



**Delta Conservancy 2023 Implementation Plan
Status Update**

2023 AT A GLANCE

Project Initiation

- Three projects awarded
- 70 new grant and contract agreements executed

Project Management

- 250 invoices processed
- Eight amendments processed
- Three projects closed out

2023 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATES

Table 1: 2023 Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program Strategy Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
The Conservancy will fully utilize the Resource Agency Project Tracking and Report Software (RAPTR) by the end of 2023	Q4	All ERCA Projects have been uploaded into RAPTR. Conservancy staff are serving as first testers of RAPTR proposal process.
The Conservancy will fully implement a grant monitoring procedure	Ongoing	Staff have identified priority areas to create and update procedures.
Staff intends to recommend projects for the remaining \$7.125 million of Climate, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR) funds and \$36 million of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration (NBS: WR) funds	Ongoing	Staff recommended and the Board approved \$6.6 million of CAR funds and \$21 million of NBS: WR through June 30, 2023.

Table 2: Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team (DIISCT) 2023 Strategy Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Deliver a Delta Invasive Species Symposium that brings together academics, practitioners, and community members to better understand invasive species in the Delta	Q4	First planning meeting occurred on June 1. Symposium scheduled and on track to occur December 2023.
Continue to identify high-priority research topics to better inform conservation work	Ongoing	Planning to begin updates on DIISCT Research Needs Table in second half of this year.
Utilize the early detection and rapid response framework if new threats emerge	Ongoing	Staff worked with the Delta Stewardship Council and California State University Long Beach to propose a project to advance the EDRR framework. Agreement to support the work was executed between CSULB and DSC in Q2.

Table 3: Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) 2023 Strategy Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Begin implementing the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee work plan	Ongoing	Staff and Delta Stewardship Council staff have advanced goals 1 (Provide forums for meaningful community participation in Delta restoration efforts) and 2 (Increase interagency collaboration to streamline restoration implementation) of the workplan through organizing regular subcommittee meetings, holding the first Delta Restoration forum, and inviting representatives from various agencies to present on their work on regulatory efficiencies.
Create and host the first Delta Restoration Forum	Q1	The first Delta Restoration Forum was held at the Conservancy office on February 8, 2023. There were approximately 50 in-person attendees and another 100 virtual attendees.

Table 4: Ecosystem Data Access 2023 Strategy Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Continue to add Conservancy-funded projects to Project Tracker	Ongoing	Staff continue to work with new grantees of restoration implementation projects to enter data into Project Tracker.
Coordinate with regional data managers to identify needed updates to datasets and data collection techniques	Ongoing	Staff participated in estuary-wide meeting of regional data managers in March.

Table 5: Delta Carbon and Subsidence Management 2023 Strategy Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Identify and develop projects that will result in a significant reduction of subsidence and resulting carbon emissions	Ongoing	Board awarded \$21 million for Webb Tract restoration (5,000 acres). Projects in review for Board consideration include 426 acres on Staten Island, 5,000 acres of exiting agriculture to rice, and planning for 600 acres on Bethel Island. All projects are on organic peat soils to stop subsidence and reduce carbon emissions.

Table 6: 2023 Land Ownership, Easements, and Management Strategy Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Be prepared to engage in further exploration of easement requirements if the need arises	Ongoing	Fall 2023

Table 7: Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP) 2023 Strategy Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Use water efficiency knowledge gained from 2022 and 2023 DDRPP projects to inform 2024 selections should the program be continued	Q3	Preliminary analysis of enrolled project sites using data collected from OpenET is on track to begin in August 2023. In coordination with UC Davis, six sites have been selected to host micro-meteorological stations; installation is scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2023.
Work with partners to evaluate the efficacy of practices and produce a final report that will share results	Ongoing	The DDRPP Oversight Committee — made up of partners from the Delta Watermaster’s Office, Department of Water Resources, The Nature Conservancy, University of California (UC) at Merced, and UC Cooperative Extension — is meeting regularly to build on the results from last year’s pilot program to refine the 2023 analysis methodology approach. Subcommittees have been formed and each subcommittee will draft a portion of the 2023 final report.

Table 8: Delta Fish Friendly Farming 2023 Strategy Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Certify acres committed to within the grant agreement	Ongoing	Preparations are on track for final certifications to be submitted to the Conservancy and State Water Resources Control Board in January 2024.
Create best management practice plans for farms	Ongoing	The final Technical Advisory Committee meeting took place in April and feedback was provided on draft best management practices. Revisions are currently underway and farm plans are being finalized.

Table 9: 2023 Community Enhancement Grant Program (CEP) Strategic Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Proactively identify and recommend projects that enhance the Delta community especially disadvantaged communities	Ongoing	Staff continue to meet with potential applicants. The Board approved funding for two new projects in March and May, respectively. Staff met with five potential applicants and are expecting several concept proposals in the coming months.
Staff intends to recommend projects for the remaining \$7.125 million of CAR funds	Ongoing	Staff recommended and the Board approved \$6 million in CAR funds for the Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton and the Pittsburg Central Harbor Park.
The Conservancy will fully utilize RAPTR by the end of 2023	Q4	All CEP Projects have been uploaded into RAPTR. Conservancy staff are serving as first testers of RAPTR proposal process.

Table 10: 2023 Delta Marketing Strategic Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Install 11 signs per the Delta Sign Plan	Q2	As of late-June, three signs have been installed and eight more sign locations are planned throughout the Delta along I-5, I-580, Highway 12 and Highway 4.
Continue to raise awareness of Delta tourism and recreational opportunities	Ongoing	Conservancy staff assists in amplifying content that encourages people to visit and learn about the Delta.

Table 11: 2023 Delta Week Strategic Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Expand on Delta Week efforts with a community event that involves other Delta agencies	Q3	Currently engaging with local groups to coordinate event(s).
Create a vision for Delta Week	Q1 and Q2	Developing collateral that expands upon last year’s social media campaign and outreach.

Table 12: 2023 Waterway Cleanup Strategic Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Organize a Delta cleanup that involves local community groups	Q3	Currently engaging with local groups to coordinate event(s).

Table 13: 2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Update Disability Advisory Committee bylaws (if needed), set annual goals, and meet quarterly	As Required	The committee is actively working on 2022-2023 goals, including holding informational workshops for staff, an annual review of our office space to ensure physical accessibility, and drafting an internal procedure for creating accessible maps. The committee continues to meet quarterly.
Conduct DEI Working Group meetings to implement the DEI Action Plan	Ongoing	Initial meeting held, committees formed, guidance given to staff.
Continue to engage with agencies and partners for shared learning, best practices, and opportunities to advance equity	Q4	Staff participate in California Natural Resource Agency’s (CNRA) Tribal Liaisons and embedding equity working groups and a Delta Tribal Coordination working group.

Table 14: 2023 Administrative Strategic Goals

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Update processes, procedures, and policies, and create division manuals	Q4	Received the remaining policies from CalHR Legal and will be reviewing them shortly. Staff are creating and updating procedures.
Update Conservancy’s website and ensure accessibility on the website and public-facing documents	Ongoing	The biennial website accessibility certification has been uploaded to the website, and work will continue to ensure that future content meets accessibility standards.
Reorganize the Conservancy’s shared drive	Q4	Emailed Request for Quotes to four companies from Cal eProcure to contract for file management services. Received two responses and will be setting up meetings to discuss options.
Submit administrative and operational reports, plans, and proposals (e.g., State Agency Recycle Campaign (SARC) and State Agency Waste Management Annual Reports, Contracting Activity Report (CAR) and Improvement Plans, Continuity Plan, State Leadership Accountability Act (SLAA) Biannual Implementation Plan, Federal Indirect Cost Rate Proposal, Workforce Plan, Succession Plan, budget building, Bond Accountability Reporting, and human resources.	As Required	SARC, SABRC, SLAA, Workforce Plan, Succession Plan, Bond Accountability Reports, and various HR reports have been submitted. The CAR and Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise Report are due on November 1, 2023, and staff have begun trainings to prepare for completing the report.
Participate in audits (e.g., Department 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	Continue working on the Corrective Action Response for the Prop 1 Bond Audit. Our goal is to submit it by July 31, 2023. The SBP Audit Corrective Action Response was approved on April 7, 2023.

2023 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Increase enrollment in professional development trainings and initiate team-building activities	Ongoing	Scheduled a team building training called Thinking Styles for June 26, 2023, and CPR training for September 18, 2023. Deputy Executive Officer will also facilitate a strength-based leadership training to all staff. Continue to encourage staff to enroll in trainings by sharing opportunities and deadlines. Set up optional luncheons with team-building activities and exercises.
Establish legislative tracking system	Q4	Continuously review CNRA and DSC legislative updates. Identified new Delta legislators and conducted meet-and-greets with four members.