



Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Update Staff Report

This agenda item provides an update on the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP), a collaborative effort between the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Office of the Delta Watermaster (ODWM), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Delta Conservancy, in coordination with Delta water users.

BACKGROUND

The DDRPP is in response to consecutive dry years, low combined storage in State and federal water project reservoirs, and drought-constrained water deliveries to project contractors. Funds are available to incentivize agricultural water users in the Legal Delta to take actions expected to reduce crop consumptive water use, protect water quality, promote soil health, and improve outcomes for drought-stressed fish and migratory birds. Water conserved through incentivized actions will be allocated to protecting Delta water quality and will not be available for diversion or exports.

Program partners are monitoring the impacts of the water saving actions over the 2022 and 2023 Water Years through use of an open-access evapotranspiration database (OpenET) and micro-meteorological equipment. In 2022, the Conservancy entered into an interagency agreement with the University of California Davis to assist with data gathering, monitoring, and synthesis of data from the program's projects. The results of this data will inform water quality and conservation protection responses during future droughts. All DDRPP data and program findings will be made accessible to the public.

UPDATE

Water year 2023

On November 16, 2022, the Conservancy Board approved 64 DDRPP grants for the 2023 water year, totaling up to \$10.87 million, and enrolling 20,300 acres. Since that meeting, Conservancy staff has been working with DDRPP steering committee members from ODWM, TNC, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to develop grant agreements. The Conservancy aims to have all agreements executed by the end of January 2023, with initial payments being made in March 2023.

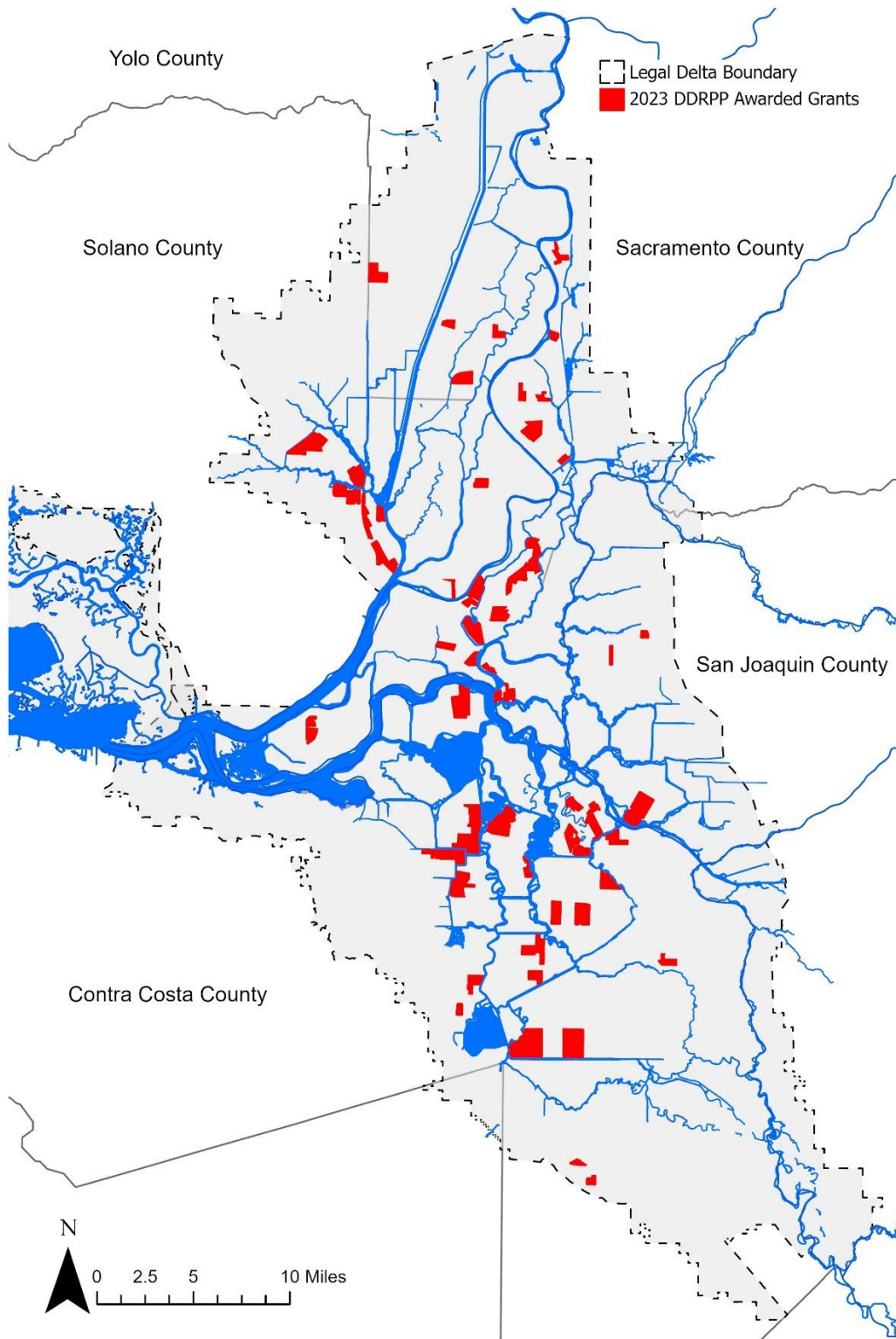
Water year 2022

The Conservancy, in collaboration with the 2022 water year Selection Committee, is working on the DDRPP Annual Report and Oversight Committee Analysis for the 2022 water year grants. Conservancy staff anticipates the report will be released in February 2023, with a presentation to the Conservancy board at the March 2023 board meeting.

CONTACT

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FIGURE 1. MAP OF 2023 DELTA DROUGHT RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM PROJECT AREA



Bid 91 is not displayed on this map. All map acreages are being confirmed as grant agreements are being fully executed.