

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

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Continue accepting concept proposals	Ongoing	Ongoing	Proposals are accepted on an ongoing basis.
Assist applicants to develop full proposals	Ongoing	Ongoing	Conservancy staff are assisting six applicants in developing comprehensive (full) proposals.
Manage awarded grants	Qtr 2-4	On Track	One grant is active, and a second grant has been awarded.
Implement outreach plan	Qtr 1 & 2	Ongoing	Prior outreach resulted in the submission of numerous concept proposals: two have been awarded funding, three are on the October 2021 Board meeting agenda for consideration of funding, and staff is working with five applicants to further develop their proposals. Staff will conduct additional outreach as needed.

DELTA MARKETING

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Distribute recreation maps	Ongoing	Ongoing	Delayed due to COVID-19. If conditions allow, in early 2022, staff will coordinate with the Delta Protection Commission to begin distributing maps.
Develop sustainable management plan for visitCADelta.com	Ongoing	Completed	Upon agreement by all involved parties, management of VisitCADelta.com will be incorporated into the Communications Management Plan for the recently designated Natural Heritage Area.
Install 11 signs per Delta Sign Plan	Qtr 2	Delayed	COVID-19 decreased the capacity of Prison Industries Authority Association resulting in delayed fabrication of the signs. Fabrication should be complete in Quarter 4, followed by installation by the CA Conservation Corps at 11 locations around the Delta in early 2022.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION & WATER QUALITY GRANT PROGRAM

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Manage active and closed grants	Ongoing	On Track	As of October 1, staff are managing 22 active and six closed grants and are in the process of executing one new grant agreement.
Plan Cycle 5 solicitation	Ongoing	On Track	The Cycle 5 solicitation opened July 1, 2021. Twelve applicants submitted concept proposals. Staff is providing feedback to those applicants in advance of releasing the full application on October 26, 2021. Full proposals are due by December 15, 2021.
Adjust granting processes based on audit results	As Required	On Track	The Conservancy has implemented changes to the granting process based on audit findings.

INVASIVE SPECIES COORDINATION, CONTROL, AND RESTORATION

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Lead planning and execution of 2021 Delta Invasive Species Symposium (Symposium)	Ongoing	Ongoing	The Delta Invasive Species Symposium will take place on December 15, 2021 and focus on early detection and rapid response to invasions.
Coordinate Arundo control and restoration activities	Qtr 2	Complete	With its partners, the Conservancy completed Arundo management and control in fulfillment of its agreement with Department of Water Resources (DWR). Staff coordinated with colleagues at DWR and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to connect them with herbicide applicator teams for Arundo control in the Delta.
Facilitate quarterly Delta Inter-Agency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) meetings	Ongoing	Ongoing	The first and second quarter DIISC meetings were held on February 9 and June 15, 2021, respectively. The third quarter meeting was canceled to allow the Symposium planning team and the Early Detection and Rapid Response Working Group to advance their efforts, which will be shared at the fourth quarter DIISC meeting on November 16, 2021.
Develop draft Delta interagency collaboration strategy for early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to invasive species	Ongoing	Ongoing	The Delta community may review and provide feedback on the draft EDRR Framework for the Delta at the Invasive Species Symposium on December 15, 2021. The working group plans to hold a workshop with experts in the first quarter of 2022 to get additional input on the draft EDRR Framework.

LAND OWNERSHIP, EASEMENT, AND MANAGEMENT

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Refine draft ownership/management white paper	Ongoing	Ongoing	The white paper will be continuously updated as new information is gathered. At present, there is not an immediate need for the Conservancy to manage an easement. Once final, easements that are being established by sister agencies will provide a guide for the Conservancy.
Present findings from exploration of easement management requirements to Board	Qtr 4	Ongoing	Staff will provide findings to the Board as they are developed.
Provide updates to the Board	Ongoing	Ongoing	Staff will provide updates to the Board as new information is available.

PROJECT TRACKING, REPORTING AND IMPROVED DATA INTEGRATION AND ACCESS

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Work with restoration project managers to enter or update project information in EcoAtlas	Ongoing	Ongoing	Staff reviews EcoAtlas entries as they are created or updated by project proponents.
Final update to the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory (DARI) mapping Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and protocols for submitting data and maintaining the DARI base map	Qtr 2	Delayed	Due to COVID-19 impacts, staff worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to extend the term of the grant awarded to the Conservancy and with the Aquatic Science Center to extend due dates in their contract with the Conservancy to perform the technical tasks. The project is on track to deliver a finalized DARI dataset in the first quarter of 2022, in accordance with the amended agreement.
Integrate DARI into EcoAtlas	Qtr 3	Delayed	The project is on track to deliver a publicly available DARI dataset via EcoAtlas in the first quarter of 2022 in accordance with the amended agreement described above.

PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Conduct Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) workshops for landowners	Qtr 3	Ongoing	The contractor, California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI), held two Zoom webinars with landowners to solicit enrollment in the program. Small group meetings with landowners will be held in the third quarter of 2021 and another workshop is planned for the second quarter of 2022.
Train certifying agency (National Marine Fisheries Service, local resource conservation districts, and others) representatives, as needed, on details of the Fish Friendly Farming Program’s best management practices, assessment practices of the properties, and certification process.	Qtr 4	Ongoing	The contractor, CLSI, met with the Agricultural Commissioners in Sacramento and San Joaquin counties to begin certification training.

DELTA WATERWAY CLEANUPS

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

DELTA CARBON MANAGEMENT

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Support two additional pilot projects through the carbon estimation/validation process	Ongoing	Ongoing	There are increasing numbers of pilot projects and the Conservancy is providing technical assistance for project development and estimation/validation.
Seek funding to support future projects	Ongoing	Ongoing	Recently signed Climate Action legislation includes \$5,250,000 for the Conservancy for climate, conservation, and public access projects. Staff are currently developing grant guidelines for Board consideration.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Conduct education and outreach for Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week	Qtr 3	Inactive	With significant public health and budgetary priorities to attend, the Legislature did not designate Delta Week in 2021. Conservancy staff will confer with Legislative representatives next year to determine if designating a 2022 Delta Week is feasible.
Education and outreach via social media, events, and other opportunities	Ongoing	Inactive	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Conservancy has not participated in the Students and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) program in 2021. The Conservancy looks forward to hosting SLEWS field trips and workdays at restoration sites once it is safe to do so.
Develop fact sheets for Conservancy programs	Ongoing	Delayed	Planned development of fact sheets to highlight Proposition 1 Grant Program projects, the Proposition 68 Grant Program, and the Delta Carbon Program were delayed due to staffing constraints. A new Communications Analyst is anticipated to start with the Conservancy in November 2021 and creating fact sheets is among the tasks they will undertake.

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

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

ADMINISTRATION

2021 PROJECT GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Submit and update State Leadership Accountability Act Implementation Plan and Biannual Implementation Plan	As Required	Ongoing	The Implementation Plan was submitted in June 2021 and accepted by the Department of Finance. The Biannual Implementation Plan is due by December 31, 2021.
Update internal work plans	Qtr 2	Delayed	Delayed due to staffing constraints. Updates are planned for the first Quarter of 2022.
Release Request for Proposal and contract for an organizational assessment	Qtr 2	Complete	A Request for Quotes was released in Quarter 2. A contractor was selected and plans to complete the assessment by December 2021.
Develop records retention schedule	Qtr 3	Delayed	Delayed due to staffing constraints. This will be a priority to complete once vacancies are filled.
Establish legislative tracking system	Qtr 3	Delayed	Executive staff monitors bills that relate to matters within the Conservancy's jurisdiction. Establishing a formal tracking mechanism has been delayed due to staffing constraints and other urgent priorities such as COVID-19 response.
Submit indirect cost rate proposal	Qtr 4	Complete	The Conservancy submitted an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal, which the Conservancy's cognizant agency, the U.S. Department of Interior, approved in October 2021.
Develop Workforce Plan and Succession Plan	Qtr 4	On Track	A draft Workforce Plan and Succession Plan anticipated to be complete by December 31, 2021.
Develop new/update existing policies and procedures	Qtr 4	On Track	Through a contract with the Department of Human Resources (CalHR) the Conservancy is developing and/or updating approximately 10 core policies. Upon completion of those, work will continue on additional policies.
Reorganize shared drive	Qtr 4	On Track	The Conservancy plans to use student assistant, retired annuitant, or existing staffing to complete this task.
Ensure accessibility of Conservancy web content	Ongoing	On Track	All content posted on the web site is compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements.
Submit financial reports and information (such as Governor's budget building, bond accountability reporting)	As Required	Ongoing	All reports have been completed and submitted on time.

2021 PROJECT GOALS		TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Fulfill human resource related mandates (such as Disability Advisory Committee)		As Required	Ongoing	The Disability Advisory Committee meets quarterly and is drafting recommendations for committee functions for executive staff consideration.
Various administrative and operational requirements (e.g. State Agency Recycle Campaign and State Agency Reporting System reports, Contracting Activity Report and Improvement Plans, Continuity Plan)		As Required	Ongoing	The State Agency Recycle Campaign Report was submitted on May 1, 2021. The Contracting Activity Report and State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign reports will be submitted on or before the October 31, 2021 due date for both. The Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Subcontracting Report will be submitted by the November 1, 2021 due date.
Participate in Audits (e.g. Dept. of Finance audits of bond funded grant programs, State Personnel Board audit of human resources practices, General Services audit of purchasing and procurement)		As Required	Complete	The Department of Finance (DOF) issued a report of findings from their audit of the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program. The Conservancy submitted a Corrective Action Plan to address the two findings and is implementing actions accordingly. The Conservancy completed the Accreditation Maintenance phase of the Department of General Services (DGS), Procurement Division's Purchasing Authority Accreditation Process and remains accredited at Tier 1. Staff will update the Conservancy's Procurement Policies and Procedures Manual and submit it to DGS by December 17, 2021.
Submit required COVID-19 pandemic reports and drills for health and safety, human resources, budgets, and planning.		As Required	Ongoing	There has been a significant human resource and budgeting related workload associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.