



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

March 27 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 transparency and public access, members of the public can choose to participate either via Microsoft Teams or in person at the location listed above.

Two 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
- 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 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)
 - Approval of January 24, 2024 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items (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. **Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grant Program Funds for Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building Phase 2**, Maya Garrett (Attachment) (**Action Item**)
9. **Outcomes and Lessons Learned through Implementation of the Fish Friendly Farming Program in the Delta**, Dr. Rachel Wigginton (Attachment)
10. **Delta Adapts Draft Adaptation Plan Overview**, Morgan Chow
11. **Delta Stewardship Council Update**, Amanda Bohl
12. **EcoRestore Update**, Charlotte Biggs
13. **Delta Protection Commission Update**, Bruce Blodgett
14. **Delta Conveyance Update**, Carrie Buckman
15. **Potential Agenda Items for the May 22, 2024 Board Meeting**, Campbell Ingram (Attachment)
16. **Public Comment**
17. **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. 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.



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

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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

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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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

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January 24, 2024 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

Video and audio of the meeting is available here:

<https://youtu.be/sdcEnBLbDXA?si=iskhYRMHEIEMw8CZ>

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
- Don Nottoli
- Tom Patti – teleconference
- Nancy Vogel
- Lilliana Udang
- Sandi Matsumoto
- Michele Perrault

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- None

Liaison Advisors and Counsel Present:

- Bruce Blodgett
- Marge Kolar
- Nicole Rinke (Counsel)

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar

There were not enough returning Board members to pass the motion for the October 25, 2023 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items, so a separate vote was taken.

Motion 1: Board Member Udang moved, seconded by Board Member Perrault, that the Board approve the following:

- Approval of October 25, 2023 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items (Attachment)

A roll call vote was taken. The motion did not pass with 5 ayes and 2 abstains.

Motion 2: Board Member Udang moved, seconded by Board Member Perrault, that the Board approve the following:

- 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)

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

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer briefly highlighted several items in the staff report. The Conservancy produced our first electronic Annual Report, and staff gave a brief overview. The nutria report was attached, and the Executive Officer provided more current statistics.

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

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report. As of January 3, 2024, there are 17 active projects, four awarded projects with grant development underway, 18 closed projects and three amendment requests are on the consent calendar. Nature Based Solutions (NBS) funding is fully allocated with four grant agreements in process.

Agenda Item 7 – Community Enhancement Grant Program Update

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report. As of January 3, 2024, there are 12 active projects. Agenda Item 10 requested consideration of the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning, which was approved, leaving \$3.7 million in Proposition 68 funds for future proposals.

Agenda Item 8 – Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team Update

The Conservancy provides dedicated staff time to facilitate this group, which meets quarterly. Staff reported updates on the group’s activities.

Agenda Item 9 – Delta Conservancy 2023 Implementation Plan Status Update and Consideration of 2024 Implementation Plan

The Deputy Executive Officer summarized the accomplishments of 2023 and presented the 2024 Implementation Plan for consideration.

Motion: Board Member Perrault moved, seconded by Board Member Matsumoto, to approve the Draft Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 2024 Implementation Plan as presented.

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

Agenda Item 10 – Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grant Program Funds for Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning

Staff presented for consideration a proposal for the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning. The proposed project is outside the legal Delta but provides educational and recreational benefits to Delta communities.

Two separate motions were required.

Motion 1: Supervisor Mashburn moved, seconded by Board Member Udang, 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.

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

Motion 2: Supervisor Mashburn moved, seconded by Board Member Udang, 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.

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

Agenda Item 11 – Update on the Reorienting to Recovery: Central Valley Salmon Recovery Project

Darcy Austin, Science Manager for the State Water Contractors, and Gary Bobker from the Bay Institute presented on the Central Valley Salmon Recovery Project.

Agenda Item 12 – EcoRestore Update

This agenda item was postponed to the March Board meeting.

Agenda Item 13 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

Amanda Bohl, Special Assistant for Planning and Science at the Delta Stewardship Council, presented an update.

Agenda Item 14 – Delta Protection Commission Update

Bruce Blodgett, Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission, presented an update.

Agenda Item 15 – Delta Conveyance Update

Janet Barbieri, Consultant to the Department of Water Resources managing the communication program for the Delta Conveyance Project, presented an update.

Agenda Item 16 – Potential Agenda Items for the March 27, 2024 Board Meeting

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

Agenda Item 17 – Public Comment

None

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Explore opportunities to present invasive species materials at local forums.

Meeting Date: March 27, 2024

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Agenda Item: 4

Attachment: 2

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Mashburn at 10:43 a.m.

CONTACT

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Executive Officer's Report

March 27, 2024

PROGRAM UPDATE

FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

Fair Political Practices Commission notices 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. Thank you to those who have already completed their statements. 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.

DELTA DROUGHT RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM (DDRPP) UPDATE

Conservancy staff have closed out all 55 of the DDRPP grants that completed work at the close of the 2023 calendar year. The six DDRPP grantees currently hosting micrometeorological equipment on their project sites continue to implement water conservation practices as part of the Delta Conservancy's interagency agreement with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). The UC Davis research team will continue to collect micrometeorological and soil data from these six sites through September 2026. The DDRPP Oversight Committee is making progress to complete the analysis of water conservation and bird benefits actions taken by the DDRPP grantees during the 2022/2023 water year. This analysis will inform the forthcoming 2023 DDRPP Program Report and Technical Analysis, and we expect to present this report at the July Board meeting.

STATE BUDGET UPDATE

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 Conservancy's allocation of wildfire prevention 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, training, and other expenditures. At this time, no additional measures are being requested by the Governor's Office. New information will be available at the May revise in mid-May.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

From January through February the administrative team prepared and submitted new required monthly reporting to CA Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) for budget freeze expenditures as well as drills and information requests to various state agencies on fee increases, the Environmental License Fund supported activities, and employee salary schedules. Staff submitted packages to fill the vacant Office Technician and Environmental Scientist positions and to extend two limited-term positions for an additional year. Staff processed a Request for Proposals for the continuation of Franks Track planning. Staff processed one new contract, four contract amendments, 58 invoices, and closed out two contracts. Finally, please welcome back Administration Manager Brenda Lusk from maternity leave.

DELTA CONSERVANCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) UPDATE

On February 26, 2024 the Conservancy posted an RFP titled “Cost Feasibility Analysis for the Restoration of Franks Tract” to solicit competitive proposals to engage in a collaborative, structured decision-making process to refine the Franks Tract Futures Project and conduct value engineering to refine and prepare new cost estimates. The RFP closed on March 21, 2024, and Conservancy staff anticipate selecting a contractor in early Spring 2024.

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. The work for this Program was completed on February 28, 2024 and the project will close on March 31, 2024. A detailed report on program outcomes and lessons learned can be found in Agenda Item 9.1.

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 first Subcommittee meeting of 2024 took place on March 7. The meeting notice can be found here: <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/dpiic/meeting-notice/2024-03-07-dpiic-meeting-notice.pdf>. The meeting focused on the impacts, risks, and management of invasive aquatic vegetation in tidal wetland restoration projects, a recap of the Delta-Suisun tidal wetland restoration symposium that took place in November of 2023, and a recap of the November 2023 Delta Restoration Forum. The staff supporting the Subcommittee also worked to combine all materials from the November 2023 Delta Restoration Forum onto an online mural board and [posted a summary to the DPIIC webpage](#). Posting these materials online was part of an effort to make all the information shared at the Restoration Forum available to anyone unable to attend the Forum in person.

The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team, facilitated by Conservancy staff and co-led by staff from the Delta Stewardship Council, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department of Water Resources, had its first quarterly meeting of the year on February 20, 2024. The team received an update on the activities of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee, a report out on the 2023 Delta Invasive Species Symposium, an update from the Nutria Genetics Team at the Department of Water Resources, worked to update the team's research needs table, and shared general updates.

Conservancy staff attended the 2024 State of the Estuary Conference on March 12, 2024 in Oakland, CA and presented five posters highlighting Conservancy work. The poster, "Advancing Nature-Based Solutions for Wetland Restoration: An Overview of the Delta Conservancy's Awarded Grants" was co-authored by Anjali Shakya and Lauren Damon and highlighted the projects recently approved for funding through the \$36,000,000 of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration funding. The poster, "Current State of the Science on Delta Soil Subsidence and Emissions" was co-authored by Lauren Damon, Campbell Ingram, and Anjali Shakya and synthesizes the best available science used to support the Conservancy's work on carbon sequestration, avoided emissions, and land subsidence. The poster, "Community Enhancement Grant Program" was co-authored by Martha Ozonoff, Maya Garrett, and Sarah Lesmeister and highlights projects funded through this wing of the Delta Conservancy's Program. The poster, "Delta Drought Response Pilot Program: A Novel Approach to Building Resiliency to Drought" co-authored by Rachel Lane, Lindsay Kammeier (State Water Resources Control Board), Martha Ozonoff, and Rachel Wigginton highlights program enrollment and the preliminary results of the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program. The poster, "Interagency Collaboration to Achieve Delta Plan Restoration Targets" was co-authored by Annie Merritt (Council), Rachel Wigginton, Elizabeth Brusati (Council), Dylan Chapple (Council), and Amanda Bohl (Council) and discusses the outcomes of the first two Delta Restoration Forums hosted by the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee. Copies of these posters are available upon request.

MEDIA MENTIONS

[California Local](#) published an article about the 10 state conservancies and how they protect California's natural beauty.

[The Daily Republic](#) reported that the Delta Conservancy Board approved funding to Suisun City for the Suisun City Fishing Dock Planning Project.

[The Lodi News-Sentinel](#) wrote about the March groundbreaking of the Asian American Heritage Park in Isleton. The Delta Conservancy is providing funding for the park that will showcase the history and heritage of the Chinese and Japanese immigrants who once occupied the Asian American Historic District of Isleton.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Arrange a portable presentation about invasive species issues in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. Staff have begun reaching out to RCDs as a possible venue to provide this presentation.

Meeting Date: March 27, 2024

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Agenda Item: 5

Attachment: 1

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 5 (2): Budget and Expenditure Report

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

CONTACT

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(916) 281-4145



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Nutria Eradication Program Update

Field Update March 11, 2024

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 10,044 camera stations (1,459 currently active)
 - Conducted 83,449 camera checks
4. Detected nutria in 877 sites (40-acre cells)
5. Deployed 12,287 trap sets (462 currently active) for a total of 138,820 trap nights
6. Taken or accounted for the take of 4,202 nutria (since March 2017)
 - Merced - 2,248
 - Stanislaus - 969
 - Fresno - 620
 - San Joaquin - 110
 - Solano - 203
 - Sacramento - 30
 - Mariposa - 18
 - Madera - 4 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)

Of 4,202 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.17 sex ratio (M:F)
- Of the females captured:
 - 22% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 63% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 68% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
- 4,958 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 6.4

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 March 9, 2024.

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	120	677	5.6
2024	40	145	3.6
Total Across Years	507	4202	8.3

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE REPORT July 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Personal Services (PS)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
1	Salaries & Wages	\$1,464,245	\$888,028	\$576,217	61%
2	Temporary Help	\$32,668	\$23,688	\$8,980	73%
3	Benefits	\$855,225	\$521,925	\$333,300	61%
4	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	\$2,352,138	\$1,433,641	\$918,497	61%

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Operating Expenditures and Equipment (OE & E)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
5	General Expense	\$18,060	\$6,778	\$11,282	38%
6	Printing	\$300	\$0	\$300	0%
7	Communications	\$15,230	\$2,450	\$12,780	16%
8	Postage	\$260	\$117	\$143	45%
9	Travel-In State	\$6,910	\$2,662	\$4,248	39%
10	Training	\$10,725	\$1,150	\$9,575	11%
11	Facilities Operation	\$110,890	\$64,037	\$46,853	58%
12	Contracts & Personal Services-External	\$107,000	\$11,410	\$95,590	11%
13	Contracts & Personal Services-Interdepartmental	\$119,880	\$13,390	\$106,490	11%
14	Information Technology	\$30,500	\$294	\$30,206	1%
15	Non-Capital Asset Purchases	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
16	Indirect Cost Recovery	(\$89,422)	(\$23,849)	(\$65,573)	27%
17	Unallocated Operating Expense & Equipment	\$156,788	\$0	\$156,788	0%
	Multi Year Support Appropriation-Unallocated		\$0		
18	Proposition 1 Program Support	\$534,024	\$0	\$534,024	0%
19	Proposition 68 Program Support	\$322,859	\$0	\$322,859	0%
20	Wildfire & DDRPP23	\$653,889	\$0	\$653,889	0%
21	Nature Based Solutions and CAR	\$1,800,333	\$0	\$1,800,333	0%
22	Grants and Subventions	\$46,446,584	\$0	\$46,446,584	0%
23	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES & EQUIPMENT	\$50,244,810	\$78,439	\$50,166,371	0%

Line Number	TOTALS	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
24	TOTAL PS & OE & E	\$52,596,948	\$1,512,080	\$51,084,868	3%
25	REIMBURSEMENT	(\$123,948)	(\$11,685)	(\$112,263)	9%
26	GRAND TOTAL	\$52,473,000	\$1,500,395	\$50,972,605	3%



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

BACKGROUND

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

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

Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Funding Sources. CEP refers to the Community Enhancement Grant Program (Agenda Item 7.1). 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 March 11, 2024, there are three awarded projects with grant development underway, 17 active projects, and 19 closed projects.

APPROVED PROJECTS (TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED: \$13,288,611)

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

Project Name	Delta Rice Conversion Program (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$4,333,124
County	San Joaquin and Contra Costa
Project ID	NBS02
Grantee	The Nature Conservancy
Overview	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.
Grant Agreement Status	In Progress
New Information	Grant agreement in development. Expected to be executed March 2024.

Project Name	Land Acquisition on Bethel Island (Acquisition)
Amount Awarded	\$2,202,091
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	NBS03
Grantee	John Muir Land Trust
Overview	Acquire a 600-acre parcel on Bethel Island to be converted to wetlands and permanently stewarded and protected. Future phases of this project will provide fish and wildlife habitat, reverse subsidence, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and benefit the residents of Bethel Island by reducing flood risk and providing open space. This Project will also explore the carbon market as a potential revenue stream to improve long-term economic viability of wetlands.
Grant Agreement Status	In Progress
New Information	Grant agreement in development. Expected to be executed March 2024.

Project Name	Wetland Restoration Project on Staten Island (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$6,753,396
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	NBS04
Grantee	The Nature Conservancy
Overview	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 subsidized portion of the island, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support the wildlife-friendly agriculture that is occurring on Staten Island Preserve. This Project will also explore the carbon market as a potential revenue stream to improve long-term economic viability of wetlands.
Grant Agreement Status	In Progress
New Information	Grant agreement in development. Expected to be executed March 2024.

ACTIVE PROJECTS

Nature-Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration

The Board awarded \$32.4 million for four projects (one planning with implementation, one acquisition, and two implementation). One grant agreement has been executed, three grant agreements are in development.

Project Name	Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract (Planning, Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$20,907,371
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	NBS01
Grantee	Metropolitan Water District
Overview	Design and construct up to 3,500 acres of managed, flooded wetlands and up to 1,500 acres of rice fields on Webb Tract. The main objectives are to create fish and wildlife habitat, reverse subsidence, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, develop sustainable agriculture opportunities, investigate sustainable water management practices, and explore the carbon market as a potential revenue stream to improve long-term economic viability of wetlands.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 3/6/2024
New Information	Grant agreement executed March 6, 2024.

CAR – Fiscal Year 2021-2022

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

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

Project Name	Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$427,706
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	P1-2204
Grantee	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
Overview	Test and identify workable solutions to remove invasive weeds, improve habitat value, and prevent further spread of invasive plants in the Franks Tract State Recreation Area.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 4/21/2023
New Information	The Grantee is completing aerial mapping of Project site and field verification that will be used to plan work areas and access. Next step is permitting and weed management.

Project Name	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase Two (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$887,516
County	Yolo
Project ID	P1-2207
Grantee	Ducks Unlimited
Overview	Constructing hydrological improvements that will restore 220 acres of seasonal wetland, enhance management of 1,803 acres of existing seasonal wetland, and improve water management to 1,180 acres of wildlife-friendly agricultural wetland.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 3/16/2023
New Information	The Grantee anticipates submitting a request to modify the scope of work in Spring 2024.

Project Name	Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$413,586
County	Solano
Project ID	P1-2208
Grantee	Solano County Resource Conservation District
Overview	Create 20 acres of riparian woodland area along the north bank of Ulatis Creek. A total of 1,880 native trees/shrubs and 25,000 forb/sedge plugs will be planted, 100 pounds of wildflowers will be seeded, and invasive non-native plants (including <i>Arundo donax</i>) will be controlled throughout the project site resulting in an increase in native habitat area.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 6/13/2023
New Information	The Grantee is working with CA Conservation Corps to continue to reduce non-native weed biomass, <i>Arundo</i> being the most time intensive. Native seeds are being collected and propagated for future planting, which is scheduled for Spring 2024. Avian monitoring will also begin Spring 2024. Grantee is working with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation for cultural sensitivity training.

Project Name	Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in the Suisun Marsh (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$542,546
County	Solano
Project ID	P1-2209
Grantee	Suisun Resource Conservation District
Overview	Improve habitat conditions in the Suisun Marsh by installing new hydrological infrastructure at four project sites that will benefit 3,000 acres of managed wetlands.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 03/27/2023
New Information	Construction has been delayed due to wet weather for three of the four project sites but is scheduled for Spring 2024. The Grantee continues to work with landowners and permitting agencies to fully design and permit the project. Baseline data collection is ongoing since Fall 2023, and hydrology models are being calibrated.

Project Name	Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction Project (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$550,000
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	P1-2211
Grantee	Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Overview	Design a shovel-ready multi-benefit project that would restore the Marsh Creek Reservoir system, provide ecological benefit, improve flood capacity, and enhance public recreation opportunities.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 5/23/2023
New Information	The Grantee is drafting cultural and biological resources reports and developing 35 Percent Design Plan documents.

Project Name	Van Buskirk Multi-Benefit Ecosystem Restoration Planning Project (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$467,848
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	P1-2212
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Multi-benefit ecosystem restoration planning project that will integrate nature-based design solutions and multi-benefit flood protection concepts, as well as work with partners to seek implementation funding for future projects at the site.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/22/2022
New Information	The Grantee toured the project site with project partners and over 30 attendees (see photo below). There was much enthusiasm for the project. The Grantee is preparing visually appealing outreach materials and drafting a Nature Based Solutions Technical report on the project after investigating ecological and community beneficial design options. The Grantee is also pursuing implementation funding.



Figure 6.1. The American Rivers Board of Directors, national and California staff, and project partners at the Van Buskirk project site tour held on October 6, 2023.

Proposition 1 Cycle 4 – Fiscal Year 2018-2019

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

Project Name	Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$2,263,472
County	Sacramento
Project ID	Prop 1-1801
Grantee	Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust
Overview	Acquire a conservation easement on 275 acres of farmland to ensure that it remains as wildlife friendly agriculture
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/29/2020
New Information	Acquisition anticipated to take place in March 2024.

Project Name	Delta Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$347,481
County	Solano
Project ID	Prop 1-1804
Grantee	Solano Resource Conservation District
Overview	Planning for restoration and enhancement of waterways and edge habitats on working lands in Solano County
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/19/2019
New Information	The Grantee has added a fourth project site, R. Emigh Lambing Farm, to the planning project. The Grantee is working on permitting, implementation funding, and landowner and agency coordination for the other three sites.

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

Project Name	Lower San Joaquin Riparian Corridor (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$522,027
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	Prop 1-1808
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along the lower San Joaquin River
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 5/3/2021
New Information	The Grantee is working with the landowner on design. Permitting and agency coordination is ongoing.

Project Name	Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta-Carbona Project (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$750,931
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	Prop 1-1810
Grantee	Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
Overview	Planning for 30 acres of seasonally inundated floodplain restoration
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/10/2020
New Information	The Grantee is wrapping up final design of the project and is preparing permits for submission. The term of the Agreement was extended to allow adequate time for coordination with permitting agencies.

Project Name	Nutria Eradication Project, Phase 2 (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$8,483,080
County	Multiple
Project ID	Prop 1-1813
Grantee	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Overview	Surveys for and removal of invasive species to minimize or avoid impacts to wetland habitats and water quality
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 6/8/2020
New Information	The Grantee anticipates submitting a request to change budget line items in Spring 2024.

Project Name	Oakley Creekside Park Restoration (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$436,465
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1814
Grantee	City of Oakley
Overview	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along Marsh Creek
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/11/2020
New Information	The Grantee is identifying a conservation easement holder and working towards recording an easement at the project site; they are also seeking implementation funding.

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, six grants have closed.

Project Name	Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$1,435,000
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1709
Grantee	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Overview	Advance planning for restoring wetlands and managing and treating storm water on public land in Knightsen
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 3/20/2019
New Information	Project is ongoing. The Grantee was recently awarded \$9.7 million from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Watershed Grants Program to support implementation of the Project.

Project Name	Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$8,700,800
County	Sacramento
Project ID	Prop 1-1710
Grantee	California Department of Water Resources
Overview	Restore wetland and riparian habitat to the 321-acre site by breaching the levee and reintroducing tidal and seasonal flooding, and by establishing native vegetation
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 4/30/2020
New Information	An amendment to reduce project acreage from 334 to 321 acres was executed on February 27, 2024. The Grantee is soliciting bids for construction that is anticipated to start May 2024.

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 nineteen projects funded by Proposition 1 have fully closed (ten planning, nine implementation). To receive a copy of a final report, please submit a written request specifying the project(s) of interest to prop1grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

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

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

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

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

Project Name	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$99,924 (\$217 unspent)
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-012
Grantee	San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
Overview	Advance plans for a new flood bypass that will reduce flood risk, improve habitat, and maintain agricultural land along the San Joaquin River south of Paradise Cut
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 6/30/2019
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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

Project Name	Lower Marsh and Sand Creek Watershed Restoration Planning Project (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$73,493 (\$2,391 unspent)
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-019
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Create a Programmatic California Environmental Quality Act document for future restoration activities conducted by Grantee and their partners in the Marsh Creek and Sand Creek watersheds
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 12/31/2019
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review. The Programmatic Mitigated Negative Declaration, developed as part of this project, is being used during the planning of the P1-1814 grant.

Project Name	Dutch Slough Revegetation (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$2,900,000 (\$270 unspent)
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1602
Grantee	Reclamation District 2137
Overview	Establish and maintain 468 acres of native tidal marsh, riparian, and grassland vegetation at the Dutch Slough restoration site
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 7/15/2022
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$444,464 (\$1,398 unspent)
County	Solano
Project ID	Prop 1-1605
Grantee	Solano Resource Conservation District
Overview	Restore 13.5 acres of riparian habitat and improve water quality through improved cattle management practices on approximately 525 acres of active farmland along Lindsey Slough
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 2/11/2022
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

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

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

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

Project Name	Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms: Improving Aquatic Habitat Resiliency on Working Lands Along the Sacramento River (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$647,701 (\$23,249 unspent)
County	Yolo
Project ID	Prop 1-1702
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Develop restoration design plans for seven different project sites at River Garden Farms to restore ecosystem function in floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitats and provide habitat connectivity on a working farm
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 4/22/2023
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2 (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$990,543 (\$46 unspent)
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1711
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Add one acre of habitat to the current Three Creeks Parkway Restoration project, thereby enhancing the ecological benefits of that project, while satisfying flood conveyance needs to protect the local area
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 8/24/2022
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$592,500 (\$886 unspent)
County	Yolo
Project ID	Prop 1-1712
Grantee	City of West Sacramento
Overview	Develop a detailed habitat restoration plan to restore disturbed riparian habitat, control non-native species, improve pond water quality, and improve the ability of the Bees Lakes area to support listed species
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 4/27/2021
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review. The Grantee was awarded Climate, Access, and Restoration for funds at July 2022 Conservancy Board meeting.

Project Name	Stone Lakes Restoration Project (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$635,573 (\$5,139 unspent)
County	Sacramento
Project ID	Prop 1-1713
Grantee	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Overview	Planning to restore approximately 257 acres of seasonal wetland and 39 acres of riparian seasonal wetland, and enhance 20 acres of existing low-quality wetland on the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 2/29/2024
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Nutria Eradication Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$1,125,577 (\$6,120 unspent)
County	Multiple
Project ID	Prop 1-1718
Grantee	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Overview	Eliminate nutria from all known and discovered locations in California to prevent nutria from causing significant ecological damage in the Delta
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 4/05/2023
New Information	Closed; a final report available for review.

Project Name	Blacklock Restoration: Phragmites Control Study (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$387,440 (\$0 unspent)
County	Solano
Project ID	Prop 1-1803
Grantee	California Department of Water Resources
Overview	Test methods for controlling invasive species in future restoration at the Blacklock restoration site
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 4/25/2022
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Project, Phase 2 (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$265,254 (\$505 unspent)
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	Prop 1-1806
Grantee	San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
Overview	Outreach and planning to advance the Paradise Cut Flood Bypass in San Joaquin County
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 9/18/2023
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

Prop 1-1713: Stone Lakes Restoration Project (Planning)

The purpose of this project was to conduct planning for ecosystem restoration and enhancement for both private (Serra Family Trust) and federally owned land at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Planning efforts aimed to maximize faunal diversity through restored and enhanced wetlands and to support food web development. Under this Proposition 1 grant, engineering design plans were completed to 90 percent, a monitoring and adaptive management plan for the Serra Property was developed, and the appropriate environmental documents, permit applications, and supporting reports were completed, resulting in a shovel-ready project.



Figure 6.2. Existing grassland within the project area, planned to be restored to seasonal wetland.



Figure 6.3. A Dallis grass grassland in the irrigated pastureland of the project site. This area will be restored to shallow seasonal wetland.

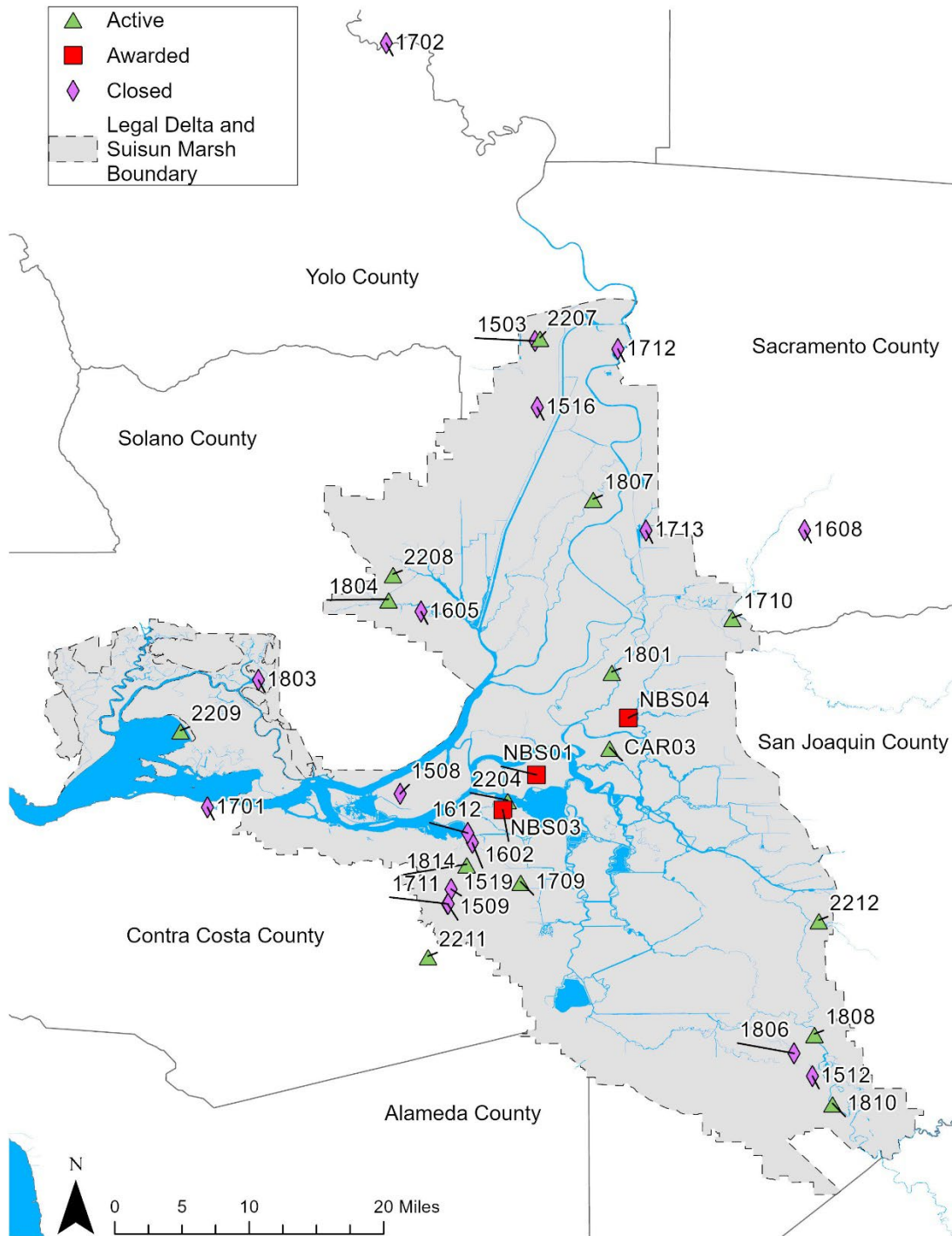


Figure 6.4. Biologists with Ducks Unlimited perform pre-project baseline avian surveys.

CONTACT

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FIGURE 6.5. 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**

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 6.1). 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	\$5	\$3.7	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 March 4, 2024, there are 12 active projects, one approved project, and one working proposal. 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 \$4,970,660 for active, awarded, or requested Proposition 68 projects, \$4,632,797 (93 percent) is expected to support SDAC communities.

ACTIVE PROJECTS (TOTAL AMOUNT OBLIGATED: \$15,369,630)

Project Name	Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse & Delta Welcome Center (Acquisition)
Amount Awarded	\$310,373
County	Yolo
Project ID	P6802
Grantee	Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
Overview	Acquire 1.13-acre parcel to serve as the permanent home of the restored 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse.
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 5/02/2022
New Information	The Grantee anticipates project close out in April 2024.

Project Name	Southport Levee Recreational Trail (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$337,863
County	Yolo
Project ID	P6803
Grantee	City of West Sacramento
Overview	Create planning documents for preparation of paving of 5.6 miles of levee top for recreational use.
DAC/SDAC	Neither
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/20/2021
New Information	The Grantee is nearing completion of 65 Percent Design Plans.

Project Name	Pittsburg Boat Launch Facility & Central Harbor Park Upgrade (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$172,155
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	P6804
Grantee	City of Pittsburg
Overview	Create planning documents for preparation of recreational and safety enhancements to the Boat Launch Facility & Central Harbor Park.
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 10/01/2021
New Information	The Grantee is adjusting 90 Percent Design Plans to address climate resiliency.

Project Name	Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$44,500
County	Sacramento
Project ID	P6805
Grantee	Isleton Museum
Overview	Purchase museum-quality display cases to house historical artifacts within the Isleton Museum, located in the newly renovated Bing Kong Tong Building.
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 6/17/2022
New Information	The Grantee has completed the scope of work. The Grantee submitted a proposal for funding of Phase 2 that is for Board consideration of award (See Agenda Item 8.1).

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

Project Name	Freeport, Delta Gateway Monuments (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$223,277
County	Sacramento
Project ID	P6808
Grantee	Sacramento County
Overview	Create planning documents in preparation of the installation of two gateway monuments and one interpretive sign in Freeport.
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 9/21/2022
New Information	The Grantee is researching establishing property easements on properties for the acquisition and implementation phases of the project.

Project Name	Asian American Heritage Park Development (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$811,362
County	Sacramento
Project ID	P6811
Grantee	Delta Educational Cultural Society
Overview	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.
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 03/11/2022
New Information	The Grantee held a groundbreaking ceremony on March 2, 2024.



Figure 7.1. Photo of the Asian American Heritage Park groundbreaking ceremony held on March 2, 2024.

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

Project Name	Pacific Flyway Center: Walk in the Marsh (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$1,936,050
County	Solano
Project ID	CAR01
Grantee	Pacific Flyway Fund
Overview	Build three miles of ADA-compliant hiking trails, boardwalks, and educational signage throughout restored wetlands in Suisun March.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 3/22/2022
New Information	The Grantee is working on developing the bid package for prospective contractors.

Project Name	Bees Lake Public Access (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$2,373,800
County	Yolo
Project ID	CAR02
Grantee	Bees Lake Public Access
Overview	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.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 7/29/2022
New Information	The Grantee has completed 100 Percent Design Plans. The Grantee anticipates submitting a request to extend the term of the agreement in Spring 2024.

Project Name	Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$2,544,725
County	San Joaquin
Project ID	CAR05
Grantee	San Joaquin Community Foundation
Overview	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.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 8/21/2023
New Information	The Grantee has engaged with the Stockton Black Urban Farmers Association as a primary partner to discuss project planning.

Project Name	Central Harbor Park and Boat Launch Facility Upgrade Implementation Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$3,544,395
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	CAR06
Grantee	City of Pittsburg
Overview	Construction of recreational and safety enhancements to the Boat Launch Facility & Central Harbor Park.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 9/13/2023
New Information	The Grantee has purchased project elements, and a budget amendment is in progress.

APPROVED PROJECT (TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED \$715,180)

Project Name	Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$715,180
County	Solano
Project ID	P6819
Grantee	City of Suisun City
Overview	Construction of recreational and safety enhancements to the Boat Launch Facility & Central Harbor Park.
Grant Agreement Status	In Progress
New Information	Project was awarded funding at the January 24, 2024 Board meeting, and the grant agreement is in progress.

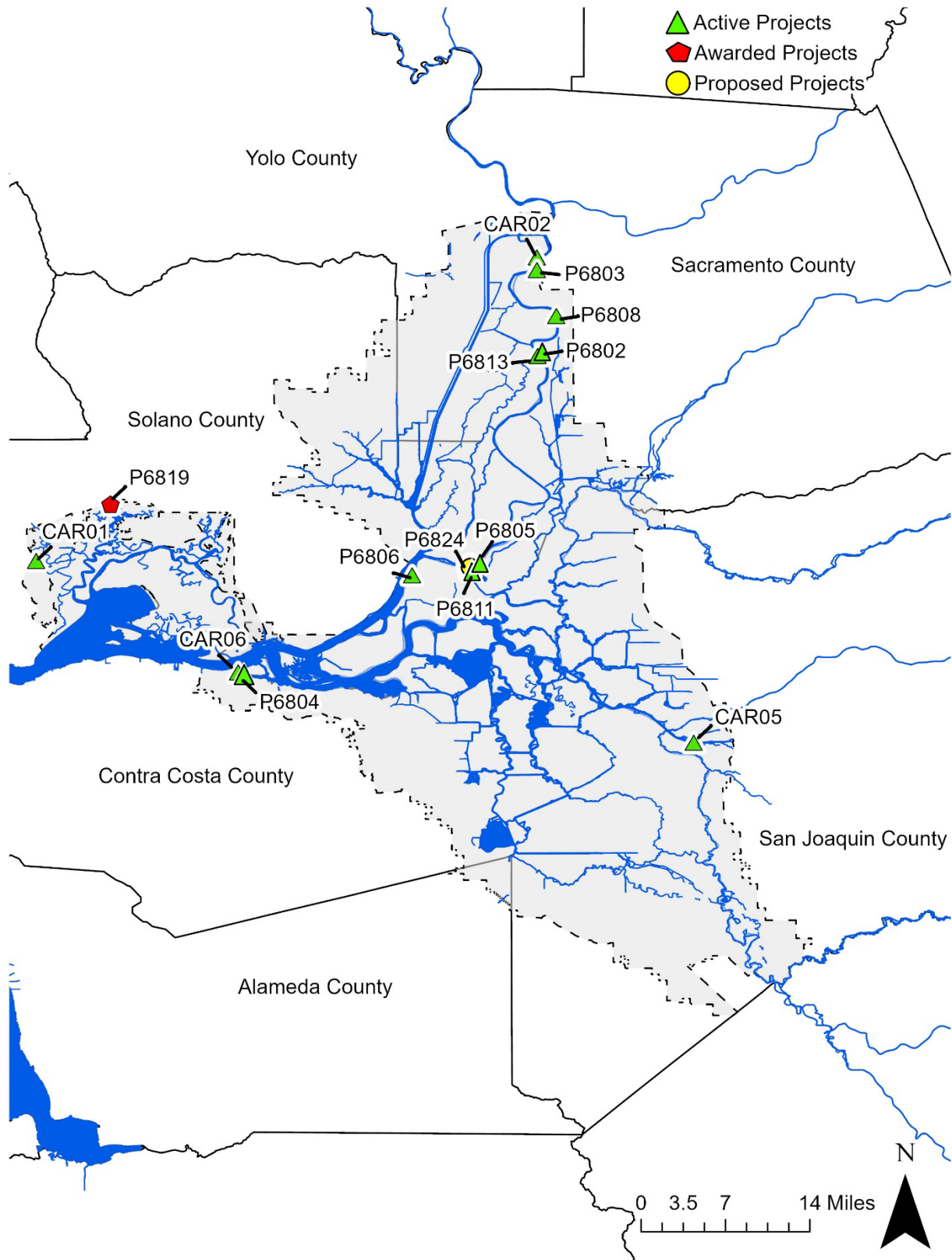
WORKING PROPOSALS (TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$13,422)

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	DAC/SDAC	Proposal Status
P6824	Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building Phase 2	Isleton Museum	Implementation	\$13,442	Sacramento	SDAC	Before the Board (Agenda Item 8.1)

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FIGURE 7.2. MAP OF LOCATION AND STATUS OF COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM PROJECTS





Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grant Program Funds for Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building Phase 2 Staff Recommendation

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program funding for the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building, Phase 2 project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Applicant	Isleton Museum
Project ID	P6824
Project Type	Implementation
County	Sacramento
Funding Request	\$13,442
Total Project Cost	\$13,442
Funding Recommendation	\$13,442

RECOMMENDATION

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$13,442 in grant funding for the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building, Phase 2 project (P6824) proposed by the Isleton Museum. Conservancy staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with members of the Isleton Museum. Staff followed the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Grant Guidelines, approved by the Conservancy Board December 2019, in working with the applicant and assessing this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to obtain four pedestal covers to protect museum displays, 20 signs mounted on foam board to provide interpretation for museum exhibits and wayfinding throughout the museum, and the conservation, cleaning, and delivery of a Chinese banner from the 1930s. This project is an expansion of an existing Delta Conservancy project (Project ID P6805), which was funded by the Delta Conservancy in March 2022 to purchase display cases for housing artifacts, Chinese pottery, agricultural tools, utensils, and other everyday items. While completing their first Delta Conservancy grant, the applicant identified additional needs for the Isleton Museum that were outside the original grant’s scope and objectives. This proposal requests funds for the new scope and objectives but uses materials provided in the original proposal process (P6805) to expedite review and consideration of award.

This proposal will fund the final step in a multiphase effort with a larger purpose of renovating the Bing Kong Tong historic building and converting it into a museum, providing an historic and cultural resource for Isleton and the Delta. As part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage

Area, the applicant's goal is to provide a resource for the general public, teachers, students, and all those interested in the history of the Delta.

In 1994 the land, building, and its contents were deeded from the San Francisco Tong to the Isleton Brannan-Andrus Historical Society (IBAHS), allowing for the renovation of the building, which now houses the Isleton Museum.

To convert the Bing Kong Tong building into the Isleton Museum, the applicant received grants from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, with assistance from the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency. These grants funded stages one and two of the project, which included structural stabilization, interior and exterior renovation (e.g., updating the interior floors, walls, ceilings, plumbing, sewer, and electrical systems), and the installation of an elevator and fire suppression system. Renovations of the Bing Kong Tong building were completed in July 2021.

The final stage of the project consisted of outfitting the museum. Wall displays, including signage, photos, silks, and maps, were mounted on the walls in December 2021. In March 2022, the Conservancy Board funded the purchase of museum-quality display cases to house and protect cultural artifacts (Project ID P6805). The proposal before the Board today is a continuation of that project.

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the CEQA requirements, under Article 19, Section 15301(d). The CEQA exemption can be found in the Environmental Compliance section of the application.

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 the city of Isleton, the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building project serves a severely disadvantaged community.

Cost Share

The Isleton Museum, a nonprofit organization, will not contribute cost share. While the museum does not have qualifying cost share during the funding term, it is notable that they have secured considerable commitments of time, labor, donations, and monetary support for other components of the project as described in the description section above.

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 Isleton Museum is governed by an active volunteer board of directors, many of whom have donated hundreds of hours of their time to the project. The museum is also financially supported by a large membership base, drawing from the local community. Lastly, local support is evident through letters from local and regional community organizations, including Isleton Elementary School, the Isleton Chamber of Commerce, the Isleton Historic Review Board, and the California Preservation Foundation.

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 traditional 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 Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building, Phase 2 project is the fourteenth full proposal staff has presented to the Conservancy Board for consideration of the award of grant funds.

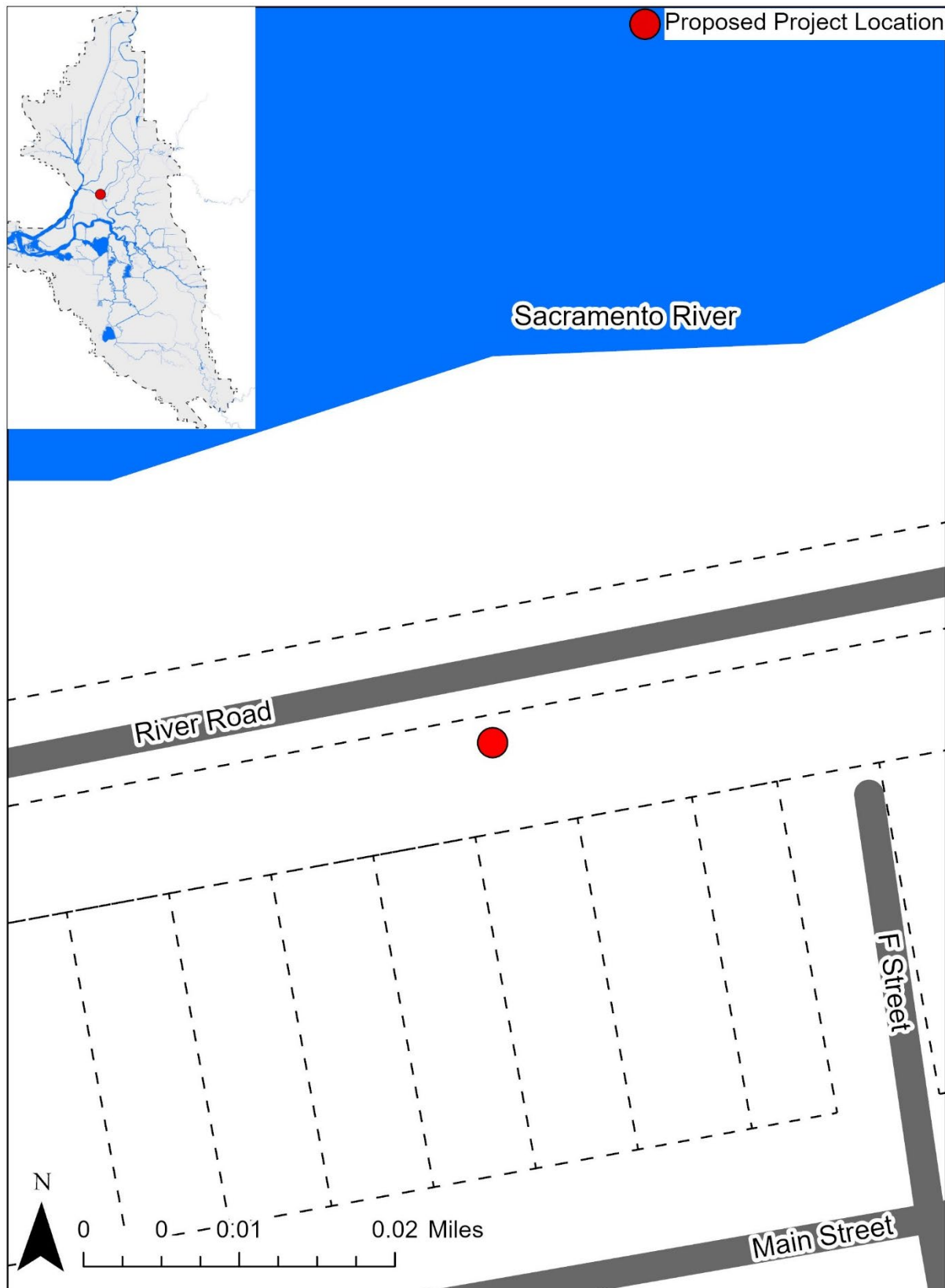
SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board award funding up to \$13,442 to the Isleton Museum from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building, Phase 2 project.

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FIGURE 8.1. MAP OF THE ISLETON MUSEUM IN THE BING KONG TONG BUILDING PROJECT AREA





Outcomes and Lessons Learned through Implementation of the Fish Friendly Farming Program in the Delta Staff Report

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy funded California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) to develop a Fish Friendly Farming certification program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through a Proposition 1 (1505) grant, which was executed in January 2017. In August of 2020, the Conservancy, supported through a grant from the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), contracted CLSI to implement the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Program in the Delta. The contract and grant will close on March 31, 2024. This report summarizes Delta FFF Program outcomes and lessons learned. The Conservancy was awarded a competitive grant to implement the Delta FFF Program and has not currently sought additional funding to continue supporting enrollment into the Program, though both CLSI and the Conservancy are open to collaborating again in the future. The final reports for the contract and grant are available upon request.

The Fish Friendly Farming Program (Program) started in 1997 in Mendocino and Sonoma counties; the FFF Program has certified over 250,000 acres on 1,800 individual farms and ranches in 10 counties in California. The Delta FFF Program documents and implements a series of best management practices on each farm enrolled in the program. Best management practices were developed with the input of a technical advisory committee composed of staff from county Farm Bureaus, county Agricultural Commissioner's offices, local water quality coalitions, county cooperative extension offices, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, local water agencies and districts, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and grower representatives. The technical advisory committee also provided feedback and approved water quality improvement projects implemented under this grant. Taken together, the best management practices and water quality improvement projects make up the Farm Conservation Plan (farm plan) for each site, which intends to decrease off-site transport of agricultural chemicals and sediments and improve Delta water quality. Each farm plan is certified as expected to improve water quality with a site visit from Program administrators and one of several third-party certifiers. Enrolled sites then complete an annual online audit to document the implementation of their farm plans. Recertification takes place after five years of farm plan implementation. The FFF Program certification can be used by the farmer in marketing and is widely recognized as an exceptional sustainability program. Additionally, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board approved the FFF Program as an alternative to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Delta, meaning enrollment in the Program helps streamline growers' regulatory burden.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

A total of 10,742 acres of farmland were enrolled in the Delta FFF Program. CLSI performed significant outreach to attain this level of enrollment, including coordination with the five Delta farm bureaus, the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalitions, the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, the Sacramento County and San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioners, and University of California Cooperative Extension to distribute information on the Program. CLSI and their contractor contacted approximately 50 farmers individually to increase enrollment. [CLSI also produced a video](#) that included a series of interviews with growers already in the FFF Program. By June 2022, six sites were enrolled in the Fish Friendly Farming Program for a total of 10,752 acres. One 10-acre site did not continue in the Program, but the other five completed farm plans.

The location of each site with a completed farm plan can be seen in Figure 9.1. Site 1 is 9,200 acres on Staten Island, south of Walnut Grove, California. The farm grows corn, rice, alfalfa, triticale, potatoes, and irrigated pasture. The site drains into the North and South Forks of the Mokelumne River. Site 2 is 203 acres and is west of the city of Stockton, California. The farm grows tomatoes, cucumbers, and alfalfa and will be converting to almonds. The site drains into the San Joaquin River. Site 3 is 509 acres and is west of Lathrop, California. The farm grows tomatoes, alfalfa, corn, wheat, and irrigated pasture. The site drains into Middle River. Site 4 is 70 acres and is west of Lathrop, California. The farm grows almonds and drains into the San Joaquin River. Site 5 is 760 acres and is south of the city of Davis, California. The farm cultivates irrigated pasture and drains into the Yolo Bypass.

This grant included funds to implement water quality improvement projects, which were reviewed and approved by the technical advisory committee. At Site 1 a water recirculation pump was installed to improve water quality by reducing transport of chemicals off-site and into nearby waterways. Recirculated water experiences longer exposure to light allowing for the breakdown of chemicals, and recirculation give sediments longer to settle out of the water column. A short video highlighting the recirculation pump can be found [on the Conservancy's YouTube channel](#). An image of the installed recirculation pump can be seen in Figure 9.2. A hedgerow and water saving irrigation were installed at Site 2. The native hedgerow, once it matures, will help to block the drift of pesticides off site. The microsprinkler system will be more water efficient and result in less flushing of agricultural chemicals into nearby waterways. An image of the installed native hedgerow can be seen in Figure 9.3.

In addition to the two water quality improvement projects on sites 1 and 2, all farm plans included best management practices to improve water quality. These practices were developed with the input of the technical advisory committee. Delta FFF best management practices include soil conservation and sediment retention management actions (e.g. keeping ditches vegetated to retain sediment), managing water and drainage (e.g. surface drainage systems are inspected and maintained), managing irrigation (e.g. irrigation not completed directly after pesticide applications), managing pesticide use (e.g. insects are monitored prior to use of chemical controls), nutrient management actions (e.g. crop and soil needs are measured prior to nutrient application), road management action (e.g. winterization of roads to minimize sediment generation), creek system management actions (e.g. invasive species are removed to the extent possible), and photo monitoring (e.g. complete photo monitoring on an annual basis).

Estimates of potential water quality improvements through the implementation of water quality improvement project and best management practices were developed by CLSI and reported to SWRCB as part of the process of developing each farm plan. CLSI collected and reviewed the Pesticide Use Reports from the County Agricultural Commissioner for each site and analyzed the chemicals used for each different crop on each farm. The toxicity and runoff risk of each chemical was documented. CLSI staff documented the best management practices already being used on the site and the best management practices needed for certification. Finally, CLSI completed a best management practice implementation timeline listing the needed best management practices, where each should be implemented, and the timing required for implementation.

Certification visits took place from December 2023 through February 2024 to review each site's farm plan and water quality improvement project (if applicable). CLSI will continue to follow up with Sites 1-5 and will recertify farms after five years. Growers complete an annual online audit to document the implementation of their farm plans.

LESSONS LEARNED

For the FFF Program in the Delta, the main lesson learned was that it takes significant time and effort to convince farmers to adopt new practices, even when other farmers recommend the program. It is challenging to encourage growers to enroll and complete a program that is voluntary and does not have a clear monetary reward. CLSI completed many one-to-one conversations with farmers, and this seemed to be the best approach, enabling them to meet the enrollment goal of 10,000 acres. If in the future funding is available and more growers complete the program, word will get out in the community and the FFF certification will likely become more desirable.

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FIGURE 9.1. MAP OF LOCATIONS OF FIELDS ENROLLED IN THE DELTA FISH FRIENDLY FARMING PROGRAM

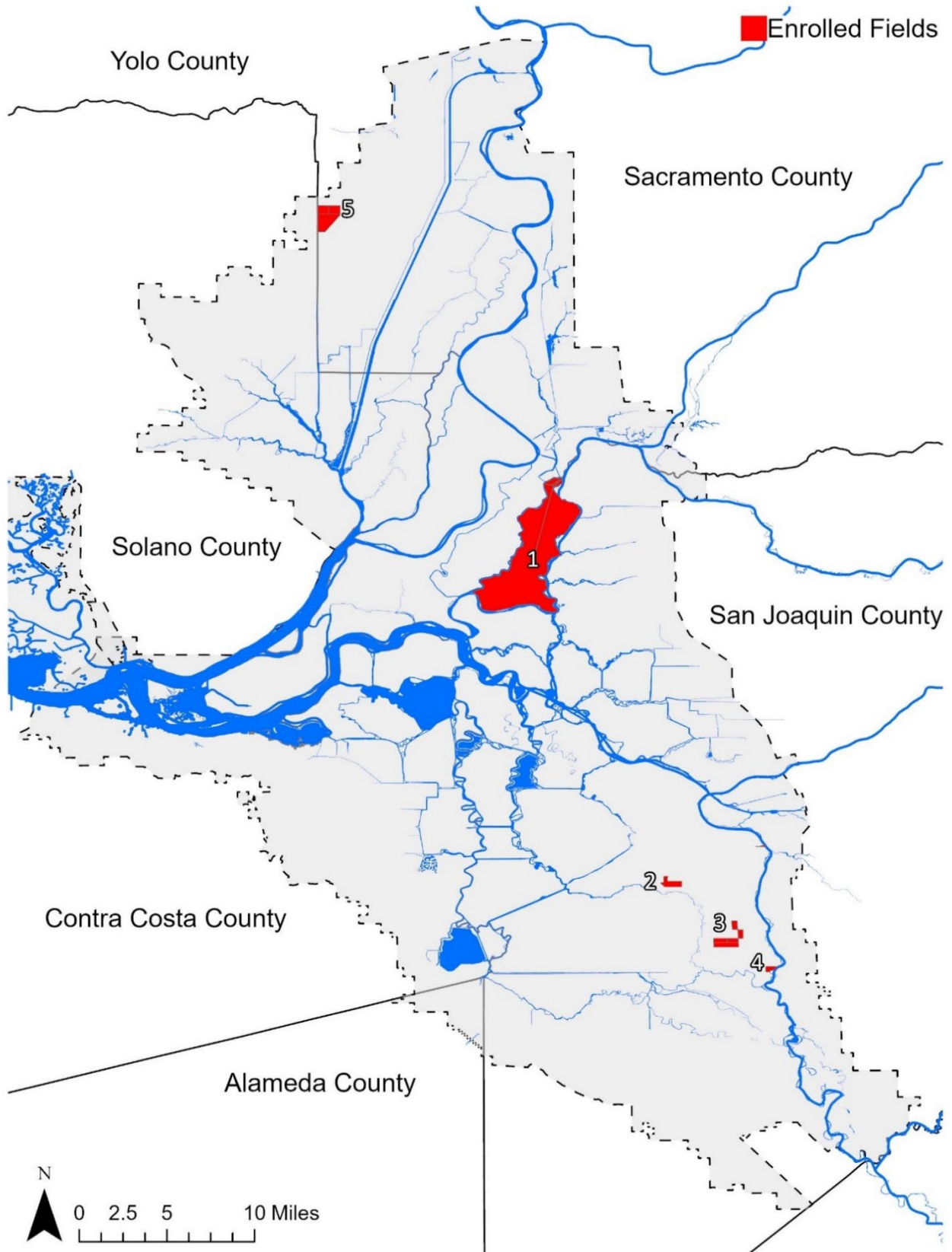




Figure 9.2. Completed Water Quality Improvement Project at Staten Island (Site 1), Water Recirculation Pump.



Figure 9.3. Completed Water Quality Improvement Project at Tirupathi Farms (Site 3), Native Plant Hedgerow with Irrigation and Weed Control Discs.



Potential Agenda Items for the May 22, 2024 Board Meeting

Staff are seeking input from the Board regarding additional agenda items for the May 22, 2024 Board meeting.

Potential items include:

- Consideration of Amendment to Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Agreements
- Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project Update
- Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grants
- Consideration of Amendment to Community Enhancement Grant Program Agreements

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