopt Responsible Agency Findings based on the City of West Sacramento’s Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and a recommendation to award Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Grant Program funding for the Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration and Public Access Project.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	City of West Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	CAR02
<b>Project Type</b>	Implementation
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$2,373,800
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$2,373,800
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$2,373,800

**RECOMMENDATION**

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board consider the Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration and Public Access Project prepared by the City of West Sacramento as the Lead Agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, and adopt Resolution 2022-03 that makes CEQA Responsible Agency Findings that all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the project to eliminate any significant effects on the environment, and that no additional mitigation measures within the Board’s authority are necessary.

Contingent upon the Board’s adoption of Resolution 2022-03, Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$2,373,800 in grant funding for the proposed project by the City of West Sacramento. Staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with members of the City of West Sacramento project team. Conservancy staff followed the General Grant Guidelines, approved by the Conservancy Board in January 2022, in working with the applicant and assessing this proposal. Conservancy staff contacted local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes via the local notification process to receive comments and ensure project support. Prior to entering into a grant agreement, staff will work with the applicant to further refine the project’s scope of work.

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The proposed Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration and Public Access Project will remove and control invasive species existing on the project site, reestablish native species within the disturbed area to enhance ecosystem function, install pond aeration devices to improve pond clarity and increase pond dissolved oxygen levels, and install a floating wetland island to improve water quality and provide protected waterbird habitat. The project will also build 1,395 linear feet of new trail and a 700-square foot viewing platform, creating safe and ADA-compliant access to a mature, riparian forest within the City of West Sacramento (City). If awarded, the funding will allow the applicant to finalize design plans, secure all permits, remove invasive species, plant native species, install pond aeration devices, install a floating wetland island, and construct the trail and platform along with an informational kiosk and educational signage to increase knowledge of Bees Lakes ecological characteristics.

The applicant initially submitted elements of the proposed project under the Conservancy's Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grant programs. To reduce duplicative efforts, the applicant withdrew their Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grant proposals and submitted a single cost-effective, comprehensive, and multi-benefit project proposal for CAR funding. As a shovel-ready project with both ecological and public access benefits, Conservancy staff felt this project was ideally suited for CAR funding.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

This implementation effort is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act. On January 21, 2021, the City of West Sacramento, as the lead agency under CEQA, submitted a Notice of Determination based on the results of an Initial Study that found potential significant project impacts on biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, transportation, and tribal and cultural resources; determined all of the identified impacts can be reduced to insignificant levels through implementation of Mitigation Measures outlined in the Initial Study; and prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project to satisfy the requirements of CEQA. Conservancy staff, in fulfilling the Conservancy's role as a responsible agency, have reviewed these documents and findings, and staff recommends that the Board make Responsible Agency Findings concluding that all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the project to eliminate significant effects on the environment.

### **COST SHARE**

The cost share amount is zero percent of the project budget. Although the applicant will not contribute cost share, it is notable that they have secured considerable commitments of time, labor, donations, and monetary support for the project.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STATE AND LOCAL PRIORITIES**

The project is consistent with and links to multiple actions and priorities outlined the Conservancy's governing statute, the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, and the Delta Plan. The project will provide protection and enhancement of habitat and habitat restoration; increase opportunities for tourism and recreation in the Delta; improve water quality; protect, conserve, and restore the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical, and living resources; promote environmental education; and enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

### **LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

The proposal demonstrates local support and includes a resolution of support from the project's county's Board of Supervisors. The applicant submitted letters of support from the West Sacramento City Council, the West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, and the Yolo Habitat Conservancy.

Additionally, the project was developed through a collaborative public process that was funded through the Conservancy's Cycle 3 Proposition 1 grant program. The applicant developed a stakeholder advisory group that included local landowners, Reclamation District (RD) 900 representatives, marina owners/operators, environmental organization representatives, site users, developer representatives, equestrian advocates, cyclists, academics, and wildlife viewers. The advisory committee provided input on project goals and a preformed a detailed analysis of the preferred alternative which was approved by the West Sacramento City Council in January 2021.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The applicant submitted elements of the proposed project under the Conservancy's Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grant programs. To reduce duplicative efforts, the applicant withdrew their Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grant proposals and submitted a single cost-effective and comprehensive project proposal for CAR funding. Conservancy staff determined that all elements of the proposed project are ideally suited for CAR funding. By funding through CAR, the result is a shovel-ready and multi-benefit project that will benefit the Delta ecosystem and community.

Prior to entering a grant agreement, the applicant shall coordinate with Conservancy staff and the Delta Stewardship Council to apply for and receive a Delta Plan Certification of Consistency for this project.

### **BACKGROUND**

Chapters on September 23, 2021, the Budget Act of 2021 (Senate Bill 170, Item 3875-101-0001 of Section 2.00) provided the Delta Conservancy with \$5,250,000 for projects that support climate resilience, community access, and natural resource protection activities (collectively known as Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Funding). Of the total, \$4,987,500 is available for projects.

### **SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Two separate motions are required.

Move to adopt Resolution 2022-03, which makes CEQA Responsible Agency Findings that all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration and Public Access Project.

Move to award funding up to \$2,373,800 to the City of West Sacramento from the Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Grant Program for the Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration and Public Access Project.

### **CONTACT**

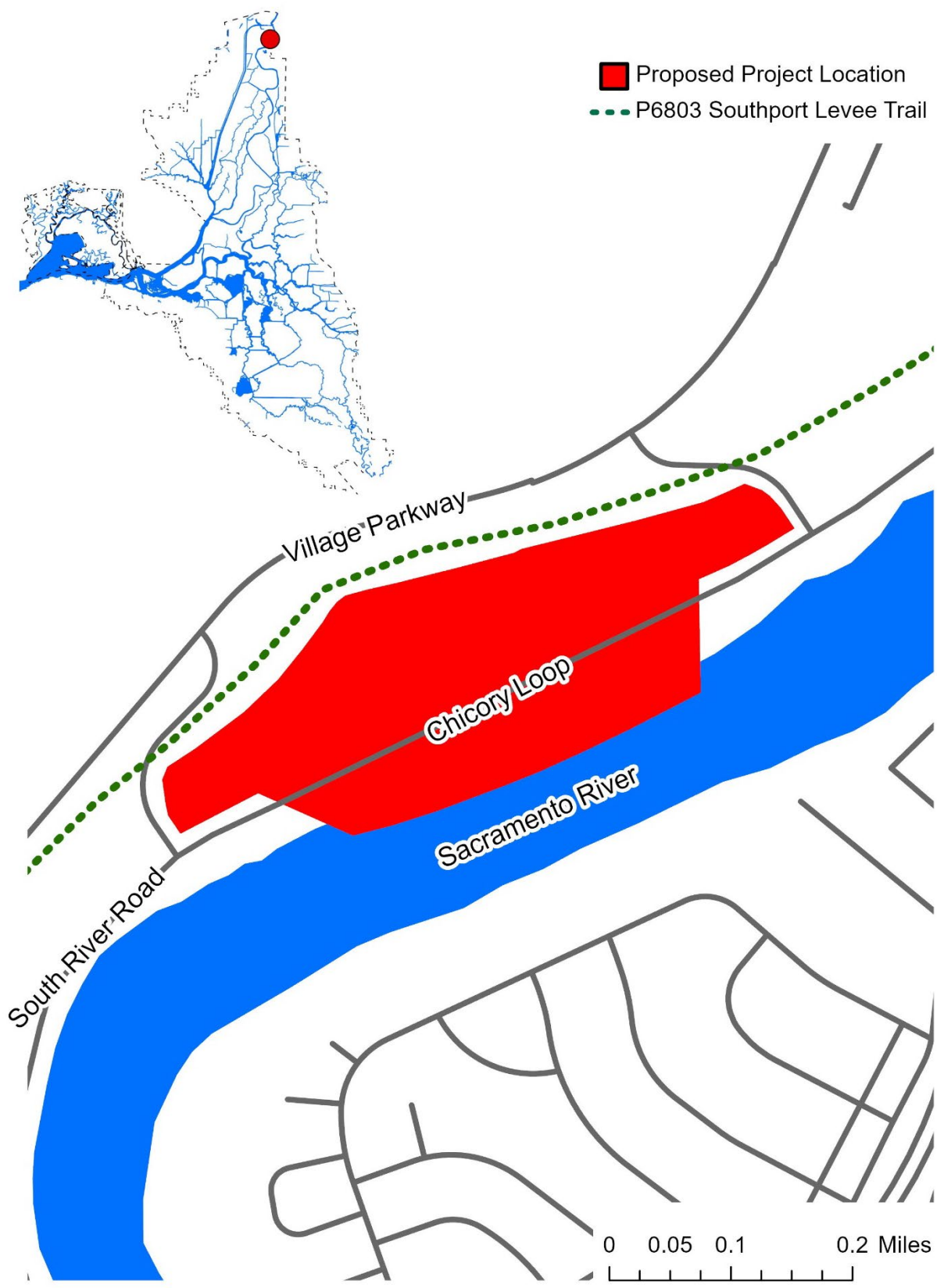
Martha Ozonoff, Community Projects Supervisor

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

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(916) 375-2088

FIGURE 11.1 MAP OF THE BEES LAKES HABITAT RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT AREA





**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY ADOPTING RESPONSIBLE AGENCY FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE BEES LAKES HABITAT RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT.**

**Whereas**, the Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration and Public Access Project (Project) is a proposal put forth by City of West Sacramento to implement ecosystem, water quality and recreational improvements at the Bees Lakes by managing invasive plants, removing debris and contaminants from water bodies, increasing water aeration and circulation, and improving amenities at the site to increase recreational access; and

**Whereas**, the City of West Sacramento is the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR § 15000 et seq.); and

**Whereas**, the City of West Sacramento prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA in order to analyze all potential adverse environmental impacts of the project; and

**Whereas**, the City of West Sacramento has requested funding from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) for the Project; and

**Whereas**, the Delta Conservancy must, as a responsible agency, make certain findings prior to approving funding for the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY AS FOLLOWS:**

- a. The Delta Conservancy has, in its independent judgment, reviewed and considered the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared by the City of West Sacramento, which may be accessed via the website links included below, and finds, as to those potential impacts within the Delta Conservancy's powers and authorities as a responsible agency, that the Mitigated Negative Declaration contains a complete, objective, and accurate reporting of the Project's potential impacts and that mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Project that avoid and/or substantially lessen any of the potentially significant effects of the Project.
- b. The Board further finds that no additional feasible mitigation measures within the Board's authority are necessary to reduce the environmental impacts of the project to less than significant levels.
- c. The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings for this Resolution are available through the Delta Conservancy's website (<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/>).

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD THIS JULY 27, 2022.**

**VOTE**

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

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Mitchell Mashburn, Board Chair

**Supporting Documentation**

City Council of West Sacramento meeting materials from January 20, 2021 which includes the Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan and Design Project Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration and a resolution from the City Council approving the Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan and Design Project and certifying the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration: <https://bit.ly/3yIVQUS>



## Notice of Determination

## Appendix D

**To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
 U.S. Mail: Street Address:  
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk  
 County of: Yolo County Clerk-Recorder  
 Address: 625 Court Street, Room B01  
Woodland, CA 95695

**From:**

Public Agency: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
 Address: 1450 Halyard Dr.  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
 Contact: Rachel Wigginton  
 Phone: (916)375-4994

Lead Agency (if different from above):  
City of West Sacramento  
 Address: 1110 West Capitol Avenue  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
 Contact: Traci Michel  
 Phone: (916)617-4620

***SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.***

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2020120220

Project Title: Bees Lake Habitat Restoration Project

Project Applicant: City of West Sacramento

Project Location (include county): west bank Sacramento River in the City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, CA

**Project Description:**

Project implements ecosystem, water quality and recreational improvements at the Bees Lakes. Restoration includes removal and control of invasive species to increase abundance of native under story species. Water quality components include disposing of potentially contaminated soil from the two ponds, potentially treating the pond water, and removing of trash. A aeration diffusion device to increase aeration and water circulation, decrease algae, and increase habitat suitability for aquatic species will be installed as well as one or more artificial floating wetland islands. Recreational components of the project will improve access, management, and recreation at the site.

This is to advise that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has approved the above  
 ( Lead Agency or  Responsible Agency)

described project on July 27, 2022 and has made the following determinations regarding the above  
 (date)  
 described project.

1. The project [ will  will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2.  An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [ were  were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [ were  were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

California Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research and the County Clerk-Recorder Office (addresses above).

Signature (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Chair, Delta Conservancy Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_



## Delta Fish Friendly Farming Program Update Staff Report

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This agenda item provides an update on implementation of the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) program in the Delta and Conservancy staff's approach to environmental compliance.

### DESCRIPTION

The Delta FFF program seeks to implement best management practices to comprehensively manage pesticide inputs and improve water quality around Delta working lands. Currently, nearly 10,000 acres of farmland are enrolled in the Delta FFF program. In addition to working with farmers to develop Farm Plans and best management practices for water quality improvement, \$200,000 in construction funds were contracted to the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) for the implementation of Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIPs) on enrolled farms.

In accordance with the Conservancy's agreement with the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), CLSI convened a meeting of the FFF Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on July 7, 2022, to provide feedback, prioritize projects for implementation, and approve plans for the proposed projects. The Technical Advisory Committee is composed of members from the Delta Conservancy; SWRCB; representatives from the Contra Costa, Sacramento, Solano, Yolo and San Joaquin County Farm Bureaus; the Dixon Resource Conservation District; the Sacramento and San Joaquin County Water Quality Coalitions; San Joaquin County Cooperative Extension; Contra Costa, Sacramento, and Yolo County Natural Resource Conservation Service offices; the Almond Board of California; South Delta Water District; United States National Marine Fisheries Service; and the staff from the Agricultural Commissioners of Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo counties.

In accordance with the Conservancy's agreement with SWRCB, Conservancy Staff and CLSI will prepare Notices of Exemption as required under CEQA for proposed implementation projects that qualify for CEQA exemptions. Conservancy staff and CLSI will work to obtain any necessary permits and submit the documentation to SWRCB before any project construction begins. Staff will continue to update the Board as additional projects are proposed and recommended for funding by the FFF TAC.

CLSI has worked with farmers to develop two proposed WQIPs. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has enrolled 9,200 acres of farmland on Staten Island located approximately two miles south of Walnut Grove. Rice, corn, potatoes, triticale, and irrigated pasture are grown on the island with a focus on supporting migratory waterfowl, endangered sand hill cranes, and economically viable agriculture. Due to the subsided nature of many Delta islands, groundwater must be periodically pumped off the island. Staten Island has a south pump and an east pump with an extensive system of main and field ditches. Irrigation water is brought in through a series of 48 syphons distributed around the perimeter of the island that move water from the South and North forks of the Mokelumne River. As part of the farm plan development, the instillation of a recirculation pump within the island was identified as a key

WQIP. This recirculation pump would move irrigation water from main ditches and re-apply it at the top of the series of fields to allow for a second irrigation event. The recirculation system will reduce pumping at the south and east pump sites and reduce the volume of irrigation water diverted from the Mokelumne river by approximately 2,100 acre feet per year, and reduce return flows from the operation. The south and east pump must lift water up and over 30 feet to discharge it off the island. This large lift requires a great deal of electricity. Using a recirculation pump will reduce energy use as the recirculation pump will not have to move water to as high an elevation. All the identified locations for the recirculation pump are dirt ditches on the site; no natural areas will be disturbed. Erosion control best management practices will be used as needed.

Tirupathi 3D Farm has enrolled 200 acres of farmland located on Roberts Island in the eastern Delta, approximately 10 miles southwest of Stockton. As part of the farm plan development, the instillation of improved irrigation was identified as a key WQIP. The property is currently flood irrigated and uses 917 acre feet of water per year to grow various crops. This project would partially pay for the conversion of the site to low flow sprinklers and save over 420 acre feet per year. This project will permanently reduce diversions from Middle River and reduce return flows from the operation. Installation of the system will not disturb any natural areas. Erosion control best management practices will be used as needed.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Conservancy, supported through a grant from SWRCB, has contracted CLSI to implement the 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. Learn more about Delta FFF on CLSI's website (<https://bit.ly/3bbLGmk>).

#### **CONTACT**

Dr. Rachel Wigginton, Senior Environmental Scientist  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
[rachel.wigginton@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:rachel.wigginton@deltaconservancy.ca.gov)  
(916) 375-4994



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### Potential Agenda Items for the October 26, 2022 Board Meeting

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Staff is seeking input from the Board regarding additional agenda items for the October 26, 2022 Board meeting.

Potential items include:

- Delta Conservancy 2022 Implementation Plan Status Update
- Overview of Delta Carbon Management
- Consideration of Award(s) of Community Enhancement Grant Program

#### **CONTACT**

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(916) 376-4022