



**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 multi-benefit 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 7). 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	\$0.02	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

PROGRAM UPDATE

As of October 12, 2023, there are 17 active projects, one awarded project with grant development underway, and 18 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	\$4,337,142	San Joaquin and Contra Costa	Before the Board (Agenda Item 9)
NBS03	Land Acquisition on Bethel Island	John Muir Land Trust	Acquisition	\$2,202,091	Contra Costa	Before the Board (Agenda Item 10)
NBS04	Wetland Restoration Project on Staten Island	The Nature Conservancy	Planning, Implementation	\$6,753,396	San Joaquin	Before the Board (Agenda Item 11)

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 subcontractor and contract are being finalized.

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	Grantee has executed subcontracts, secured equipment, and is working on monitoring and management plan, aerial imagery, and permits.

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. We expect a change request Winter 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	Grantee waiting for Army Corps permit. Planting is anticipated to start Fall 2024 and invasive plant treatment will continue this year. Grantee has initiated a minute modification request.

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	Water quality equipment has been installed at all four project sites. Grantee is meeting with landowners to plan for installation of water infrastructure in 2024.

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	Grantee is developing a mercury baseline assessment and remediation plan.

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 concepts, 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	Grantee has met with interested partners and is initiating community outreach and permitting efforts.

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, two projects have 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	Anticipated to close escrow in October 2023.

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	Planning for restoration and enhancement of waterways and edge habitats 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 and permits are being secured. Implementation funding secured for sites 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, and 11 (Ulati Creek, Schwarz Farm, McCormick Ranch).

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	Conservancy staff prepared a staff recommendation for Board consideration for an amendment to extend the grant funding term by seven months (Agenda Item 4.3).

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 completed refinement of habitat partition, realigned intake channel, access roads, and maintenance areas for 65 Percent Design Plans. Draft 65 Percent Design Plans are complete. Grantee anticipates completion by funding end date (February 29, 2024). Project site remains inundated.

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.

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	Conservancy staff prepared a staff recommendation for Board consideration for an amendment to extend the grant funding term by six months (Agenda Item 4.4).

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, five grants have closed.

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 for an amendment to modify the project's scope (Agenda Item 4.2).

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	California 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	Project is ongoing.

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	Delta Conservancy Board approved an amendment to increase the project budget by \$38,273 at the July 25, 2023 meeting. Amended grant agreement executed August 22, 2023.

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.

CLOSED PROJECTS

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

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.

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.

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	Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms: Improving Aquatic Habitat Resiliency on Working Lands Along the Sacramento River (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$647,701 (\$23,249 unspent)
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	Closed as of 4/22/2023
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	Add one acre of habitat to the current Three Creeks Parkway Restoration project, thereby enhancing the ecological benefits of that project, while satisfying flood conveyance needs to protect the local area.
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 8/24/22
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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	California 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.

Project Name	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Project, Phase 2 (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$265,254 (\$505 unspent)
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	Closed as of 09/18/2023
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

P1-1806: Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Project, Phase 2 (Planning), San Joaquin Resource Conservation District

The purpose of this project was to continue planning for an expansion of the Paradise Cut Flood Bypass to reduce flood risk, improve habitat, and maintain agricultural land along the San Joaquin River south of Paradise Cut. The project team approved a local engagement strategy, held engagement meetings with reclamation districts, and conducted public outreach meetings to successfully garner local support for the expansion and future restoration activities. Future studies addressing local concerns were identified, along with potential funding sources. The planning team secured funding from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to conduct a future feasibility study to further the project towards construction. Now that the grant funding term has ended, the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency has taken over as the lead agency to advance next phases of the Paradise Cut Expansion and South Delta Restoration Project.





P1-1702: Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms: Improving Aquatic Habitat Resiliency on Working Lands Along the Sacramento River (Planning), American Rivers

This project aimed to advance planning efforts to restore ecosystem function in floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitats on a working farm along the Sacramento River. In the long-term the project would integrate agriculture-compatible restoration and conservation into farm practices in order to model improved connectivity of aquatic habitat on working landscapes. With Conservancy funding, this project developed conceptual plans for four riparian and one wetland areas within the farm. One of these riparian sites has been permitted and has begun implementation, funded by an outside source. The project site has faced changes in landownership, and project partners are continuing to negotiate the purchase of various sections of the farm including restoration sites identified as part of this grant. The Grantee is pursuing funding opportunities to finalize plans and permits for the remaining restoration sites.

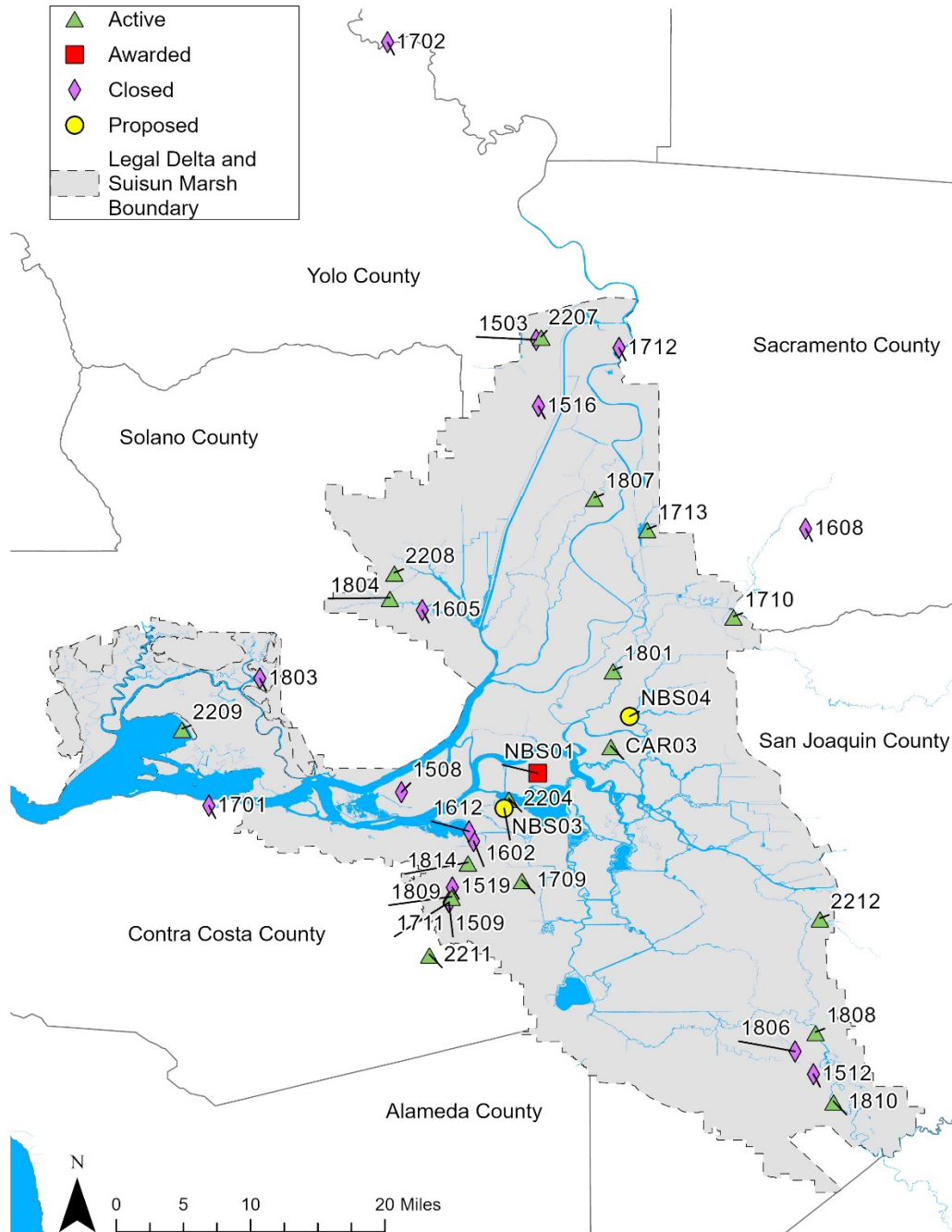
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7.1. MAP OF ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECTS



One active project (P1-1813), two closed projects (P1-1505 and P1-1718), and one proposed project (NBS 02) are not mapped due to their large spatial coverage.