



Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan Development for 2022-2027 Staff Report

DESCRIPTION

The Conservancy updates the Strategic Plan at five-year intervals. This current update will cover the period of 2022 to 2027 and is being conducted in-house with staff resources. Staff have met several times to review and revise guiding principles, goals, objectives, performance metrics based on experience over the past five years, and expectations for the coming five years.

We are seeking feedback on the working draft of the guiding principles, goals, objectives, performance metrics, and guiding principles, listed below, that will form the backbone of the Strategic Plan. Consistent with the Conservancy's historic approach, the Strategic Plan will provide the overarching goals and objectives and the annual Implementation Plan will provide more program and project specific information and how it ties back to achieving the goals and objectives identified in the Strategic Plan. Tracking progress is critical to determining success. The metrics provided here represent a list of potential metrics that can be employed, as appropriate, to gage our progress towards achievement of the goals and objectives.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will incorporate feedback received at this meeting and will produce for consideration by the Board at the October 2021 meeting a draft of the Strategic Plan for public comment. If approved, Staff will post the public draft for a 30-day comment period. Staff will then consider public comments and produce a final draft for consideration by the Board at the January 2022 meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy's enabling legislation requires the Board to prepare and adopt a strategic plan to achieve the goals of the Conservancy (Public Resources Code section 32376). The plan is required to be consistent with the Delta Plan, the Delta Protection Commission's resources management plan, the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977, and the Habitat Management, Preservation and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh. The Board determined that the Strategic Plan should be updated every five years. The initial plan was adopted in 2011 and covered the period of 2012 to 2017. The Board adopted the second plan in 2016 to cover the period of 2017 to 2022. The Board approves an annual Implementation Plan that describes Conservancy programs, work products, and metrics for the upcoming year and how they support the goals and objectives described in the Strategic Plan.

DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Conservancy:

- Acts in collaboration with the communities of the Delta and Suisun Marsh to implement multi-benefit initiatives.
- Operates with integrity in a transparent and accessible manner.
- Supports efforts that advance both environmental protection and the economic well-being in a complementary manner.
- Uses best available science.
- Recognizes and values the unique nature of the history, culture, communities, and ecosystems of the Delta and Suisun Marsh.
- Believes that access to natural resources, the benefits of ecological health, and the advantages of economic growth should be equitably distributed and accessible for all.
- Is committed to creating an inclusive workplace that promotes and values diversity.

DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: Enhance ecological conservation, restoration, and climate adaptation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh

Objective 1A: Increase viability, diversity, and resilience of the Delta and Suisun Marsh ecosystems

Metrics: Number of acres and types of habitat restored, enhanced, or conserved; number of acres and types of landscapes with multi-benefit enhancements implemented; number and types of actions that support strategies identified in Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future, Pathways to 30x30, Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, and the Delta Plan.

Objective 1B: Adapt landscapes to be resilient to climate change

Metrics: Number of acres and types of landscapes adapted; number of acres and types of landscapes with multi-benefit enhancements implemented; number and types of actions taken that support strategies identified in Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future, Pathways to 30x30, Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, and the Delta Plan.

GOAL 2: Support economically and ecologically sustainable working lands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh

Objective 2A: Increase implementation of sustainable and ecologically beneficial farming and agricultural practices

Metrics: Number and types of actions taken, and programs implemented to support sustainable and ecologically beneficial uses or management practices; number of acres and types of landscapes with newly implemented or supported sustainable and ecologically beneficial uses or management practices.

Objective 2B: Reduce and Reverse Land Subsidence and Associated Carbon Emissions

Metrics: Number of acres of land managed to reduce and reverse land subsidence and reduce carbon emissions; metric tons of carbon emission avoided; inclusion of Delta protocol in the Cap and Trade Compliance Market to provide economic benefit to adopt beneficial land use practices; acres of land enrolled in voluntary and compliance carbon markets; number of landowners and managers that are educated about beneficial management practices and carbon market opportunities.

GOAL 3: Support and enhance communities and economies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh

Objective 3A: Foster robust and sustainable economies in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

Metrics: Number of new or enhanced recreation and tourism opportunities; as available, number, demographic, and measured evaluation of individuals or groups that use new or enhanced recreation and tourism opportunities; number of interactions of with VisitCADelta.com from those obtaining recreation and tourism information website; acres of land managed by the Conservancy.

Objective 3B: Preserve, enhance, and increase awareness of the unique history, culture, and values of the Delta and Suisun Marsh

Metrics: Number of engagement opportunities and activities that increase awareness that are established or supported; as available, number, demographic, and measured evaluation of individuals or groups with whom engagement is established or maintained through information and education efforts.

Objective 3C: Increase public access to Delta and Suisun Marsh landscapes, communities, and cultural resources

Metrics: Number and types of public access opportunities established or supported; as available, number and demographic diversity of individuals and groups engaged by information, education, recreation, and tourism efforts and the extent to which the demographics reflects that of the of the Bay-Delta region; as available, measured response of those that interact with public access opportunities.

GOAL 4: Enrich understanding of the ecological, cultural, and historical value of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh; the importance of resilience, diversity, and inclusivity; and the need for stewardship.

Objective 4A: Broaden opportunities for education about the Delta and Suisun Marsh ecosystems, and cultural, and historical values among individuals, groups, organizations, and decision makers.

Metrics: Number and type of educational engagements with individuals, groups, organizations, and decision makers; number and type of educational and interpretive exhibits, installations, and resources established and, as available, numbers and measured response of those exposed to the information they present.

Objective 4 B: Strengthen the Conservancy's role as a collaborative state and community partner

Metrics: Number and nature of collaborative partnerships created or supported; number and type of new and continuing engagements with individuals, organizations, communities, and decision makers to enhance understanding and foster collaboration; as possible, measured response to specific outreach campaigns and engagement opportunities.

GOAL 5: Maintain an effective, sustainable, adaptable, and inclusive organization

Objective 5A: Provide a safe, creative, inspiring, equitable, and inclusive working environment at all levels

Metrics: Number and types of opportunities provided for professional development; number of opportunities for employees to evaluate the extent to which the Conservancy provides a safe, creative, inspiring, equitable, and inclusive environment and measured responses; number and breadth of educational and training opportunities related to justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility; implementation of an upward mobility program; measured staff satisfaction and engagement through surveys and exit interviews; number of workplace injuries.

Objective 5B: Establish and maintain adequate resources and efficient operations and structure

Metrics: Number of positions and functions with employees trained to provide backup or succession functions; number and nature of organizational improvements implemented and measured result; amount and stability of funding received; number and nature of audit findings; extent of efforts made to secure funding to sustain and increase organizational programs and health.

CONTACT

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