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Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Update Staff Report

BACKGROUND

The Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Grant Program refers to a collection of projects that support multi-benefit ecosystem restoration, watershed protection, and climate adaptation projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh. Projects in this program are currently supported through several funding sources: Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act; Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR); and Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration (NBS:WR). The Proposition 1 Grant Program is designed to support multibenefit ecosystem, watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities. The CAR is a General Fund allocation and promotes multi-benefit projects within the areas of climate resilience, community access, and natural resources protection. The NBS:WR is a General Fund allocation supporting wetland restoration projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Grant Program requires both a concept proposal and a full proposal. Full proposals are subject to a rigorous review and evaluation process by staff and external professional reviewers (when applicable) and are recommended for funding based upon review, evaluation, and funding availability.

Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Funding Sources. CEP refers to the Community Enhancement Grant Program (Agenda Item 9). Amounts listed in millions of dollars.

Funding Source	Total Allocation	Minimum Amount Available for Grants	Total Amount Allocated for Grants	Amount Remaining to be Allocated	Allocation Date	Encumbrance Date	Program(s) Supported by Funding Source
Proposition 1	\$50.0	\$42.5	\$42.4	\$0.1	8/13/2014	Variable	ERCA
CAR	\$5.25	\$4.99	\$4.99	\$0	9/23/2021	6/30/2024	ERCA and CEP
CAR	\$6.125	\$5.82	\$5.35	\$0.47	9/6/2022	6/30/2025	ERCA and CEP
NBS: Wetland Restoration	\$36.0	\$34.2	\$20.9	\$13.3	9/6/2022	6/30/2025	ERCA

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PROGRAM UPDATE

As of July 19, 2023, there are 19 active projects, one awarded project with grant development underway, and 16 closed projects.

APPROVED PROJECTS (TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED: \$20,907,371)

Of the Board-approved projects, one project from Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration is in grant agreement development.

Project Name	Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract (Planning, Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$20,907,371
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	NBS01
Grantee	Metropolitan Water District
Overview	Design and construct up to 3,500 acres of managed, flooded wetlands and
	up to 1,500 acres of rice fields on Webb Tract. The main objectives are to
	stop ongoing organic soil subsidence, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG)
	emissions generated, develop sustainable agriculture opportunities,
	investigate sustainable water management practices, and study how
	managed wetlands may augment the Delta pelagic food web.
Grant Agreement Status	In Progress
New Information	Grant agreement in development. Expected to be executed October 2023.

WORKING PROPOSALS (TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$13.292.629)

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	Proposal Status
NBS02	Delta Rice Conversion Project	The Nature Conservancy	Implementation	\$4,700,000	San Joaquin and Contra Costa	In Review
NBS03	Hoover Ranch Wetland Restoration Project	John Muir Land Trust	Acquisition	\$2,025,000	Contra Costa	In Review
NBS04	Staten Island Wetland Restoration Project	The Nature Conservancy	Planning, Implementation	\$6,567,629	San Joaquin	In Review

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ACTIVE PROJECTS

CAR-Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The Board awarded \$390,000 for one planning project.

Project Name	Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Planning	
	Project (Planning)	
Amount Awarded	\$390,000	
County	Contra Costa	
Project ID	CAR03	
Grantee	East Bay Regional Park District	
Overview	Create planning documents to support public access and the long-term	
	sustainability of 1,648 acres of open water, wetlands, and upland habitat.	
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/14/2022	
New Information	Project work anticipated to begin August 2023.	

Proposition 1 Cycle 5 – Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The Board awarded approximately \$3.0 million for six projects (two planning and four implementation). Six grant agreements have been executed.

Project Name	Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration Project	
	(Implementation)	
Amount Awarded	\$427,706	
County	Contra Costa	
Project ID	P1-2204	
Grantee	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	
Overview	Test and identify workable solutions to remove invasive weeds, improve	
	habitat value, and prevent further spread of invasive plants in the Franks	
	Tract State Recreation Area.	
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 4/21/2023	
New Information	Project is ongoing.	

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Project Name	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project,	
	Phase Two (Implementation)	
Amount Awarded	\$887,516	
County	Yolo	
Project ID	P1-2207	
Grantee	Ducks Unlimited	
Overview	Constructing hydrological improvements that will restore 220 acres of	
	seasonal wetland, enhance management of 1,803 existing seasonal	
	wetland, and improve water management to 1,180 acres of wildlife	
	friendly agricultural wetland.	
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 3/16/2023	
New Information	Project on hold pending appointment of new Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	
	manager by fall 2023.	

Project Name	Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$413,586
County	Solano
Project ID	P1-2208
Grantee	Solano County Resource Conservation District
Overview	Create 20 acres of riparian woodland area along the north bank of Ulatis
	Creek. 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
	non-native plants (including Arundo donax) will be controlled throughout
	the project site resulting in an increase in native habitat area.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 6/13/2023
New Information	Grant agreement executed as of 6/13/2023. Work has started on the
	project.

Project Name	Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in the Suisun	
	Marsh (Implementation)	
Amount Awarded	\$542,546	
County	Solano	
Project ID	P1-2209	
Grantee	Suisun Resource Conservation District	
Overview	Improve habitat conditions in the Suisun Marsh by installing new	
	hydrological infrastructure at four project sites that will benefit 3,000 acres	
	of managed wetlands.	
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 03/27/2023	
New Information	Project is ongoing.	

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Project Name	Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction Project	
	(Planning)	
Amount Awarded	\$550,000	
County	Contra Costa	
Project ID	P1-2211	
Grantee	Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	
Overview	Design a shovel-ready multi-benefit project that would restore the Marsh	
	Creek Reservoir system, provide ecological benefit, improve flood capacity,	
	and enhance public recreation opportunities.	
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 5/23/2023	
New Information	A project kick-off meeting was held 06/21/2023.	

Project Name	Van Buskirk Multi-Benefit Ecosystem Restoration Planning Project	
	(Planning)	
Amount Awarded	\$467,848	
County	San Joaquin	
Project ID	P1-2212	
Grantee	American Rivers	
Overview	Multi-benefit ecosystem restoration planning project that will integrate	
	nature-based design solutions and multi-benefit flood protection concept	
	as well as work with partners to seek implementation funding for future	
	projects at the site.	
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/22/2022	
New Information	Project is ongoing.	

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Proposition 1 Cycle 4 – Fiscal Year 2018-2019

The Board awarded approximately \$14.9 million for 10 projects (eight planning and two implementation). One project was withdrawn after receiving an award. To date, one project has closed.

Project Name	Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$2,263,472
County	Sacramento
Project ID	Prop 1-1801
Grantee	Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust
Overview	Acquire a conservation easement on 275 acres of farmland to ensure that
	it remains as wildlife friendly agriculture
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/29/2020
New Information	The project team is reviewing the final draft conservation easement.

Project Name	Delta Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning (Planning)	
Agreement Amount	\$347,481	
County	Solano	
Project ID	Prop 1-1804	
Grantee	Solano Resource Conservation District	
Overview	Overview Planning for restoration and enhancement of waterways and edge habita	
	on working lands in Solano County	
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/19/2019	
New Information	Progress at the 12 planning sites is ongoing. Implementation funding	
	secured for sites 1, 2, 10, and 11 (Ulatis Creek, Schwarz Farm, McCormick	
	Ranch).	

Project Name	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Project, Phase 2
	(Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$265,254
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	Prop 1-1806
Grantee	San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
Overview	Outreach and planning to advance the Paradise Cut Flood Bypass in San
	Joaquin County
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 9/23/2020
New Information	Grantee submitted Final Report and Invoice. Project closes 7/31/2023.

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

Project Name	Lower San Joaquin Riparian Corridor (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$522,027
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	Prop 1-1808
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along the lower
	San Joaquin River
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 5/3/2021
New Information	Progress on the Planting Design, Habitat Restoration Plan, and Cost
	Estimate deliverables continues. Grantee has been meeting with the
	landowners, River Islands and Reclamation district to further clarify project
	constraints.

Project Name	Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway
	Enhancement at Banta-Carbona Project (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$750,931
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	Prop 1-1810
Grantee	Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
Overview	Planning for 30 acres of seasonally inundated floodplain restoration
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/10/2020
New Information	Grantee is continuing with hydraulic and sediment transport modeling,
	along with additional work on agency outreach.

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Project Name	Nutria Eradication Project, Phase 2 (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$8,483,080
County	Multiple
Project ID	Prop 1-1813
Grantee	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Overview	Surveys for and removal of invasive species to minimize or avoid impacts
	to wetland habitats and water quality.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 6/8/2020
New Information	Project is ongoing. Refer to Agenda Item 13 for detailed update.

Project Name	Oakley Creekside Park Restoration (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$436,465
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1814
Grantee	City of Oakley
Overview	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along Marsh
	Creek
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/11/2020
New Information	A survey to solicit community input on the design of a pedestrian bridge
	has been made available to the public. Additional project work is ongoing.

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Proposition 1 Cycle 3 – Fiscal Year 2017-2018

The Board awarded approximately \$16.0 million for eight projects (four planning and four implementation). To date, four grants have closed.

Project Name	Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms: Improving aquatic habitat
	resiliency on working lands along the Sacramento River (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$647,701
County	Yolo
Project ID	Prop 1-1702
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	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
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 1/22/2019
New Information	Grantee has recently submitted the final invoice.

Project Name	Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$1,435,000
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1709
Grantee	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Overview	Advance planning for restoring wetlands and managing and treating storm
	water on public land in Knightsen
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 3/20/2019
New Information	Conservancy staff prepared a staff recommendation for Board
	consideration to extend the grant's funding term (Agenda Item 5.2).

Project Name	Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River
	Preserve (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$8,700,800
County	Sacramento
Project ID	Prop 1-1710
Grantee	Department of Water Resources
Overview	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
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 4/30/2020
New Information	Amendment to extend grant term to 03/31/2026 was executed
	06/15/2023.

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Project Name	Stone Lakes Restoration Project (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$635,573
County	Sacramento
Project ID	Prop 1-1713
Grantee	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Overview	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
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 4/2/2019
New Information	Conservancy staff prepared a staff recommendation for Board
	consideration for an amendment to the project budget (Agenda Item 8.1).

Proposition 1 Cycle 2 - Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The Board awarded approximately \$4.4 million for four projects (one planning and three implementation). To date, all four grants have closed.

Proposition 1 Cycle 1 – Fiscal Year 2015-2016

The Board awarded approximately \$3.9 million to seven projects (four planning and three implementation). To date, all seven grants have closed.

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CLOSED PROJECTS

To date, a total of sixteen projects funded by Proposition 1 have fully closed (seven planning, nine 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.

Project Name	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project
	(Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$2,026,814 (\$3,299 unspent)
County	Yolo
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-003
Grantee	Ducks Unlimited
Overview	Implement habitat and working landscape enhancements in the Yolo
	Bypass Wildlife Area
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 03/31/2022
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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

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

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Project Name	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Implementation)
Amount Spent	\$826,666 (\$9,743 unspent)
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-009
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Convert denuded flood control channel at the confluence of Marsh, Sand,
	and Deer Creeks into a healthy stream corridor
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 4/1/2022
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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

Project Name	Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
	Project (Implementation)
Amount Spent	\$829,183 (\$7,051 unspent)
County	Yolo
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-016
Grantee	Yolo Resource Conservation District
Overview	Restore up to 5 miles (22 acres) of floodway-compatible wildlife and
	pollinator habitat, providing a transit corridor for wildlife during floods
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 3/7/2023
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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

Project Name	Dutch Slough Revegetation (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$2,900,000 (\$270 unspent)
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1602
Grantee	Reclamation District 2137
Overview	Establish and maintain 468 acres of native tidal marsh, riparian, and
	grassland vegetation at the Dutch Slough restoration site
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 07/15/2022.
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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

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

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

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

Project Name	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2 (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$990,543 (\$46 unspent)
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1711
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	This agreement has been cleared to expire on 6/30/22.
Grant Agreement Status	Funding ended 06/30/2022.
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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Project Name	Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$592,500 (\$886 unspent)
County	Yolo
Project ID	Prop 1-1712
Grantee	City of West Sacramento
Overview	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
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 4/27/2021
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review. Grantee awarded Climate,
	Access, and Restoration for funds at July 2022 Conservancy Board meeting.

Project Name	Nutria Eradication Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$1,125,577 (\$6,120 unspent)
County	Multiple
Project ID	Prop 1-1718
Grantee	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Overview	Eliminate nutria from all known and discovered locations in California to
	prevent nutria from causing significant ecological damage in the Delta
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 04/05/2023
New Information	Closed; a final report available for review.

Project Name	Blacklock Restoration: Phragmites Control Study (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$387,440 (\$0 unspent)
County	Solano
Project ID	Prop 1-1803
Grantee	Department of Water Resources
Overview	Test methods for controlling invasive species in future restoration at the
	Blacklock restoration site
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 04/25/2022
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

P1-1803: Blacklock Restoration: Phragmites Control Study (Planning)

The purpose of this project was to determine the best method of controlling the invasive non-native plant species, *Phragmites*, to enhance habitat at Blacklock, a multi-benefit ecosystem restoration site in Suisun Marsh. *Phragmites* is a highly invasive wetland reed. *Phragmites* control methods have been established in some habitats, but little information exists on control methods in tidal habitats, such as the Blacklock site. In order to inform the future implementation of site-wide *Phragmites* control measures within the Blacklock restoration site, this planning project characterized the feasibility, efficacy, and environmental impacts of *Phragmites* control methods in a tidal habitat on a small scale. Control methods, including glyphosate and imazapyr herbicide applications, and mechanical mowing, were performed on established *Phragmites* stands. Individual methods were tested, as well as several in combination. All five tested treatment methods exhibited reduced *Phragmites* growth with minimal negative off-target impacts to neighboring and resident plants, water quality, and the aquatic food web.



Grantee's staff monitoring treatment site by kayaks.

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Small spikerush population growing among the new tule shoots on the edge of the treatment area.

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Native Tule Pea growing in the restoration area.



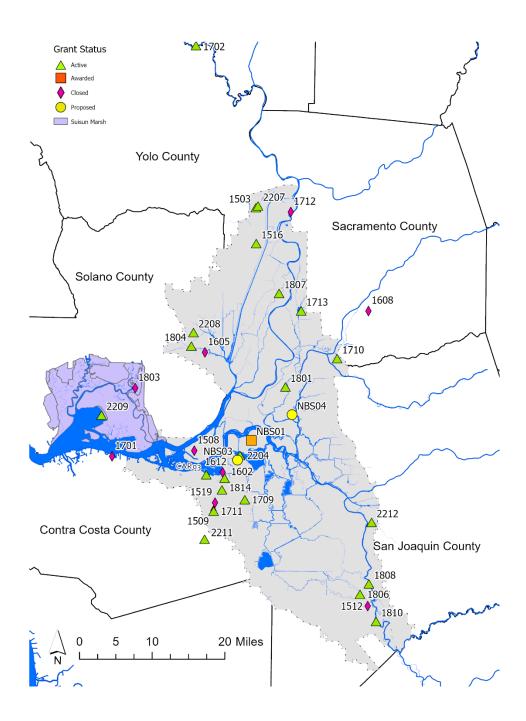
Dense colony of native Mason's Lilaeopsis and small Spikerush shoots growing among Tules.

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CONTACT

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7.1. MAP OF ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECTS



One active project (P1-1813) and two closed projects (P1-1505 and P1-1718) are not mapped due to their large spatial coverage.