



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

*A California State Agency*

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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**January 24, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Delta Conservancy Conference Room**

**1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento, CA 95691**

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. To maximize public safety while maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can choose to participate either via Microsoft Teams or in person at the location listed above.

**Three Board Members will be participating virtually from the following publicly accessible locations.**

**Members of the public may participate from these locations:**

- 3361 Walnut Boulevard, Suite 140, Brentwood, CA 94513
- 1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor, SF Bay Conference Room, Oakland, CA 94612
- 44 North San Joaquin Street, Sixth Floor, Stockton, CA 95202

### **Join via Microsoft Teams**

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Questions and public comment can be addressed to [contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov) prior to, and during the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Introductions**
3. **Public Comment** (New Business)
4. **Consent Calendar** (**Action Item**)
  - Approval of October 25, 2023 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items (Attachment)
  - Consideration of Amendment to Term of Community Enhancement Grant Program Agreement for the Southport Levee Recreational Trail Planning and Design Project at Southport (Attachment)
  - Consideration of Amendment to Scope of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Agreement for the Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Consumnes River Preserve (Attachment)

- Consideration of Amendment to Term of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Agreement for Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement Project at Banta-Carbona (Attachment)
5. **Executive Officer's Report**, Campbell Ingram
    - Program Update (Attachment)
    - Budget and Expenditure Report (Attachment)
  6. **Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Update**, Anjali Shakya (Attachment)
  7. **Community Enhancement Grant Program Update**, Maya Garrett (Attachment)
  8. **Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team Update**, Dr. Rachel Wigginton (Attachment)
  9. **Delta Conservancy 2023 Implementation Plan Status Update and Consideration of 2024 Implementation Plan**, Karen Buhr (Attachments) (Action Item)
  10. **Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grant Program Funds for Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning**, Maya Garrett (Attachment) (Action Item)
  11. **Update on the Reorienting to Recovery: Central Valley Salmon Recovery Project**, Marlys Jeane
  12. **EcoRestore Update**, Charlotte Biggs
  13. **Delta Stewardship Council Update**, Amanda Bohl
  14. **Delta Protection Commission Update**, Bruce Blodgett
  15. **Delta Conveyance Update**, Carrie Buckman
  16. **Potential Agenda Items for the March 27, 2024 Board Meeting**, Campbell Ingram (Attachment)
  17. **Public Comment**
  18. **ADJOURN**
    - To view the members of the Delta Conservancy Board, please visit <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/delta-conservancy-board>.
    - Attachments and additional information are on the Delta Conservancy's website at: <http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>.
    - If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, or require printed copies of meeting materials, please contact us at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date at (916) 375-2084 or [contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov). This contact information may also be used for questions.
    - Public comments are generally limited to three (3) minutes but may be more or less at the discretion of the Board Chair.
    - The Board may consider the agenda items listed above in a different order at the Delta Conservancy Board meeting, pursuant to the determination of the Board Chair. All items appearing on this agenda, whether listed expressly for action, may be deliberated upon and subject to action at the discretion of the Delta Conservancy Board.



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## October 25, 2023 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

Big Break Visitor Center at Big Break Regional Shoreline, 69 Big Break Road, Oakley, CA 94561

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Video and audio of the meeting is available here:

<https://youtu.be/yUeQskdOoh4?si=Vo4S0rZjJgT-2ij>

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chair Mashburn.

#### Agenda Item 2 – Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

After roll call, agenda items were heard by the Board in the order indicated below.

#### Board Members Present:

- Mitch Mashburn
- Leo Winternitz
- Pat Hume – arrived at 9:19 after consent calendar vote
- Diane Burgis
- Steven J. Ding – teleconference
- Amanda Martin – teleconference
- Lilliana Udang – teleconference

#### Ex-Officio Members Present:

- None

#### Liaison Advisors and Counsel Present:

- Todd Plain
- Bruce Blodgett – teleconference
- James Waters
- Marge Kolar – teleconference
- Nicole Rinke (Counsel) – teleconference

#### Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None

#### Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar

**Motion:** Supervisor Burgis moved, seconded by Vice Chair Winternitz, that the Board approve the following:

- July 26, 2023 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

- Consideration of Amendment to Scope of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Agreement for the Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Attachment)
- Consideration of Amendment to Term of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Agreement for Lower San Joaquin Riparian Corridor Project (Attachment)
- Consideration of Amendment to Term of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Agreement for the Oakley Creekside Park Restoration Project (Attachment)

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 6 ayes.

**Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report**

The Executive Officer briefly highlighted several items in the staff report. The Board discussed Senate Bill 544, which updates the teleconferencing requirements for the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

**Agenda Item 6 – Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaption Grant Program Update**

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report, whereas on October 12, 2023, there are 17 active projects, one awarded project with grant development underway, and 18 closed projects. Three amendment requests are on the consent calendar for this meeting.

**Agenda Item 7 – Community Enhancement Grant Programs Update**

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report, which includes a new table to describe the funding sources within the program. As of October 12, 2023, there are 12 active projects.

**Agenda Item 8 – Consideration of Amendment to Budget of Community Enhancement Grant Program Agreement for Asian American Heritage Park**

Conservancy staff highlighted key points from the staff report. The project representative addressed various questions from the Board, including need for cost-sharing efforts, need to reduce costs, complications with competitive bid pricing, and term extension.

**Motion:** Chair Mashburn moved, seconded by Supervisor Hume, to approve additional funding up to \$256,590 to the Delta Educational Cultural Society from the Proposition 68 grant funds for the Asian American Heritage Park.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 6 ayes and 1 nay.

**Agenda Item 9 – Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act Lead Agency Exemption Declaration and Award of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant Funds for the Delta Rice Conversion Program**

The Delta Rice Conversion Program aims to convert 3,000 to 7,500 acres of current agriculture to wildlife-friendly rice for climate and ecosystem benefits. The staff report highlights key details of the project, which supports the community shift to rice cultivation, offsetting conversion costs. The project requires four motions for approval.

**Motion 1:** Supervisor Hume moved, seconded by Vice Chair Winternitz, that the Board adopt Resolution 2023-01, which finds that the Delta Rice Conversion Program is categorically exempt from

environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15313, subsections (a) and (c).

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 7 ayes.

**Motion 2:** Supervisor Hume moved, seconded by Vice Chair Winternitz, that the Board approve the Applicant's request to waive the requirement for recording a Landowner Access Agreement against the deed of the property, conditional upon the Conservancy receiving and approving a landowner access agreement for the length of the contract between the Applicant and the landowner of the properties (three to five years).

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 7 ayes.

**Motion 3:** Supervisor Hume moved, seconded by Vice Chair Winternitz, to approve the Applicant's request to waive the 15-year maintenance standard of a project.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 7 ayes.

**Motion 4:** Supervisor Hume moved, seconded by Supervisor Burgis, that the Board approve and award funding up to \$4,333,124 to The Nature Conservancy from the Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant Program for the Delta Rice Conversion Program.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 7 ayes.

**Agenda Item 10 – Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act Lead Agency Exemption Declaration and Award of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant Funds for Land Acquisition on Bethel Island**

The proposed project is to acquire a 600-acre property, Hoover Ranch on Bethel Island, for permanent environmental protection and stewardship. Staff prepared the text below based on staff's best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with staff of JMLT. Two separate motions were required for the project to move forward. Two separate motions are required.

**Motion 1:** Supervisor Burgis moved, seconded by Supervisor Hume, that the Board adopt Resolution 2023-02, which finds that the Land Acquisition of Bethel Island is categorically exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15313, subsections (a) and (c).

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 7 ayes.

**Motion 2:** Supervisor Burgis moved, seconded by Supervisor Hume, that the Board approve and award funding up to \$2,202,091 to John Muir Land Trust from the Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant funding for the Land Acquisition on Bethel Island.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 7 ayes.

**Agenda Item 11 – Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act Lead Agency Exemption Declaration and Award of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant Funds for the Wetland Restoration Project on Staten Island**

The proposed project is seeking grant funding to complete design planning and restore 426 acres of seasonal and semi-permanent wetland on the southeastern corner of Staten Island (Island) in the central Delta. Staff recommends that the Board adopt Resolution 2023-03 declaring that this Project is statutorily exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 21080.56 and the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Two separate motions are required.

**Motion 1:** Board Member Winternitz moved, seconded by Board Member Udang, that the Board adopt Resolution 2023-03, which finds that the Wetland Restoration Project on Staten Island is statutorily exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 7 ayes.

**Motion 2:** Supervisor Burgis moved, seconded by Board Member Martin, that the Board award funding up to \$6,753,396 to The Nature Conservancy from the Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant Funding for the Wetland Restoration Project on Staten Island.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 7 ayes.

**Agenda Item 12 – Potential Agenda Items for the January 24, 2024 Board Meeting**

- Consideration of Award of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant
- Consideration of Amendment to Community Enhancement Grant Program Agreements
- Consideration of Draft Solicitation Notices for the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Appropriation
- Process and Criteria for Waiving a 15-Year Maintenance Standard
- Delta Conservancy 2023 Implementation Plan Status Update and Consideration of 2024 Implementation plan

**Agenda Item 13 – Public Comment**

Sydney Chamberlin, Project Director, The Nature Conservancy, expressed gratitude for the award for agenda item 11.

**BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED** by Chair Mashburn at 10:29 a.m.

**CONTACT**

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**Consideration of Amendment to Term of Community Enhancement Grant Program Agreement for the Southport Levee Recreational Trail Planning and Design Project at Southport  
Staff Report**

<b>Grantee</b>	City of West Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	P6803
<b>Award Year</b>	2021
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Category</b>	Planning
<b>Original Award Amount</b>	\$337,863
<b>Request</b>	Term Extension

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board approves an extension to the grant funding term of one year for additional time to complete project deliverables.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Grantee requests a one-year extension of the grant’s funding end date from November 1, 2024 to November 1, 2025 to accommodate the completion of project deliverables. The extension will allow additional time for project designs and permitting to be completed. These tasks were delayed due to additional permits being required than were originally anticipated, which delayed the project timeline.

The Grantee indicated that if the Conservancy is unable to extend the funding term, they will be unable to complete all project deliverables by the current end date. This would put the planning phase of this project at risk and could delay future implementation.

**BACKGROUND**

The Southport Levee Recreational Trail Planning and Design Project (Project ID P6803) is a planning project designed to create planning documents for preparation of paving of 5.6 miles of levee top for recreational use. This project was awarded \$337,863 of Proposition 68 funds in 2021. This is the Grantee’s first amendment request. As noted above, the grant is behind schedule due to the need for additional permits. With this time extension, the project is on track to be completed by November 1, 2025, when the requested grant agreement amendment expires. This request will have no impact on current funds as they are not set to expire until June 30, 2026.

**CONTACT**

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**Consideration of Amendment to Scope of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Agreement for the Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Consumnes River Preserve Staff Report**

<b>Grantee</b>	California Department of Water Resources
<b>Project ID</b>	P1-1710
<b>Award Year</b>	2018
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Category</b>	Implementation
<b>Original Award Amount</b>	\$8,700,800
<b>Request</b>	Scope

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board approve a change to scope of work to remove 30 of the 334 acres (nine percent) from the project area to create an advance mitigation site for this project and other Grantee projects.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Grantee is requesting the removal and repurpose of 30 acres of the Project area to create an advance mitigation site for the Project and other projects within Grantee’s Delta Levees Program. The proposed acreage reduction represents a nine percent decrease of the 334 acres initially proposed in 2018.

Per the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, the Conservancy cannot use funding to pay for an entity’s mitigation requirements. The 30-acre advance mitigation area would be independent from this project and funded through alternative funding sources.

The total cost of the Project is now estimated to be \$16.5 million, largely due to inflation and additional work needed to finalize project planning. The Grantee is not requesting additional funding from the Conservancy to complete the Project. Rather, the Grantee proposed to increase their cost share from \$1.12 to \$5.33 million (375 percent increase). The increase in cost share is not associated with the advance mitigation site.

Board approval for the reduction in project acreage from the Project will allow the Grantee to proceed with the Project in the revised timeline. The Project has experienced several delays since being awarded largely due to a redesign of the project to accommodate an existing conservation easement. If this amendment request is not approved, the Grantee would need to pursue other properties within their portfolio for mitigation. Prior to submitting this scope of work amendment, Conservancy staff



requested that the Grantee first pursue other alternative sites. The Grantee states that they have exhausted their available options and therefore are requesting to use a portion of this property.

**BACKGROUND**

The Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at Consumnes River Preserve (Project ID P1-1710) is an implementation project to restore natural flooding to 334 acres of habitat by breaching the levee on Grizzly Slough and reconnecting habitat along the Consumnes River corridor. This Project was awarded \$8,700,800 of Proposition 1 funding to the Grantee in 2018. This is the Grantee's second amendment request. In May 2023, the Grantee requested a funding term extension to accommodate delays in the Project. The Grantee anticipates starting construction in Summer 2024. This request will have no impact on the availability of current funds as they are not set to expire until June 30, 2026.

**CONTACT**

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**Consideration of Amendment to Term of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Agreement for Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement Project at Banta-Carbona Project Staff Report**

<b>Grantee</b>	Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
<b>Project ID</b>	P1-1810
<b>Award Year</b>	2020
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Category</b>	Planning
<b>Original Award Amount</b>	\$750,931
<b>Request</b>	Term Extension

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board approves an extension to the grant funding term of one year for additional time to complete project deliverables.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Grantee requests a one-year extension of the grant’s funding end date from February 29, 2024 to February 28, 2025 to accommodate the completion of project deliverables, specifically to submit permit applications and engage with permitting agencies to ensure the acquisition of appropriate permits. During the design process, two additional features were included that added significant time to the hydraulic and sediment modeling and creation of the 65 Percent Design Plans. This additional time for modeling and design delayed submission of permit applications until the plans were complete.

The Grantee indicated that if the Conservancy is unable to extend the funding term, they will be unable to complete all project deliverables by the current end date. This would put the planning phase of this project at risk and could delay future implementation.

**BACKGROUND**

The Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta-Carbona Project is a planning project that will design and permit a 30-acre multi-benefit floodplain on the San Joaquin River to improve rearing habitat for juvenile salmon, reduce flood risk, and address sedimentation issues at an intake screen. This project was awarded \$750,931 of Proposition 1 funds in 2020. This is the Grantee’s first amendment request requiring Board consideration. With this time extension, the project is on track to be completed by February 28, 2025, when the requested grant agreement amendment expires. This request will have no impact on the availability of current funds as they are not set to expire until June 30, 2027.

**CONTACT**

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## Executive Officer's Report

January 24, 2024

### PROGRAM UPDATE

#### FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

The Notices from the Fair Political Practices Commission were sent to Conservancy Board Members, alternate Board Members, and Liaison Advisors to complete Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests. The final filing deadline is April 2, 2024, though we have received some already. Forms are completed on the Fair Political Practices Commission online portal. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Jiantie (Jenny) Hou at [Jiantie.Hou@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:Jiantie.Hou@deltaconservancy.ca.gov).

#### DELTA DROUGHT RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM (DDRPP) UPDATE

Conservancy staff are continuing to close out all but six of the 2023 DDRPP grants. The six remaining grantees will continue to implement water conservation practices through September 2026 as part of the Delta Conservancy's interagency agreement with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). The UC Davis research team has been collecting micrometeorological and soil data from these six sites. The DDRPP Oversight Committee is continuing to analyze the water conservation actions taken by the DDRPP grantees during the 2022/2023 water year. This analysis will inform the 2023 DDRPP Program Report and Technical Analysis, which is on track to be released in Spring 2024.

#### DELTA CONSERVANCY FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET APPROPRIATION UPDATES

The State of California is facing a large budget deficit. As part of the solution to the budget deficit, general funds are being pulled back and agencies are being asked to limit their non-essential spending. The forest and fire funds (the only remaining Conservancy general funds) are being recommended by the Governor's Office to be pulled back into the budget. The Conservancy is also complying with the budget request by reducing travel, conferences, trainings, and other expenditures. At this time, no additional measures are being requested by the Governor's Office.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

In the second quarter of the fiscal year Conservancy staff developed an annual report to highlight 2023's accomplishments and milestones and a link is available on the Conservancy website. Various required reports and drills were submitted, including budget drills for SWCAP (Statewide Cost Allocation Plan), Pro Rata, and infrastructure project reporting; Late Penalties Report LPP PD 800 (with

no late payment penalties paid for fiscal year 22/23) and the State Leadership Accountability Act report. The Conservancy purchased additional hybrid equipment to allow for hybrid off-site meetings and we processed many documents, including five contract amendments or modifications, 127 invoices as well as closing 55 DDRPP contracts.

### **DELTA CONSERVANCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) UPDATE**

On November 21, 2023, the Conservancy entered into an interagency agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to solicit proposals, fund, and manage a contract to engage in a collaborative structured decision-making process, conduct value engineering, and refine cost estimates for the Franks Tract Futures project. Conservancy staff are currently developing the RFP to solicit proposals for the project and anticipate posting the RFP in Winter 2024 and selecting a contractor in early Spring 2024.

### **DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT UPDATE**

On December 8, 2023, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project. On December 21, 2023, DWR certified the Delta Conveyance Project EIR. DWR is moving forward with engineering, design, and permitting for the Bethany Reservoir Alignment.

### **NUTRIA ERADICATION**

Please see the most recent update from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife included in this Agenda Item.

### **DELTA SCIENCE**

#### **Fish Friendly Farming:**

The Conservancy, supported through a grant from the California State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), has contracted the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) to implement the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Program in the Delta. A total of 10,752 acres of farmland has been enrolled in the Delta FFF Program. The first Fish Friendly Farming site began its certification process in mid-December, and the remaining acreage will be certified in 2024. The Fish Friendly Farming project will close in March 2024.

#### **Delta Science Coordination:**

Conservancy staff continue to work collaboratively with the broader Delta science community to advance ecological restoration, invasive species management, and regional science coordination in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.

Conservancy staff continue to co-lead the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Subcommittee with colleagues from the Delta Stewardship Council (Council). The second Delta Restoration Forum took place on November 2, 2023 at the Ryde Hotel in Walnut Grove. The event built upon the first forum, held in February 2023, by providing additional project-specific information to attendees. Staff from the Conservancy and Council co-lead a planning team that included representatives from the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, environmental consulting groups, and Restore the Delta. The November Forum brought together presenters representing over 20 projects, plans, or programs; the Forum was attended by almost 70 individuals. The next meeting of the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee will be in the first quarter of 2024.

The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team, facilitated by Conservancy staff and co-led by staff from the Delta Stewardship Council and the Department of Water Resources, hosted the fifth biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium on November 30, 2023, at the California Natural Resources building in downtown Sacramento. A detailed summary can be found in Agenda Item 8.1.

Conservancy staff worked with staff from DWR and the State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways to submit a proposal to the UC Davis Environmental Policy and Management Policy Clinic to have a graduate student team conduct analyses to improve invasive species control and management in the Delta. The proposal was not selected to be a student project.

### **MEDIA MENTIONS**

[The Capitol Morning Report](#) published a brief about the California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Speaker Series on the Delta that the Conservancy participated in. The recording can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifwkmYvcXKE>.

[Maven's Notebook re-published a press release](#) announcing that the Conservancy Board in October approved \$13 million for Nature-Based Solutions projects that will provide fish and wildlife habitat, halt or reverse subsidence, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support the Delta economy, and more.

### **BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

- None

### **DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE**

Agenda Item 5 (2): Budget and Expenditure Report

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- None

### **CONTACT**

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife

### Nutria Eradication Program Update

#### Field Update December 31, 2023

Since March 2018, the nutria eradication efforts in California have:

1. Completed full and/or rapid assessments on over 1.8 M acres
2. Executed entry permits with 4,600 landowners for over 9,800 parcels in 14 counties
3. Set up 9,521 camera stations (1,275 currently active)
  - Conducted 80,007 camera checks
4. Detected nutria in 861 sites (40-acre cells)
5. Deployed 11,761 trap sets (534 currently active) for a total of 133,772 trap nights
6. Taken or accounted for the take of 4,057 nutria (since March 2017)
  - Merced - 2,198
  - Stanislaus - 968
  - Fresno - 575
  - San Joaquin - 110
  - Solano - 168
  - Sacramento - 25
  - Mariposa - 12
  - Madera - 1 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)

Of 3,903 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.14 sex ratio (M:F)
- Of the females captured:
  - 22% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
  - 62% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
  - 66% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
- 4,768 fetal nutria have been removed from the population
- Litter size ranged from 1-13, with an average of 6.0
  - Average litter size for adult females (> 14 mos.) in California is 6.5

**Table 1.** The total number of cells with nutria taken, total number of nutria taken, and average number of nutria taken per cell, by year from March 2017 to December 31, 2023.

Year	Total (unique) cells with nutria taken	Total # nutria taken	Average # nutria taken per cell
2017	7	20	2.9
2018	57	348	6.1
2019	73	492	6.7
2020	157	1239	7.9
2021	145	701	4.8
2022	112	580	5.2
2023	119	677	5.7
<b>Total Across Years</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>4057</b>	<b>8.4</b>

## SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE REPORT July 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Personal Services (PS)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
1	Salaries & Wages	\$1,504,126	\$619,139	\$884,987	41%
2	Temporary Help	\$38,303	\$18,314	\$19,989	48%
3	Benefits	\$844,951	\$370,140	\$474,811	44%
4	<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,387,380</b>	<b>\$1,007,593</b>	<b>\$1,379,787</b>	<b>42%</b>

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Operating Expenditures and Equipment (OE & E)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
5	General Expense	\$17,675	\$4,167	\$13,508	24%
6	Printing	\$300	\$0	\$300	0%
7	Communications	\$15,230	\$1,295	\$13,935	9%
8	Postage	\$260	\$117	\$143	45%
9	Travel-In State	\$6,910	\$2,016	\$4,894	29%
10	Training	\$10,725	\$800	\$9,925	7%
11	Facilities Operation	\$110,890	\$45,432	\$65,458	41%
12	Contracts & Personal Services-External	\$107,000	\$11,410	\$95,590	11%
13	Contracts & Personal Services-Interdepartmental	\$119,879	\$11,019	\$108,860	9%
14	Information Technology	\$30,500	\$189	\$30,311	1%
15	Non-Capital Asset Purchases	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
16	Indirect Cost Recovery	\$98,813	\$0	\$98,813	0%
17	Unallocated Operating Expense & Equipment	\$26,098	\$0	\$26,098	0%
	Multi Year Support Appropriation-Unallocated		\$0		
18	Proposition 1 Program Support	\$528,803	\$0	\$528,803	0%
19	Proposition 68 Program Support	\$308,360	\$0	\$308,360	0%
20	Wildfire & DDRPP23	\$593,868	\$0	\$593,868	0%
21	Nature Based Solutions and CAR	\$1,787,672	\$0	\$1,787,672	0%
22	Grants and Subventions	\$46,446,584	\$0	\$46,446,584	0%
23	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$50,209,568</b>	<b>\$76,445</b>	<b>\$50,133,123</b>	<b>0%</b>

Line Number	TOTALS	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
24	<b>TOTAL PS &amp; OE &amp; E</b>	<b>\$52,596,948</b>	<b>\$1,084,038</b>	<b>\$51,512,910</b>	<b>2%</b>
25	REIMBURSEMENT	(\$4,423,948)	\$0	(\$4,423,948)	0%
26	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$48,173,000</b>	<b>\$1,084,038</b>	<b>\$47,088,962</b>	<b>2%</b>





**Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Update  
Staff Report**

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**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	\$34.2	\$0	9/6/2022	6/30/2025	ERCA

**PROGRAM UPDATE**

As of January 3, 2024, there are four awarded projects with grant development underway, 17 active projects, and 18 closed projects.

**APPROVED PROJECTS (TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED: \$34,195,982)**

Of the Board-approved projects, four projects from Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration are in grant agreement development.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract (Planning, Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$20,907,371
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	NBS01
<b>Grantee</b>	Metropolitan Water District
<b>Overview</b>	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.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	In Progress
<b>New Information</b>	Grant agreement in development. Expected to be executed February 2024.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Delta Rice Conversion Program (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$4,333,124
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin and Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	NBS02
<b>Grantee</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>Overview</b>	Provide financial incentives by funding the cost of conversion for Delta Farmers to convert existing agriculture to wildlife-friendly rice. The Program will target 5,000 acres in the Delta to halt subsidence, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide fish and wildlife habitat.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	In Progress
<b>New Information</b>	Grant agreement in development. Expected to be executed February 2024.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Land Acquisition on Bethel Island (Acquisition)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$2,202,091
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	NBS03
<b>Grantee</b>	John Muir Land Trust
<b>Overview</b>	Acquire a 600-acre parcel on Bethel Island to be converted to wetlands and permanently stewarded and protected. This project will reverse subsidence, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and benefit the residents of Bethel Island by reducing flood risk and providing open space.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	In Progress
<b>New Information</b>	Grant agreement in development. Expected to be executed February 2024.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Wetland Restoration Project on Staten Island (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$6,753,396
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Project ID</b>	NBS04
<b>Grantee</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>Overview</b>	Convert 426 acres of existing corn to wetlands on a portion of Staten Island that has become too wet to farm. The wetlands will provide fish and wildlife habitat, reverse subsidence on the most deeply subsided portion of the island, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support the wildlife-friendly agriculture that is occurring on Staten Island Preserve.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	In Progress
<b>New Information</b>	Grant agreement in development. Expected to be executed February 2024.

**ACTIVE PROJECTS**

**CAR – Fiscal Year 2021-2022**

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

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

**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.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration Project (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$427,706
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	P1-2204
<b>Grantee</b>	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
<b>Overview</b>	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.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 4/21/2023
<b>New Information</b>	Grantee has executed subcontracts, secured equipment, and is working on monitoring and management plan, aerial imagery, and permits.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase Two (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$887,516
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	P1-2207
<b>Grantee</b>	Ducks Unlimited
<b>Overview</b>	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.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 3/16/2023
<b>New Information</b>	Grantee anticipates submitting a request to change scope of work in spring 2024.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$413,586
<b>County</b>	Solano
<b>Project ID</b>	P1-2208
<b>Grantee</b>	Solano County Resource Conservation District
<b>Overview</b>	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 <i>Arundo donax</i> ) will be controlled throughout the project site resulting in an increase in native habitat area.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 6/13/2023
<b>New Information</b>	Grantee has cleared the site and is treating for weeds prior to planting. Grantee is working on Recognition and Signage Plan since the site is remote and not publicly accessible.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in the Suisun Marsh (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$542,546
<b>County</b>	Solano
<b>Project ID</b>	P1-2209
<b>Grantee</b>	Suisun Resource Conservation District
<b>Overview</b>	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.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 03/27/2023
<b>New Information</b>	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.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction Project (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$550,000
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	P1-2211
<b>Grantee</b>	Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
<b>Overview</b>	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.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 5/23/2023
<b>New Information</b>	Grantee is developing a mercury baseline assessment and remediation plan as well as the 35 Percent Design Plans.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Van Buskirk Multi-Benefit Ecosystem Restoration Planning Project (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$467,848
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Project ID</b>	P1-2212
<b>Grantee</b>	American Rivers
<b>Overview</b>	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.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 12/22/2022
<b>New Information</b>	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.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve Project (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$2,263,472
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1801
<b>Grantee</b>	Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust
<b>Overview</b>	Acquire a conservation easement on 275 acres of farmland to ensure that it remains as wildlife friendly agriculture
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 12/29/2020
<b>New Information</b>	Project is delayed due to the extended review of crucial acquisition documents. In December 2023, Delta Conservancy staff approved an amendment to extend the grant funding term to 04/30/2024.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Delta Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning (Planning)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$347,481
<b>County</b>	Solano
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1804
<b>Grantee</b>	Solano Resource Conservation District
<b>Overview</b>	Planning for restoration and enhancement of waterways and edge habitats on working lands in Solano County
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 12/19/2019
<b>New Information</b>	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).

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$984,695
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1807
<b>Grantee</b>	Reclamation District 999
<b>Overview</b>	Planning for habitat and flood control enhancements along Elk Slough
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 7/10/2020
<b>New Information</b>	Project is complete. A draft final report has been submitted; the Grantee is preparing a final report and closing documents.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Lower San Joaquin Riparian Corridor (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$522,027
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1808
<b>Grantee</b>	American Rivers
<b>Overview</b>	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along the lower San Joaquin River
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 5/3/2021
<b>New Information</b>	The Board approved amendment to extend the grant funding term was executed 11/27/2023.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta-Carbona Project (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$750,931
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1810
<b>Grantee</b>	Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
<b>Overview</b>	Planning for 30 acres of seasonally inundated floodplain restoration
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 12/10/2020
<b>New Information</b>	Modeling is complete but permitting is delayed. Conservancy staff prepared a staff recommendation for Board consideration for an amendment to extend the grant term (Agenda Item 4.4).

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



<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Oakley Creekside Park Restoration (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$436,465
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1814
<b>Grantee</b>	City of Oakley
<b>Overview</b>	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along Marsh Creek
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 12/11/2020
<b>New Information</b>	The Board approved amendment to extend the grant funding term was executed 12/08/2023.

**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.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Planning)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$1,435,000
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1709
<b>Grantee</b>	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
<b>Overview</b>	Advance planning for restoring wetlands and managing and treating storm water on public land in Knightsen
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 3/20/2019
<b>New Information</b>	The Board approved amendment to modify the project’s scope was executed 11/27/2023.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Implementation)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$8,700,800
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1710
<b>Grantee</b>	California Department of Water Resources
<b>Overview</b>	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
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 4/30/2020
<b>New Information</b>	Conservancy staff prepared a staff recommendation for Board consideration for an amendment to modify the project’s scope (Agenda Item 4.3).

<b>Project Name</b>	Stone Lakes Restoration Project (Planning)
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$635,573
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1713
<b>Grantee</b>	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
<b>Overview</b>	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
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 4/2/2019
<b>New Information</b>	Project is complete. A draft final report has been submitted; the Grantee is preparing a final report and closing documents.

**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](mailto:prop1grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms: Improving Aquatic Habitat Resiliency on Working Lands Along the Sacramento River (Planning)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$647,701 (\$23,249 unspent)
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1702
<b>Grantee</b>	American Rivers
<b>Overview</b>	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
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Closed as of 4/22/2023
<b>New Information</b>	Closed; a final report is available for review.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2 (Implementation)</b>
<b>Agreement Amount</b>	\$990,543 (\$46 unspent)
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1711
<b>Grantee</b>	American Rivers
<b>Overview</b>	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.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Closed as of 8/24/22
<b>New Information</b>	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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

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

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

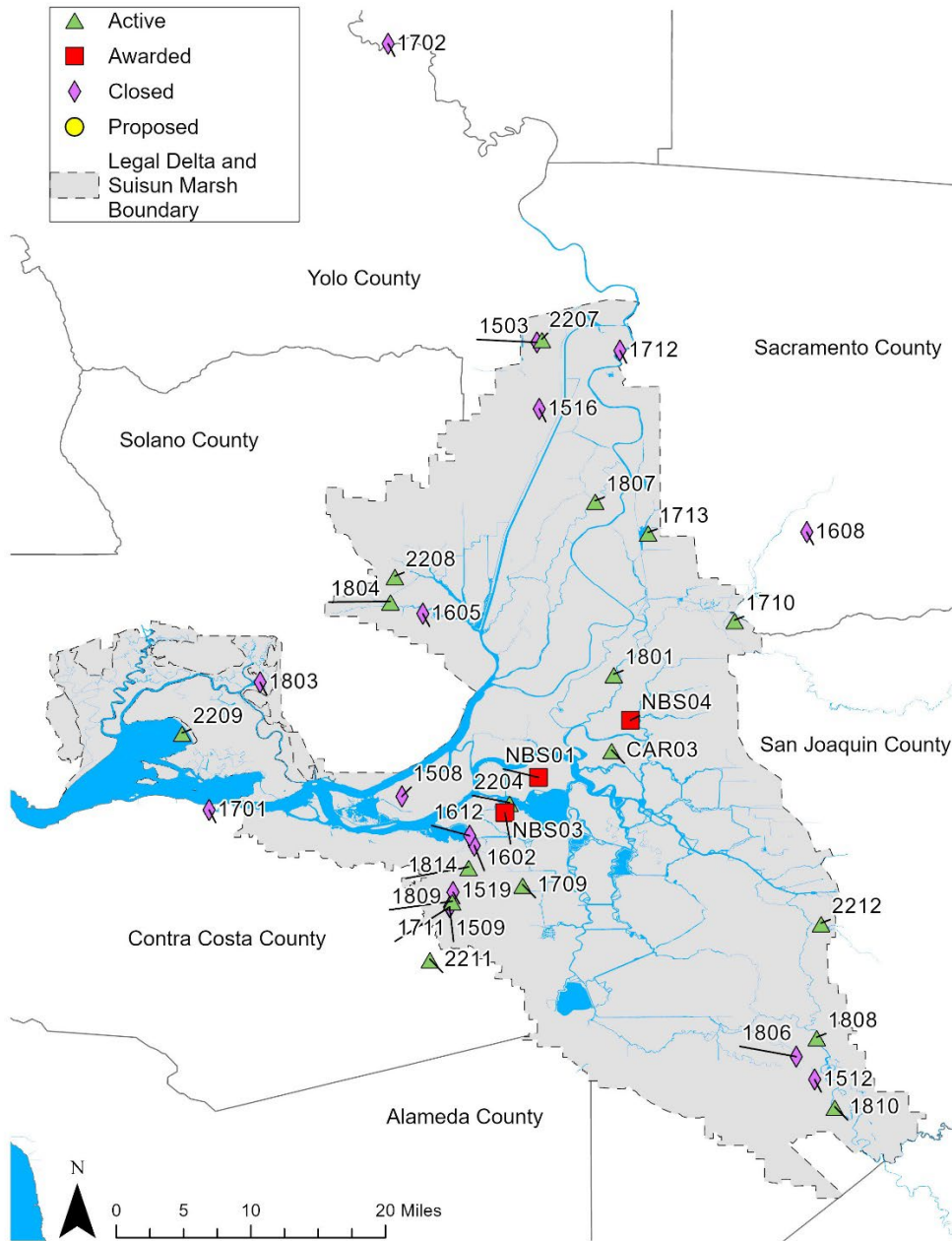
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Project, Phase 2 (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$265,254 (\$505 unspent)
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Project ID</b>	Prop 1-1806
<b>Grantee</b>	San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
<b>Overview</b>	Outreach and planning to advance the Paradise Cut Flood Bypass in San Joaquin County
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Closed as of 09/18/2023
<b>New Information</b>	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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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 awarded project (NBS 02) are not mapped due to their large spatial coverage.



**Community Enhancement Grant Program Update  
 Staff Report**

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**BACKGROUND**

The Community Enhancement Grant Program (CEP) refers to a collection of projects that support and enhance communities and economies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh. Projects in this program are currently funded through Proposition 68 California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 and the Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR) funds. The Proposition 68 Grant Program is designed to promote a robust Delta economy, support the vitality of Delta communities, and allow staff to provide guidance to project proponents as they develop proposals to meet these goals. The CAR is a General Fund allocation and is designed to promote multi-benefit projects within the areas of climate resilience, community access, and natural resource restoration.

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.

The below table highlights the allocations for Proposition 68 (bond funds) and CAR (general funds). Each funding source has funds allocated for both administration and grants. The amount remaining to be allocated are funds available for new grants.

**Community Enhancement Grant Program Funding Sources. ERCA refers to the Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program (Agenda Item 6). 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 68	\$12.0	\$8.7	\$4.3	\$4.4	6/8/2018	Variable	CEP
CAR	\$5.25	\$4.99	\$4.99	\$0	9/23/2021	6/30/2024	ERCA and CEP
CAR	\$6.125	\$5.82	\$5.8	\$0.02	9/6/2022	6/30/2025	ERCA and CEP

**PROGRAM UPDATE**

As of January 3, 2024, there are 12 active projects. In the following tables, the DAC/SDAC designations indicate whether the project serves a disadvantaged community (DAC) or a severely disadvantaged community (SDAC), as confirmed by the Delta Conservancy SDAC policy. Proposition 68 requires that 20 percent of the allocation go to projects that support SDAC communities; 20 percent of the Delta Conservancy’s allocation is \$2,400,000. Of the \$4,255,480 for active, awarded, or requested Proposition 68 projects, \$3,917,617 (92 percent) is expected to support SDAC communities.

**ACTIVE PROJECTS (TOTAL AMOUNT OBLIGATED: \$14,654,450)**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse &amp; Delta Welcome Center (Acquisition)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$310,373
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	P6802
<b>Grantee</b>	Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
<b>Overview</b>	Acquire 1.13-acre parcel to serve as the permanent home of the restored 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 05/02/2022
<b>New Information</b>	The grantee has received a budget modification to pay final insurance costs before closing the grant.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Southport Levee Recreational Trail (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$337,863
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	P6803
<b>Grantee</b>	City of West Sacramento
<b>Overview</b>	Create planning documents for preparation of paving of 5.6 miles of levee top for recreational use.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	Neither
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 12/20/2021
<b>New Information</b>	Conservancy staff prepared a staff recommendation for Board consideration to extend the funding term (Agenda Item 4.2).

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Pittsburg Boat Launch Facility &amp; Central Harbor Park Upgrade (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$172,155
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	P6804
<b>Grantee</b>	City of Pittsburg
<b>Overview</b>	Create planning documents for preparation of recreational and safety enhancements to the Boat Launch Facility & Central Harbor Park.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 10/01/2021
<b>New Information</b>	The Grantee anticipates project closeout in winter 2024.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$44,500
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	P6805
<b>Grantee</b>	Isleton Museum
<b>Overview</b>	Purchase museum-quality display cases to house historical artifacts within the Isleton Museum, located in the newly renovated Bing Kong Tong Building.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 6/17/2022
<b>New Information</b>	The Grantee is pursuing a scope of work change for the project.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Discover the Delta Education Center (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$284,978
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	P6806
<b>Grantee</b>	Discover the Delta Foundation
<b>Overview</b>	Update 2009 building plans to meet current building codes and obtain updated approvals and permits to implement construction of the Delta Education Center.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 6/27/2022
<b>New Information</b>	The building permit application continues to proceed through the Sacramento County Review process.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Freeport, Delta Gateway Monuments (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$223,277
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	P6808
<b>Grantee</b>	Sacramento County
<b>Overview</b>	Create planning documents in preparation of the installation of two gateway monuments and one interpretive sign in Freeport.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 9/21/2022
<b>New Information</b>	The Grantee has started the CEQA process and preliminary design plans.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Asian American Heritage Park Development (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$811,362
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	P6811
<b>Grantee</b>	Delta Educational Cultural Society
<b>Overview</b>	Create a .07-acre park that will include culturally relevant objects and interpretive exhibits on the history and heritage of the Chinese and Japanese immigrants who once occupied the Asian American Historic District of Isleton.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 03/11/2022
<b>New Information</b>	The Grantee has selected a contractor and plans to begin construction in March 2024.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Clarksburg Schoolhouse Restoration and Delta Welcome Center (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$2,070,972
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	P6813
<b>Grantee</b>	Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
<b>Overview</b>	Restore the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse (fully restored building, interior and exterior displays, and landscaping) and develop a Delta Welcome Center.
<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	SDAC
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 7/18/2022
<b>New Information</b>	The Grantee continues to make progress on construction and has selected a designer for interior displays.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Pacific Flyway Center: Walk in the Marsh (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$1,936,050
<b>County</b>	Solano
<b>Project ID</b>	CAR01
<b>Grantee</b>	Pacific Flyway Fund
<b>Overview</b>	Build three miles of ADA-compliant hiking trails, boardwalks, and educational signage throughout restored wetlands in Suisun March.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 03/22/2022
<b>New Information</b>	Conservancy staff conducted a site visit of the project in December 2023.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Bees Lake Public Access (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$2,373,800
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Project ID</b>	CAR02
<b>Grantee</b>	Bees Lake Public Access
<b>Overview</b>	Remove and control invasive species and reestablish native species. Build 700-square foot viewing platform and 1,395 linear feet of ADA-compliant access to riparian forest.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 7/29/2022
<b>New Information</b>	The Grantee anticipates requesting a term extension in spring 2024.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton (Planning)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$2,544,725
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Project ID</b>	CAR05
<b>Grantee</b>	San Joaquin Community Foundation
<b>Overview</b>	Complete design and construction documents for an ADA-compliant, world-class aquatic center along the Delta so all, regardless of income level, may access the water through small human-powered boat.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 8/21/2023
<b>New Information</b>	The Grantee is finalizing site selection.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Central Harbor Park and Boat Launch Facility Upgrade Implementation Project (Implementation)</b>
<b>Amount Awarded</b>	\$3,544,395
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa
<b>Project ID</b>	CAR06
<b>Grantee</b>	City of Pittsburg
<b>Overview</b>	Construction of recreational and safety enhancements to the Boat Launch Facility & Central Harbor Park.
<b>Grant Agreement Status</b>	Active as of 9/13/2023
<b>New Information</b>	The Grantee is finalizing project design plans.

**WORKING PROPOSALS (TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$715,680)**

<b>Project ID</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>DAC/SDAC</b>	<b>Proposal Status</b>
P6819	Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning	City of Suisun City	Planning	\$715,180	Solano	SDAC	Before the Board (Agenda Item 10)

**CONTACT**

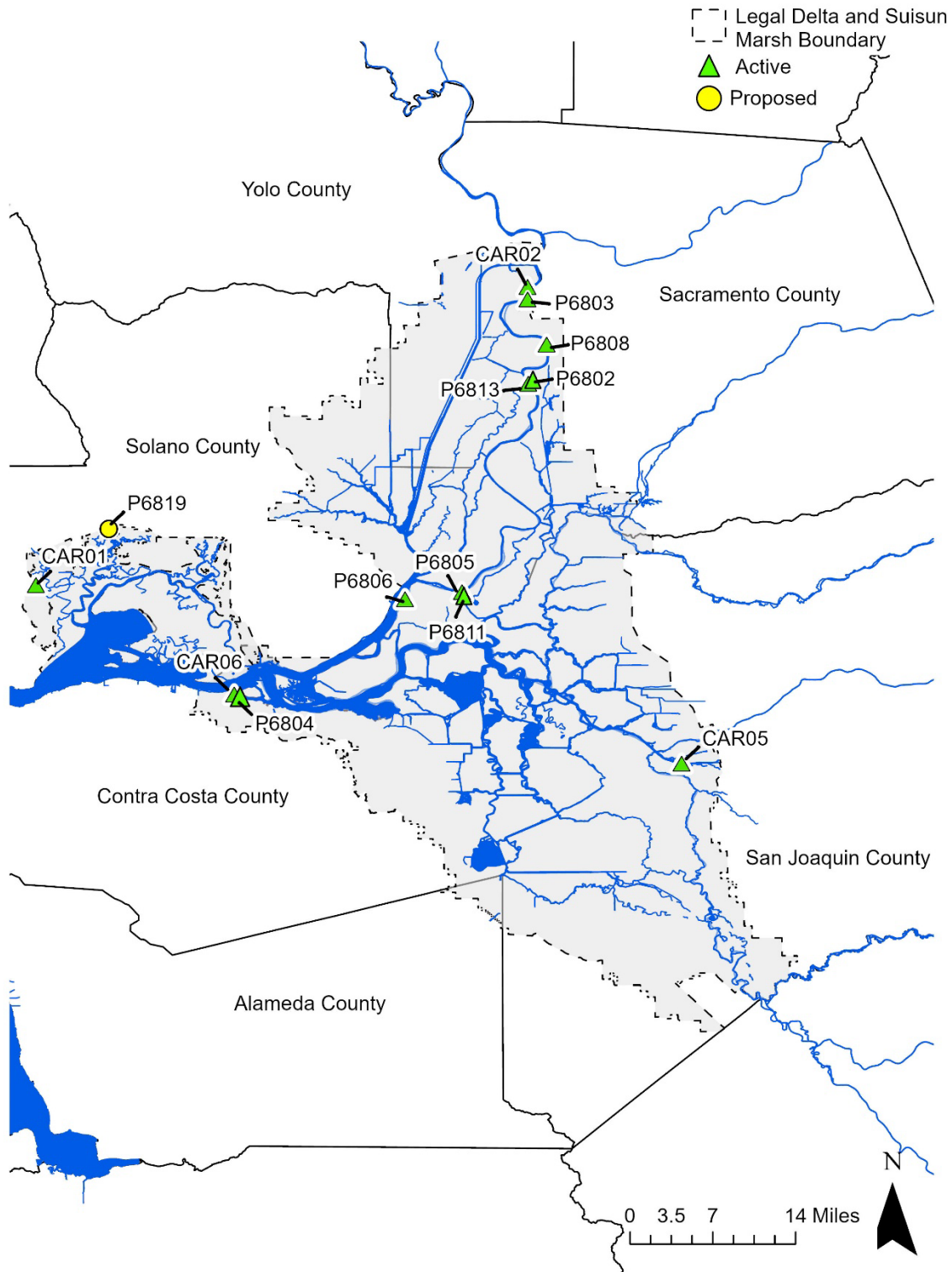
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FIGURE 8.1. MAP OF LOCATION AND STATUS OF COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM PROJECTS







## Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team Update Staff Report

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This agenda item provides an update on the Conservancy's role in facilitating the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team and the fifth biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium.

### DESCRIPTION

Since 2015, the DIISC Team has planned and facilitated the biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium (Symposium). The Symposium is a forum for Delta managers, researchers, decision-makers, and stakeholders to meet, share, and synthesize information, and communicate best practices and lessons learned. The 2023 Symposium focused on connectivity with an emphasis on making ecological, social, and decision-making connections. The role of ecological connectivity is a major theme in the study of biological invasions and is particularly relevant in the Delta, which connects uplands to the estuary, species and nutrients among ecosystems, and water to people. The 2023 Delta Invasive Species Symposium sought to explore how we can harness connections among habitats, landscapes, agencies, researchers, and local communities to prevent, detect, manage, and control invasive species.

The 2023 Symposium took place on November 30, 2023 at the California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters in downtown Sacramento. It was a great success with 72 in-person attendees and an additional 156 individuals attending remotely. Participants were affiliated with local, state, and federal governments, NGOs, local land management groups, consulting firms, academia, community groups, and Delta residents. Agenda, abstracts, and a recording of the Symposium is available on the Conservancy's website: <https://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/diisc-team-activities/>. The sessions are summarized below.

The first session highlighted stories of connectivity from across the Bay-Delta and other estuaries. The Bay-Delta Estuary is hydraulically connected to both upstream riverine and downstream estuarine and saline habitats. The Delta is the convergence of California's two major river systems, and invasive species in these upstream watersheds are connected to the Delta by downstream flow. Similarly, the Delta and Suisun Marsh connect the Delta to its downstream bay and ocean neighbors, where water exchange occurs in both directions with tides. Finally, non-native species can move among estuaries by various means.

The second session highlighted how making connections among researchers, policies, and community members can aid invasive species management. Not only is the Delta a unique ecosystem, but it is also a place where communities, agriculture, and commerce connect with the environment. Invasive species are often seen as an ecosystem issue for science to solve, but their influence also has cultural, social, and economic impacts. Additionally, law and policy have direct connections with what management actions can take place and over what timeframes. This session featured a panel discussion with speakers.

The fourth session highlighted invasive species work through eight short, contributed talks. The final session highlighted the different roles connectivity can play in managing invasive species across the Delta and Suisun Marsh. When is connectivity a friend and when is it a foe? Connections support ecosystems and help maintain native species assemblages, but connections can also increase the spread of invasive species and create conditions that allow non-native species to thrive.

In addition to the Symposium, the DIISC Team held four quarterly meetings in 2023 that featured briefings on specific species (e.g. nutria, ribbon weed), projects (e.g. United States Fish and Wildlife Service California-Great Basin Aquatic Invasive Species Horizon Scan Report), and programs (e.g. State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways floating and submerged aquatic vegetation treatment). Each meeting also featured a round robin of updates from all the groups in attendance.

### **BACKGROUND**

The DIISC Team was formed in 2013 to provide a venue for the exchange of information, coordination of research and management, and collective leveraging of funding relevant to invasive species management and study relevant to the Delta. To this end, the team has met quarterly since 2015, hosted five research and management symposiums (2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023), and maintains a table of relevant research needs. Due to past successes in coordinating regional efforts, the Delta Conservancy was identified as the facilitator of the DIISC Team. This facilitation role includes organizing quarterly DIISC Team meetings, leading strategic planning for the DIISC Team, organizing the planning of the biennial Symposium, and coordinating working group efforts. Delta Conservancy staff facilitate and co-lead the group with staff from the Department of Water Resources and Delta Stewardship Council.

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## Consideration of 2024 Implementation Plan Staff Report

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This report presents for Board consideration the 2024 Implementation Plan.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Board approval of the 2024 Implementation Plan.

### DESCRIPTION

The annual Implementation Plan is a companion document to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. The 2022-2027 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan provides a high-level road map and sets objectives and performance measures to achieve them. The annual Implementation Plan provides a more detailed accounting of the tasks the Conservancy will undertake in the coming year to implement the Strategic Plan. The Implementation Plan has a summary of each initiative, provides an overview of progress and achievements to date, outlines major program objectives for the year, and notes steps for the future.

In July, Conservancy staff updates the Board on progress made toward meeting the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan and provides a mid-year update of progress toward the goals in the Implementation Plan.

### SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve as final the Draft Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 2024 Implementation Plan as presented in this item.

### CONTACT

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

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**DELTA** CONSERVANCY

*A California State Agency*

# 2024 Implementation Plan

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## **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

- Gavin Newsom, Governor
- Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for California Natural Resources Agency

## **SACRAMENTO SAN-JOQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY**

### **Executive Staff**

- Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
- Karen Buhr, Deputy Executive Officer

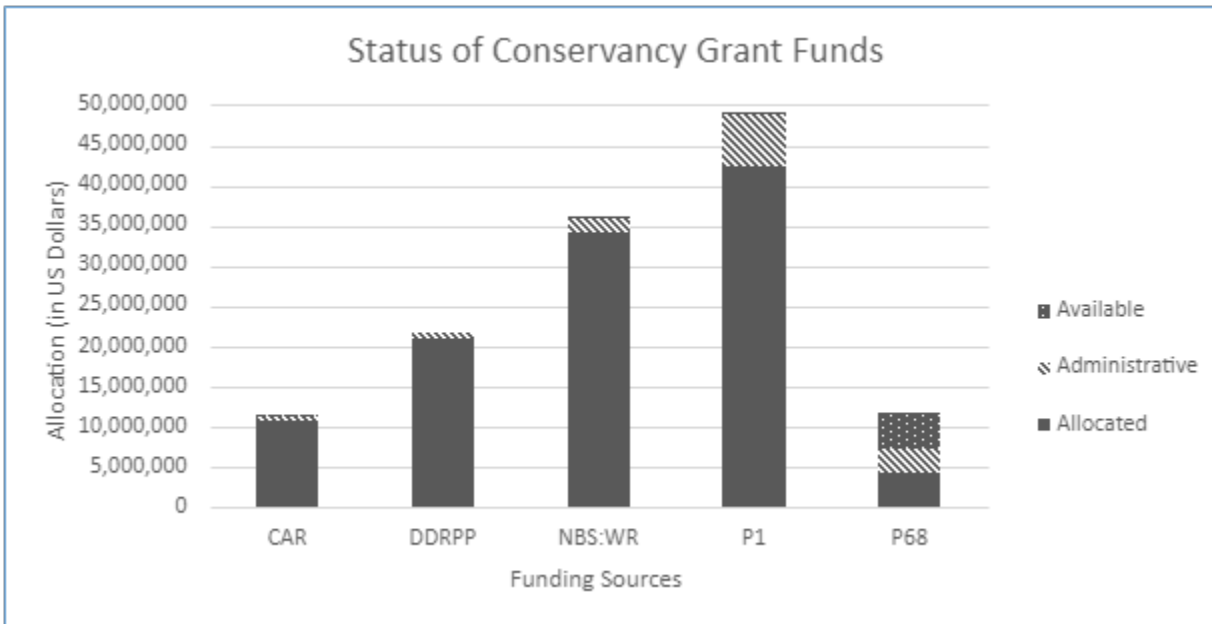
### **Ecological and Community Programs Staff**

- Sarah Lesmeister, Ecological and Community Programs Manager
- Rachel Wigginton, Senior Environmental Scientist
- Martha Ozonoff, Community Projects Supervisor
- Lauren Damon, Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaption Program Supervisor
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- Jessica Adel, Administration Supervisor
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- Larry Hughes, Retired Annuitant (RA), Associate Governmental Program Analyst
- Chelsea Martinez, Grant and Contract Analyst
- Hasaan Hurte, Grant and Contract Analyst

## 2023 At A Glance



### Initiation

- Awarded six projects totaling \$40.3 million in funding.
- Executed 73 new grant and contract agreements.

### Management and Closeout

- Processed 452 invoices.
- Processed 23 amendments.
- Closed 63 agreements.

### Equity

- Created a DEI action plan.
- Exceeded the 25% Small Business (SB) contracting goals
  - SB 32.53%

### New Tools and Software

- Service Now (SNOW) absence reporting and open enrollment
- RAPTR database
- Monitoring procedure for closed grants.

### Outreach

- Co-sponsored two Delta Waterway Cleanups
- Delta Invasive Species Symposium in November
- Delta Restoration Forums in the winter and fall
- Delta Week in September

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Implementation Plan (Plan) articulates programs and associated tasks the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) has established for 2024 to implement the goals, objectives, and metrics included in the Conservancy's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. It also provides updates on the 2023 accomplishments.

The activities reflected herein are funded by the California General Fund; the California Environmental License Plate Fund; state and federal government grants and agreements; the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68). The Conservancy continuously seeks funding to expand efforts in furtherance of its mission and the Governor and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency's priorities of building climate and water resilience, strengthening tribal partnerships, protecting biodiversity, expanding nature-based solutions and outdoor access for all, and cutting the green tape.

### **Conservancy Mission**

Working collaboratively and in coordination with local communities, the Conservancy will lead efforts to protect, enhance, and restore the Delta's economy, agriculture and working landscapes, and environment for the benefit of the Delta region, its local communities, and the citizens of California.

### **Conservancy Guiding Principles**

The Conservancy strives to honor the following Guiding Principles in achieving the activities and tasks in this Implementation Plan:

- Act in collaboration with the communities of the Delta and Suisun Marsh to implement multi-benefit initiatives.
- Operate with integrity in a transparent and accessible manner.
- Support efforts that advance both environmental protection and economic wellbeing in a complementary manner.
- Use best available science.
- Recognize and value the unique nature of the history, culture, communities, and ecosystems of the Delta and Suisun Marsh.
- Recognize that access to natural resources, the benefits of ecological health, and the advantages of economic growth should be equitably distributed and accessible for all.
- Commitment to creating an inclusive workplace that promotes and values diversity.

### **Goal 1: ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE ADAPATION**

The Conservancy, in collaboration with a myriad of partners, is working on the following initiatives to restore, enhance, and protect the Delta ecosystem:

#### **Strategy 1: Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program**

The Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program is a critical tool for the Conservancy to fulfill its mission and meet the State's goals of Climate Resilience, 30x30, Nature-Based Solutions, and California Outdoor Access for All among others. This program helps the Conservancy realize its commitment to improve the ecological and economic vitality of the Delta by funding multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects that address at least one of the following:



- Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement
- Water Quality Improvement
- Water-Related Agricultural Sustainability
- Climate Resilience

First funded in 2015 by a \$50 million allocation of Proposition 1 bond money, the Conservancy is using this program to align state and local interests to its mission in the Delta. Examples of projects funded include restoration of riparian and wetland habitat, land acquisition for conservation easements, hydrological improvement for connectivity and drainage, and control and monitoring of invasive species.

In 2021, the Conservancy received a general fund allocation of \$5.25 million to expand the scope of this program with projects that promote Climate Resilience, Public Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR). In 2022, the Conservancy received a second allocation of general funds that included \$6.1 million to support CAR projects and \$36 million for Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration (NBS: WR) projects.

In 2022, many of the original Proposition 1 grants were completed, therefore staff created monitoring and close-out procedures to ensure that projects have the intended long-term impact. Additionally, the Conservancy served as early adopters of the California Natural Resource Agency's (CNRA) project tracking database termed RAPTR (Resources Agency Project Tracking and Reporting). Staff has been working with CNRA to provide timely feedback to effectively monitor, track, and report on project status across the agency.

In 2022, the Conservancy awarded \$3 million of Proposition 1 funds and \$400,000 of CAR 2021 funds to support eight ERCA projects. Including the 2022 grant round, the Conservancy in total has implemented five cycles of Proposition 1 funding totaling \$42.2 million for 34 projects.

In 2023, staff recommended, and the Board awarded, \$34.2 million of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration (see Delta Carbon and Subsidence Management section) funding to support four ERCA projects. These awards allocated nearly all remaining program funds. In 2023, the Conservancy used monitoring and close-out procedures created in 2022 to close-out five additional Proposition 1 grants.

In 2023, staff entered all projects and corresponding documentation into the Resource Agency Project Tracking and Reporting (RAPTR) database. Staff simultaneously managed projects in both the Conservancy's existing project management system and in the new RAPTR database to successfully transfer projects into the agency-wide database.

In 2024, staff will identify and apply for alternative sources of funding to support existing and additional ERCA projects since nearly all ERCA funding has been allocated to projects.

In 2024, staff will continue to monitor and close-out existing ERCA projects. Staff will also update protocols and procedures to reflect adoption of RAPTR as the primary project tracking database for the Conservancy.

*Table 1: 2023 Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Accomplishments*

<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Details</b>
The Conservancy will fully utilize RAPTR by the end of 2023	Completed	Staff are now working as beta testers on proposal submission process
The Conservancy will fully implement a monitoring procedure	Completed	Staff are working to integrate monitoring procedures with RATPR
Staff intends to recommend projects for the remaining \$7.125 million of CAR funds and \$36 million of NBS: WR funds	Completed	Two projects awarded CAR funds and four projects awarded NBS: WR

*Table 2: 2024 Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Goals*

<b>2024 Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
The Conservancy will identify and apply for alternative sources of funding to support ERCA projects	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 2B
The Conservancy will update protocols and procedures to complete RAPTR database transition	Q4	1A, 1B, 5B

## **Strategy 2: Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team (DIISC Team)**

To support the Conservancy’s Guiding Principles to work collaboratively and use best available science, the Conservancy facilitates and co-leads a team of invasive species professionals working across sectors, including local, state, and federal government staff, NGO staff, academic researchers, and extension specialists. The DIISC Team exchanges information among members, helps coordinate among invasive species managers, and identifies research needs and funding sources to address those needs. The DIISC Team holds quarterly coordination meetings, maintains a table of research needs, and organizes a biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium.

The DIISC Team held four quarterly meetings in 2023 that featured briefings on specific species, projects, and programs including a round robin of updates from all the groups in attendance. The DIISCT team also participated in Invasive Species Action Week, which occurred June 3 through June 11 (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Action-Week>). This week included events around the State to bring awareness to invasive species.

The fifth, biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium occurred on November 30, 2023 at the CNRA Headquarters in downtown Sacramento and included 72 in-person and 156 virtual attendees. Participants were affiliated with local, state, and federal governments, NGOs, local land management groups, consulting firms, academia, community groups, and Delta residents. A recording of the event is available on our DIISC webpage: <https://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/diisc-team-activities/>.

In 2024, the DIISC Team will continue to host quarterly meetings to exchange information, coordinate invasive species projects, and utilize the early detection and rapid response framework should new threats emerge. Staff will work with partners at the Delta Science Program and California State University (CSU) Long Beach to advance research on ribbon weed in the Delta.

*Table 3: 2023 DIISC Team Accomplishments*

<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Details</b>
Deliver a Delta Invasive Species Symposium that brings together academics, practitioners, and community members to better understand invasive species in the Delta	Completed	Successful Symposium with 228 attendees
Continue to identify high-priority research topics to better inform conservation work	Ongoing	Staff collaborated with Delta Science Program and CSU Long Beach to study ribbon weed (study duration 2023-2024)
Utilize the early detection and rapid response framework if new threats emerge	Ongoing	Staff collaborated with Delta Science Program and CSU Long Beach to study early detection and rapid response process (study duration 2023-2024)

*Table 4: 2024 DIISC Team Goals*

<b>2024 Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
Hold four quarterly Team meetings to coordinate and exchange information	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 4B
Continue to identify high-priority research topics to better inform conservation work	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 4B
Utilize the early detection and rapid response framework if new threats emerge	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 4B
Continue to follow up on the symposium to build on valuable insights, contacts, and connections	Q1-Q2	1A, 1B, 4B

**Strategy 3: Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Sub-Committee (RSC)**

To implement restoration at the pace and scale necessary to fulfill the objectives of the Water Resilience Portfolio, Cutting Green Tape Initiative, the Governor’s California Biodiversity Initiative, and the amendment to Chapter 4 of the Delta Plan, the DPIIC recommended that the Delta Stewardship Council and the Conservancy create a DPIIC restoration sub-committee.

In 2023, the sub-committee hosted two Delta Restoration Forums, which brought together restoration practitioners, the Delta community, and agency leaders to learn about and discuss ecological restoration in the Delta. The first Forum took place on February 8, 2023 at the Conservancy office and was attended by 146 in-person and virtual individuals. The second Forum took place on November 2, 2023 at the Ryde Hotel in Walnut Grove and was attended by 68 in-person individuals. Information can be found at:

<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/dpiic/meeting-materials/2022-08-29-dpiic-subcommittee-work-plan-draft.pdf>.

The forums (1) provided an overview of the amendments to Chapter 4 of the Delta Plan, (2) provided a chance for attendees to learn about specific proposed and planned projects and programs, (3) built cross-sector relationships, and (4) informed future Restoration Forum meetings. The sub-committee also convened two sub-committee meetings (March 29 and August 16, 2023) to prioritize the sub-committee workplan, receive briefings on CDFW’s Cutting the Green Tape Initiative and the State Water Resources Control Board Statewide Restoration General Order, hear an update on DWR’s restoration work, and discuss Delta restoration funding needs.

In 2024, the sub-committee will continue to implement its work plan. Tasks will include convening at least two sub-committee meetings and continuing to work toward all four work plan goals.

*Table 5: 2023 DPIIC Restoration Sub-committee Accomplishments*

<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Details</b>
Begin implementing the work plan	Completed	Progress was made toward all four workplan goals
Create and host the first Delta Restoration Forum	Completed	Two Forums were successfully organized

*Table 6: 2024 DPIIC Restoration Sub-committee Goals*

<b>2024 Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
Provide forums for meaningful community participation in Delta restoration efforts	Ongoing	3B, 4A, 4B
Increase interagency collaboration to streamline restoration implementation	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 4B
Identify opportunities in restoration planning and long-term management efforts	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 2A, 4B
Increase transparency and coordination around existing, new, and needed restoration funding	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 4B

#### Strategy 4: Delta Carbon and Subsidence Management

Delta subsidence is a critical issue and threatens central Delta communities, agriculture, and the freshwater pathway. In addition, subsidence produces more than two million metric tons of carbon emissions per year. The Conservancy and its partners recognize that reducing subsidence is critical to the future of the Delta and an impactful solution to climate change.

The Conservancy has worked to address this issue for multiple years with a partnership of state, federal, and NGO organizations. The partnership works with local project implementers, including public and private landowners to develop pilot projects; work with the California Air Resources Board to adopt a voluntary market protocol in the Cap-and-Trade compliance program; develop new strategies to address subsidence; and create messages and strategies to secure additional funding.

In 2023, the Conservancy received four proposals in response to the NBS: WR Solicitation Notice for the \$36 million of general funds to support carbon and subsidence management work. The four proposed projects were awarded funding in 2023 and include 11,000 acres of rice and wetlands that will halt subsidence, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create fish and wildlife habitat, and provide community enhancement. There was additional interest for this funding, but applications were not submitted after it was expended.

In 2024, the Conservancy will seek additional funds for carbon and subsidence management related projects. The Conservancy will also stay closely engaged with the four awarded projects, execute grant agreements, and provide technical assistance as needed.

*Table 7: 2023 Delta Carbon and Subsidence Management Program Accomplishments*

<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Details</b>
Identify and develop projects that will result in a significant reduction of subsidence and resulting carbon emissions	Completed	The Conservancy awarded funding to four separate projects totaling 11,000 acres of rice cultivation and wetland conversion

*Table 8: 2024 Delta Carbon and Subsidence Management Program Goals*

<b>2024 Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
Identify and apply for alternative sources of funding to support projects that will result in a significant reduction of subsidence and resulting carbon emissions	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A

#### Strategy 5: Land Ownership, Easements, and Management

The Conservancy and its partners recognize the important role the Conservancy can play in supporting Delta conservation by holding easements or land title in specific circumstances. In 2019, sister agencies requested that the Conservancy develop a strategy for holding easements. Staff drafted a white paper to determine the expertise, resources, and policies required for the Conservancy to effectively hold and manage easements or title. In 2021 and 2022, this exploration slowed due to a lack of specific projects.

In late 2022, the Conservancy was asked to hold title to a specific easement. The project had a pressing timeline and thus the Conservancy was not a fit. However, it renewed focus on creating an easement policy to expedite future needs. In 2023, the Conservancy was also approached to hold land and is in initial talks. With increasing pressure on the Delta ecosystem and a growing focus on subsidence and climate resilience, there will likely be projects that require the Conservancy to own or manage land and/or hold easement. It is a 2024 Conservancy priority to prepare to acquire and hold land and/or easements if the need arises, including policies and procedures for both acquisition and management.

*Table 9: 2023 Land Ownership, Easements, and Management Program Accomplishments*

2023 Accomplishments	Status	Details
Be prepared to engage in further exploration of easement requirements if the need arises	In Process	Conservancy explored policies, credentialing systems and economic models for holding land and conservation easements

*Table 10: 2024 Land Ownership, Easements, and Management Program Goals*

2024 Goals	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Have relevant Conservancy policies for acquiring and managing land and easements	Q1-Q3	1A, 1B, 2B, 3A, 4B

**Goal 2: ECONOMICALLY AND ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE WORKING LANDS**

The Conservancy, in collaboration with a myriad of partners, is working on the following initiatives to support economically sustainable working lands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh:

**Strategy 1: Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP)**

After three consecutive dry years resulting in low storage in state and federal project reservoirs, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Office of the Delta Watermaster, and the Conservancy recognized the shared need to build water resilience in the Delta. In 2022, they created the DDRPP to equip farmers with tools to reduce water use and measure the effectiveness of practices across the Delta.

To initiate the program, DWR provided a \$21.7 million interagency agreement to the Conservancy. The Conservancy in turn provided financial assistance to agricultural water users to implement practices that were expected to reduce crop consumptive water use and improve water quality and ecological conditions in Delta waterways. In the 2022 water year, the first year of the program, staff executed 33 grants enrolling more than 8,800 acres. Given the continuation of the drought into 2022, DWR extended the DDRPP to water year 2023. The program partnered with The Nature Conservancy for the 2023 water year to include incentives for practices that also benefit migratory birds. An additional 61 grants were executed in 2023, enrolling more than 16,000 acres in water conservation practices and over 5,000 acres in bird benefits practices.

In 2023, through a \$1.6 million interagency agreement with the University of California (UC) at Davis, six DDRPP sites were selected to host micrometeorological stations to take site level measurements and estimate

field water budgets. Staff worked to amend six agreements so farmers could continue their water conservation practices for three additional water years and be monitored by the equipment. The extension of the grant term and continuation of the water conservation practices on these six sites will enable the UC Davis research team to gather a more robust dataset and to evaluate the impact of the DDRPP and the tools used to estimate consumptive water use (OpenET) in the Delta. Staff will continue to manage the grants until closed at the end of 2026.

In 2023, the Conservancy and program partners published a report that describes the initiation, solicitation, selection, and analysis of incentivized water conservation actions taken by Delta agricultural water users during the first round of the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program.

In 2024, the Conservancy and program partners will publish a second report that analyzes and describes the second year of the pilot program. Staff will also host a forum for program partners, local researchers, Delta growers, and community members to communicate the results and analysis of the 2024 DDRPP final report.

*Table 11: 2023 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Accomplishments*

<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Details</b>
Use water efficiency knowledge gained from 2022 and 2023 DDRPP projects to inform 2024 selections should the program be continued	In Progress	Recommendations applicable to future program selections will be included in the forthcoming final report
Work with partners to evaluate the efficacy of practices and produce a final report that will share results	In Progress	Conservancy worked collaboratively with partners to collect additional data from growers and further refine the methodology used to evaluate efficacy

*Table 12: 2024 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Goals*

<b>2024 Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
Use water efficiency knowledge gained from 2022 and 2023 DDRPP projects to inform future selections should the program be continued	Q2	1A, 1B, 2A, 3A, 4B
Work with partners to evaluate the efficacy of practices and produce a final report that will share results	Q2	1A, 1B, 2A, 3A, 4B
Host a forum for program partners, local researchers, Delta growers, and community members to communicate results and analysis of the 2024 DDRPP final report	Q1	1A, 1B, 2A, 3A, 4A, 4B

## Strategy 2: Delta Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Program

Actions taken on natural and working lands are critical to water quality in the Delta. To reduce non-point source pollution and improve water quality, the Conservancy and the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) are implementing a farm certification program to incentivize best management practices (BMPs) on working lands. The Delta FFF Program is developing and certifying Farm Water Quality Improvement Plans (farm plans) and funding Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIPs) to reduce runoff of agricultural chemicals, sediment, and nutrients from sites within the Delta. These efforts build upon outreach and tools funded by the Conservancy’s Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program (Prop 1-1505).

Previously, the Delta FFF Program began training and certifying people to conduct FFF certifications, conducting outreach, holding workshops, and finding project sites. In 2022, the first 10,000 acres were enrolled in the program and two WQIPs were recommended for funding. In 2023, a water recirculation pump was installed on Staten Island and the second WQIP was initiated. Certification began in mid-December 2023.

This initiative is funded fully through a \$399,400 State Water Resources Control Board grant. The grant will close in March of 2024.

*Table 13: 2023 Delta Fish Friendly Farming Program Accomplishments*

<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Details</b>
Certify acres committed to within the grant agreement	Ongoing	Certification of the Staten Island site began in mid-December
Create best management practice plans for farms	Ongoing	All farm plans have been drafted and all are in the process of being finalized

*Table 14: 2024 Delta Fish Friendly Farming Program Goals*

<b>2024 Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
Certify acres committed to within the grant agreement	Ongoing	1A, 1B, 2A, 3A, 4A, 4B

## Goal 3: COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT

The Conservancy is dedicated to supporting and enhancing the communities of the Delta by funding and fostering community-based initiatives.

### Strategy 1: Community Enhancement Grant (CEP) Program

To meet the Conservancy’s mission to support economic and cultural vibrancy in the Delta, the Conservancy created the Community Enhancement Grant Program to fund projects that address at least one of the following:

- Recreation and Tourism
- Historic and Cultural Preservation
- Environmental Education



- Public Access

The CEP Program was created in 2018 with \$12 million from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and bolstered by \$5.25 and \$6.1 million in 2021 and 2022, respectively, from the General Fund for Climate Resilience, Public Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR).

In 2023, the Board awarded \$6.1 million of CAR funding to support two CEP projects allocating nearly all remaining CAR funding. To date, the Conservancy has awarded 12 Community Enhancement grants totaling \$14.6 million. Proposition 68 requires that 20 percent of the allocation go to projects that support Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs). As of January 2024, 91 percent of the Conservancy’s Proposition 68 funded grants support SDACs.

In 2024, staff will update closeout protocols and procedures to incorporate RAPTR in anticipation of closing grant agreements.

In 2024, staff will identify and apply for alternative sources of funding to support CEP projects. In 2024, staff anticipate closing some of the first CEP projects.

*Table 15: 2023 Community Enhancement Grant Program Accomplishments*

<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Details</b>
Proactively identify and recommend projects that enhance the Delta community, especially disadvantaged communities	Ongoing	All recommended projects and amendments served disadvantaged communities
Staff intends to recommend projects for the remaining \$7.125 million of CAR funds	Completed	Two projects and one amendment were awarded CAR funds
The Conservancy will fully utilize RAPTR by the end of 2023	Completed	Staff are now working as beta testers on proposal submission process

*Table 16: 2024 Community Enhancement Grant Program Goals*

<b>2024 Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
The Conservancy will identify and apply for alternative sources of funding to support CEP projects	Ongoing	3A, 3B, 3C, 4B
Proactively identify and recommend projects that enhance the Delta community, especially disadvantaged communities	Ongoing	3A, 3B, 3C, 4B
Staff intends to recommend projects for the remaining \$4.4 million Proposition 68 funds	Ongoing	3A, 3B, 3C, 4B
The Conservancy will update protocols and procedures to complete RAPTR database transition	Q4	5B

## Strategy 2: Delta Marketing

To meet the Conservancy’s mission of economic vitality in the Delta, the Conservancy, the Delta Protection Commission (the Commission), and the Delta Marketing Task Force created a Delta Tourism Awareness 5-Year Marketing Plan in 2017, a Delta Sign Plan in 2018, and the Delta recreation and tourism website [VisitCADelta.com](http://VisitCADelta.com). The Conservancy contracted with the Commission to implement components of the marketing and sign plans. In 2019, the Commission worked with the task force to design 11 “Welcome to the Delta” signs: five signs in District three (Sacramento & Yolo), five in District 10 (San Joaquin), and one in District four (Contra Costa). Three signs have been installed to date.

In 2024, the Conservancy and the Commission will finish the sign installation. The Conservancy will continue to participate in the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee and development of the National Heritage Area Management Plan.

These initiatives are funded through general operations budget.

*Table 17: 2023 Delta Marketing Plan Accomplishments*

2023 Accomplishments	Status	Details
Install 11 signs per the Delta Sign Plan	Ongoing	Three signs have been installed
Continue to raise awareness of Delta tourism and recreational opportunities	Ongoing	Visit CA Delta maps distributed throughout the year

*Table 18: 2024 Delta Marketing Plan Goals*

2024 Goals	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Install 11 signs per the Delta Sign Plan	Ongoing	3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B
Continue to raise awareness of Delta tourism and recreational opportunities	Ongoing	3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B

## Goal 4: ECOLOGICAL, CULTURAL, AND HISTORICAL EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT

Environmental, cultural, and historical education and enrichment are important components of the Conservancy’s programs and are reflected in its initiatives. Current activities include collateral about projects, social media posts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn), fact sheets, and promotion of campaigns such as Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week and waterway cleanups. In 2024, the Conservancy will continue to enhance its website; expand social media efforts; develop new educational materials, including program fact sheets; increase participation in events in and of relevance to the Delta; and broaden outreach as resources allow.

### Strategy 1: Delta Week

In 2022, Sen. Bill Dodd introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 119, which declared the last week of September 2022 and each year thereafter as Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week. The designated week is intended to acknowledge the Delta’s contributions to a higher quality of life for all Californians. The promotion

of Delta Week in 2023 included a coordinated press release with Sen. Dodd’s office, staff participation in the Capitol Mall farmers’ market, a social media toolkit, and website posts. In 2024, the Conservancy will look for opportunities to expand Delta Week with external entities, features in online and print publications, and possible media opportunities. These initiatives are funded through general operations budget.

*Table 19: 2023 Delta Week Accomplishments*

<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Details</b>
Expand on Delta Week efforts with a community event that involves other Delta agencies	Ongoing	Facilitated Delta Week activities and created collateral in coordination with the Delta Stewardship Council and Delta Protection Commission
Create a vision for Delta Week	Completed	Designed a social toolkit and other collateral to highlight the importance of the Delta

*Table 20: 2024 Delta Week Goals*

<b>2024 Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
Expand on Delta Week efforts with external entities	Q3	1A, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B
Create a vision for Delta Week	Q1 and Q2	1A, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B

## **Strategy 2: Waterway Cleanups**

The Conservancy co-sponsors annual cleanup events to educate and promote awareness of the importance of protecting and improving water quality in the Delta. Events were halted during the pandemic and resumed in 2023 with cleanups at Brannan Island State Recreation Area and Sherman Island that were organized as part of Coastal Cleanup Day. More than 50 volunteers participated in the two Delta cleanups and helped clean up an estimated 3.5 miles of Delta waterways.

In 2024, the Conservancy plans to help organize additional Delta-area cleanups in the fall and will coordinate with local entities to determine ideal locations. These initiatives are funded through general operations budget.

*Table 21: 2023 Waterway Cleanup Accomplishments*

<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Details</b>
Organize a Delta cleanup that involves local community groups	Completed	Implemented two cleanups with more than 50 volunteer participants

Table 22: 2024 Waterway Cleanup Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Strategic Plan Objective(s)
Organize Delta cleanups that involve local community groups	Q3	1A, 4A, 4B

**Goal 5: EFFECTIVE, SUSTAINABLE, ADAPTABLE, AND INCLUSIVE ORGANIZATION**

The Conservancy is dedicated to maintaining an effective, sustainable, adaptable, and inclusive organization by engaging in the following initiatives:

**Strategy 1: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)**

To meet the Conservancy’s commitment to serve its community and the State of California’s commitment to California for All, Outdoor Access for All, and other equity initiatives, it is important that the Conservancy address equity issues and attempt to remove barriers to accessing State resources, employment, and Conservancy programs.

In 2021, staff started internal working groups to advance staff’s understanding of DEI issues and how they relate to Conservancy programs, initiatives, and workplace culture.

In 2022, the Conservancy developed its Disability Advisory Committee (DAC). The DAC elected a chair, created DAC bylaws, set annual goals, and held quarterly meetings.

In 2022, the State agencies working in the Delta convened a tribal coordination team to coordinate work and provide an accessible way for tribes to engage with the many Delta agencies working in a relatively small region without being overburdened. The Conservancy is an active participant in the coordination team and regularly attends CNRA equity committees.

In August 2022, CNRA (based on an order from the Governor) asked all agencies to create a DEI action plan. The Conservancy created an action plan that includes identifying barriers to employment at the Conservancy, access to grants, and more equitable outreach. Since then, the Conservancy has been implementing the action plan by assessing grant procedures, considering hiring practices, and making outreach more accessible.

In 2024, the Conservancy will continue to implement the action plan, develop the DAC committee, participate in CNRA committees, and be part of the tribal coordination team. It will also engage internal DEI workgroups to implement the action plan and identify additional or emerging equity priorities.

These initiatives are funded through general operations budget.

*Table 23: 2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Accomplishments*

<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Details</b>
Update DAC bylaws (if needed), set annual goals, and meet quarterly	Completed	Goals Updated
Conduct DEI working group meetings to implement the DEI Action Plan	Ongoing	Completed an evaluation of policies, procedures, and outreach in existing workgroups
Continue to engage with agencies and partners for shared learning, best practices, and opportunities to advance equity	Ongoing	Continue to engage with CNRA, Delta agencies, and the EEO DEI community

*Table 24: 2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Goals*

<b>2024 Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
Update DAC bylaws (if needed), set annual goals, and meet quarterly	Quarterly	5A
Conduct DEI working group meetings to implement the DEI Action Plan	Ongoing	5A
Continue to engage with agencies and partners for shared learning, best practices, and opportunities to advance equity	Ongoing	3B, 4A, 4B, 5A

## **Strategy 2: Administration**

In 2023, the Conservancy completed required administrative and operational tasks in accounting, budgeting, contracts, human resources, communications, and general support. Based on the 2021 organizational assessment, the Conservancy continued to enhance staff’s experience through increased team building; opportunities for professional development; and availability and usability of processes, procedures, policies, and manuals. Process utilization was especially helpful as two of the eight administrative positions were onboarded shortly before an extended leave of the senior manager. Staff transitioned to web-based time reporting and benefit enrollment systems and utilized hybrid equipment at two off-site board meetings. The Conservancy increased efficiency and efficacy through improved management, organization, and accessibility of electronic files. These initiatives are funded through general operations, Proposition 1, and Proposition 68 budgets. Also In 2023, the Conservancy started a legislative outreach plan that included visits to multiple federal and state Delta legislators to educate them on Delta needs and Conservancy programs.

In 2024, the Conservancy will continue to complete required administrative and operational work in collaboration with all staff. The administrative team will be fully staffed with an opportunity for growth through cross training and professional development and creating efficiencies to spread the workload. Staff will craft individual development plans to focus goals on areas of interest and work toward specific

improvement. The migration to a web-based shared drive will continue after implementing a records retention plan and reorganizing the shared folders. The Conservancy will continue to build relationships with legislators to educate them about Delta needs and Conservancy programs. These initiatives are funded through general operations, Proposition 1, and Proposition 68 budgets.

*Table 25: 2023 Administration Accomplishments*

2023 Accomplishments	Status	Details
Update processes, procedures, and policies, and create division manuals	Partially Complete	With the onboarding of four staff this year, we updated many procedures. Policy/division manual ongoing.
Ensure that the Delta Conservancy’s website and public facing documents are accessible	Complete	All public-facing documents are accessible
Reorganize the Conservancy’s shared drive	In Process	Delayed due to Manager leave and scheduled for 2024
Submit administrative and operational reports, plans, and proposals (e.g., State Agency Recycle Campaign and State Agency Waste Management Annual Reports, Contracting Activity Report and Improvement Plans, Continuity Plan, State Leadership Accountability Act Biannual Implementation Plan, Federal Indirect Cost Rate Proposal, Workforce Plan, Succession Plan, budget building, Bond Accountability Reporting, and human resources)	As Required	Staff submitted all required reports, proposals, drills, etc.
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	Dept of Finance Prop 1 Corrective action plan completed and accepted. Staff continue to submit all required audits.
Increase enrollment in professional development trainings and initiate team-building activities	Ongoing	Staff of 19 attended 50 professional training courses. As a group, we took courses in Effective Customer Interactions and CPR. We had a variety of fun coordinated lunch activities for in-person workdays.

<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Details</b>
Participate in CNRA and other legislative groups to track legislation affecting the Conservancy and the Delta	Ongoing	Worked with CNRA legislative team to track legislation, conducted outreach to Delta legislators and other decision makers in the Delta.

Table 26: 2024 Administration Goals

<b>2024 Goals</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Objective(s)</b>
Continue to update processes, procedures, and policies, and create division manuals	Q4	5B
Complete the Reorganization of the Conservancy's shared drive	Q3	5B
Submit administrative and operational reports, plans, and proposals (e.g., State Agency Recycle Campaign and State Agency Waste Management Annual Reports, Contracting Activity Report and Improvement Plans, Continuity Plan, State Leadership Accountability Act Biannual Implementation Plan, Federal Indirect Cost Rate Proposal, Workforce Plan, Succession Plan, budget building, Bond Accountability Reporting, and human resources)	As Required	5A, 5B
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	5B
Continue enrollment in professional development trainings and team-building activities	Ongoing	5B
Establish procedures for annual Individual Development Plans for staff	Q4	5A
Surplus goods and equipment from office	Q1	5B
Create a legislative outreach plan	Q4	5B
Participate in CNRA and other legislative groups to track legislation affecting the Conservancy and the Delta	Ongoing	5B



**Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grant Program Funds for Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Staff Recommendation**

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This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program funding for the Suisun City Fishing Dock Planning Project (Project).

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	City of Suisun City
<b>Project ID</b>	P6819
<b>Project Type</b>	Planning
<b>County</b>	Solano
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$715,180
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$715,180
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$715,180

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board approve findings for a project site located outside of the legal Delta for the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project with City of Suisun City (City).

Staff recommends that the Board approve and award up to \$715,180 in grant funding for the Suisun City Fishing Dock Planning Project (P6819) proposed by the City.

Staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with members of the City. Staff followed the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Grant Guidelines, approved by the Conservancy Board in December 2019, in working with the applicant and assessing this proposal.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project is a planning project for the construction of a 12-foot by 100-foot public fishing dock in the Suisun Slough, located within Suisun City. The Project includes permitting, preparation of a site Master Plan, 65 Percent Design Plans, and community outreach. This fishing dock will serve as a recreational and educational hub, promoting tourism and environmental education in the region. The dock will be ADA accessible and feature benches, shade, fishing pole holders, and an educational kiosk. By creating a sustainable and inclusive space for fishing, kayaking, and learning about the local ecosystem, this Project will contribute to the conservation and economic enhancement of the Delta region and its communities.



The proposed fishing dock is connected to the Suisun Marsh via the Suisun Slough and is approximately 10 miles outside the legal Delta and one quarter of a mile outside the boundaries of the Suisun Marsh in Suisun City, Solano County (see Figure 10.1).

### **Environmental Compliance**

This planning Project is not considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### **Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC)**

Proposition 68 requires that at least 20 percent of all funding be spent on projects that serve severely disadvantaged communities, which are defined as “a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average” (PRC 45 Sec. 80008(a)(1)). Located in Solano County, off Civic Center Boulevard in Suisun City, the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project serves a severely disadvantaged community.

### **Cost Share**

The City will not contribute cost share.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND LOCAL PRIORITIES**

The Project is consistent with Proposition 68 and the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code sections 32300-32381) and strategic plan. This project is consistent with priorities outlined in the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan and the Delta Protection Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan.

### **LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

The City has received requests for a public fishing dock and says it has widespread support. The proposal includes three letters of support from the Solano Yacht Club, Suisun City Business District, and Virgil's Bait Shop. Additionally, the proposal includes community outreach including to disadvantaged communities as a project deliverable, enabling the City to collect input on the design and amenities of the project.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This Project is planning for a future implementation project that will take place outside of the legal Delta. Public Resources Code section 32360.5 requires the Board make certain findings if it approves funding for activities outside the Delta. Staff recommends the Board find that an implementation project resulting from the planning will meet the following requirements: (1) the project implements the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan by providing environmental education to the community and surrounding areas; (2) the project is consistent with the requirements of any applicable state and federal permits; (3) the Conservancy has given notice to affected local jurisdictions and the Delta Protection Commission and has received no comments; (4) the Conservancy has given notice to the Coastal Conservancy and has received no comments; and (5) the project will provide significant benefits to the Delta by providing enhanced public access to the community.

Staff believes these qualifications have been met:

- 1) Staff believes the project meets the Delta Plans environmental goals. The project contains an environmental education component that ties directly to the ecosystem goal of the Delta Plan. Through the installation of interpretive signs, the Project will educate the community about the Suisun Marsh ecosystem and its direct connection to the Delta and prompt actions that promote environmental protection that will have an impact throughout the Delta and Marsh. In addition, the project is located on the Suisun Slough that is connected directly to the Marsh.
- 2-4) Staff has taken steps to ensure compliance.
- 5) Staff believes the community benefit is addressed. By building an ADA-accessible fishing dock and kayak launch, the project will create a free public access recreational facility adjacent to the Marsh providing recreational and economic benefits to the Delta region.

### **BACKGROUND**

Proposition 68 is the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Public Resources Code Division 45) that made \$12,000,000 available to the Conservancy for uses specified in its governing statute (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act, Public Resources Codes, Division 22.3). The Conservancy will use Proposition 68 funds to support projects in the Conservancy's Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program. Unlike competitive grant programs, this program was designed to allow Conservancy staff to collaborate with project applicants to develop proposals that meet the Conservancy and Proposition 68 goals. When applicants submit concept proposals, staff review the proposal to assess viability and appropriateness with program goals. If the concept proposal is suitable, staff then guide applicants as they develop a full proposal for consideration of Proposition 68 funding. The Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project is the ninth full proposal staff has presented for the Conservancy Board to consider an award of grant funds.

### **SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Two separate motions are required.

Move that the Board approve findings for this project site located outside of the legal Delta for the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project with the City of Suisun City.

Move that the Board award funding up to \$715,180 to the City of Suisun City from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project.

### **CONTACT**

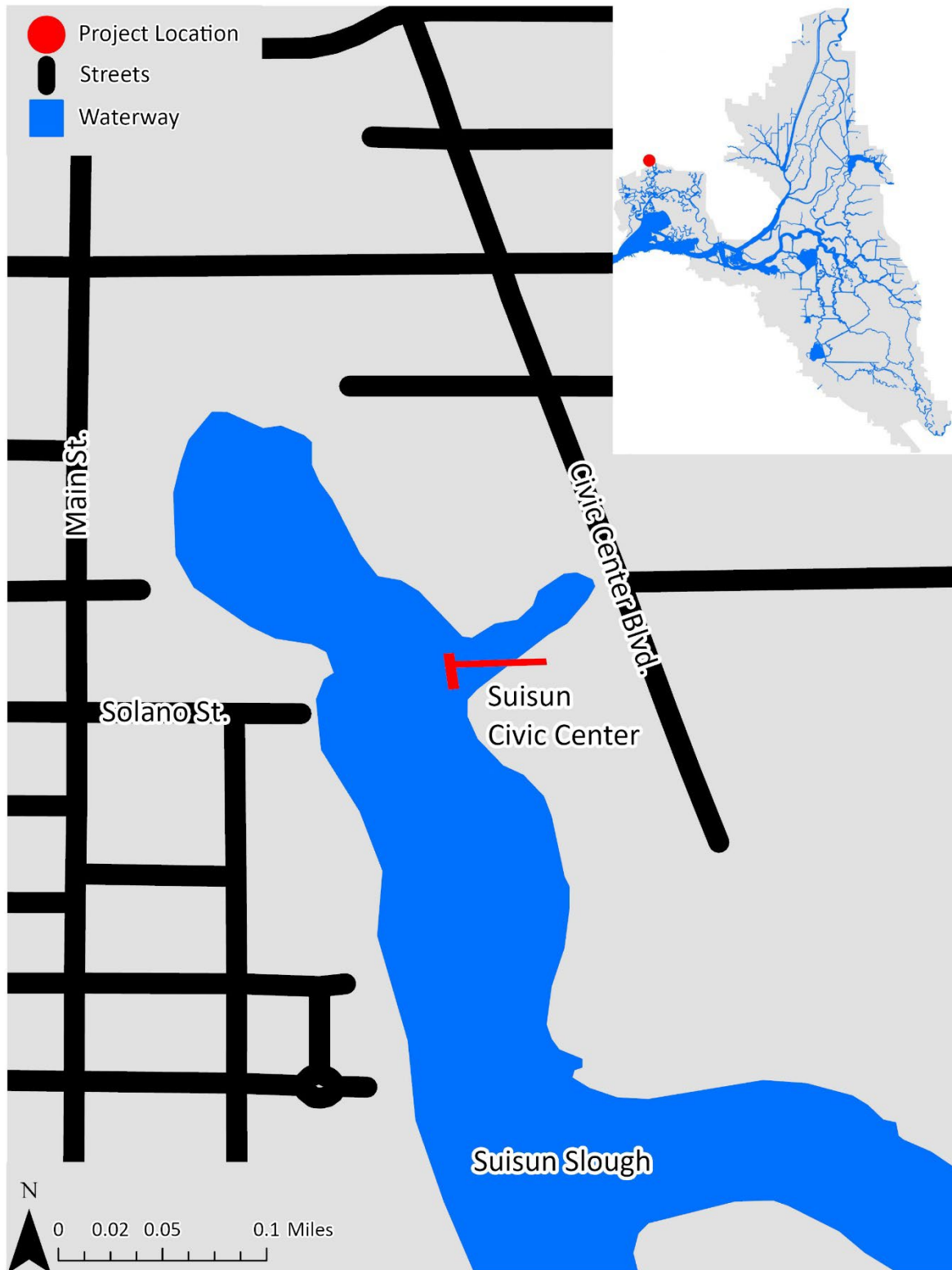
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(916) 634-3743

FIGURE 1. MAP OF THE SUISUN CITY PUBLIC FISHING DOCK PROJECT AREA





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### Potential Agenda Items for the March 27, 2024 Board Meeting

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Staff are seeking input from the Board regarding additional agenda items for the March 27, 2024 Board meeting.

Potential items include:

- Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grants
- Consideration of Amendment to Community Enhancement Grant Program Agreements

#### CONTACT

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