



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

July 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 transparency and public access, members of the public can choose to participate either via Microsoft Teams or in person at the location listed above. After the business meeting concludes at approximately 11:00 a.m., there will then be an in-person-only opportunity to visit a Delta Conservancy-funded project. Site tour information, including a map and directions, is included below.

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

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 292 069 055 319

Passcode: SFrjDp

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

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[+1 916-573-2034,,229392319#](#) United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 229 392 319#

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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. **Board Elections** (Action Item)
5. **Consent Calendar** (Action Item)
 - Approval of March 27, 2024 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items (Attachment)

- Consideration of Amendment to Budget, Scope, and Term of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Agreement for the Lower San Joaquin River Riparian Corridor Restoration Planning Project (Attachment)
- 6. **Executive Officer's Report**, Campbell Ingram
 - Program Update (Attachment)
 - Budget and Expenditure Report (Attachment)
- 7. **Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Update**, Anjali Shakya (Attachment)
- 8. **Rice Conversion and Wetland Restoration on Webb Tract Projects Update**, Lauren Damon (Attachment)
- 9. **Community Enhancement Grant Program Update**, Maya Garrett (Attachment)
- 10. **Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grant Program Funds for the Stockton Maritime Museum Planning Project**, Maya Garrett (Attachment) (Action Item)
- 11. **Consideration of Updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines**, Dr. Sarah Lesmeister (Attachment) (Action Item)
- 12. **Consideration to Take Action Outside the Delta and Suisun Marsh for Clean Vessel Act Program Proposal**, Dr. Sarah Lesmeister (Attachment) (Action Item)
- 13. **Delta Conservancy 2024 Implementation Plan Status Update**, Karen Buhr (Attachment)
- 14. **The 2023 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Report and Analysis**, Rachel Lane and Dr. Rachel Wigginton (Attachment)
- 15. **Potential Agenda Items for the October 23, 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.

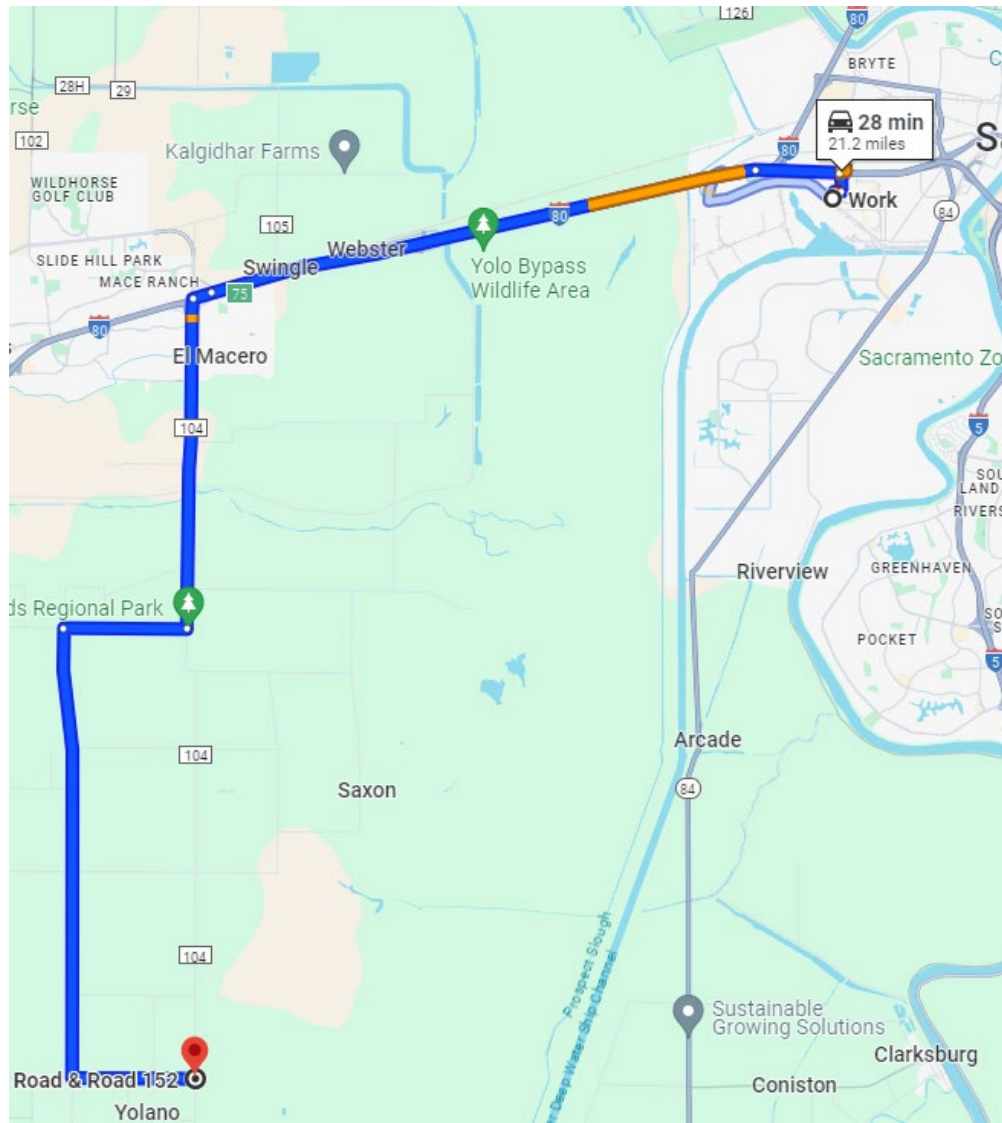
Site Tour Information

Tour and presentation of the Micrometeorological Measurements and Water Budget Calculation at Midway Ranch. These projects were funded through the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program.

We recommend comfortable, sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate attire as participants will be standing with no shelter. We recommend that attendees bring water and sun protection.

Directions from the Delta Conservancy office to the Micrometeorological Measurements and Water Budget Calculation at Midway Ranch—at the corner of Midway Road and County Road 104:

1. Exit Delta Conservancy parking lot by taking a left onto Halyard Drive
2. Take a right onto Beacon Boulevard
3. Turn left onto Harbor Boulevard
4. Use the right lane to merge onto US-50 West/I-80 West
5. Continue on I-80 West for approximately seven miles, then take exit 75 for Mace Boulevard
6. Turn left onto Mace Boulevard and continue for four miles
7. Turn right onto Tremont Road and continue for one and a half miles
8. Turn left on Bulkley Road and continue for five and a half miles
9. Turn left onto Midway Road and continue for one and a half miles
10. Meet at the intersection of Midway Road and County Road 104





March 27, 2024 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

Video and audio of the meeting is available here:

<https://youtu.be/62dFMLguSr8?si=ChrDIPQ9iXS2iQbN>

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
- Diane Burgis – teleconference
- Tom Patti – teleconference
- Stephen Benson
- Nancy Vogel
- Lilliana Udang

Ex-Officio Members Present:

None

Liaison Advisors and Counsel Present:

- Mike Villines
- 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 it was not voted on.

Motion: Board Member Udang moved, seconded by Vice Chair Winternitz, that the Board approve the following:

- Approval of January 24, 2024 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items (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. A report entitled Equity Year in Review from the California Natural Resource Agency was shared. The Conservancy, acting on an interagency agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, received a bid for work on a continuation of feasibility planning for Franck’s Track. The 2024 State of the Estuary Conference on March 12, 2024 was postponed and four of the five posters that the staff prepared to present at this event were on display in the boardroom.

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

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report. As of March 11, 2024, there are 17 active projects, three awarded projects with grant development underway, and 19 closed projects. Nature Based Solutions (NBS) funding is fully allocated with two executed grants and two grant agreements to be executed before the next Board meeting. Since the last meeting the Stone Lakes Restoration Project planning grant was completed.

Agenda Item 7 – Community Enhancement Grant Program Update

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report. As of March 4, 2024, there are 12 active projects, one approved project, and one working proposal. Staff are working with applicants on several additional proposals.

Agenda Item 8 – Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grant Program Funds for Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building Phase 2

Staff highlighted the proposed project by the Isleton Museum for additional displays and signage in the Bing Kong Tong Building, which complements a previous grant at the same location.

Motion: Board Member Udang moved, seconded by Supervisor Burgis, 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.

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

Agenda Item 9 – Outcomes and Lessons Learned through Implementation of the Fish Friendly Farming Program in the Delta

Staff and program partner Laurel Marcus, Science Director with the California Land Stewardship Institute, shared the outcomes and lessons learned from the Fish Friendly Farming Program that was recently completed.

Agenda Item 10 – Delta Adapts Draft Adaptation Plan Overview

Morgan Chow, Senior Environmental Planner at the Delta Stewardship Council, shared a presentation entitled Delta Adapts: Draft Adaption Plan Overview. [A link is available](#) for the presentation on the Delta Conservancy website.

Agenda Item 11 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

Morgan Chow, Senior Environmental Planner at the Delta Stewardship Council, presented an update on Council activities.

Agenda Item 12 – EcoRestore Update

Charlotte Biggs, Program Manager at the California Department of Water Resources, highlighted four efforts of the EcoRestore program that are reaching significant milestones this year.

Agenda Item 13 – Delta Protection Commission Update

This agenda item was not presented.

Agenda Item 14 – 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 15 – Potential Agenda Items for the May 22, 2024 Board Meeting

- 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

Agenda Item 16 – Public Comment

None

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

None

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Mashburn at 10:36 a.m.

CONTACT

Jessica Adel

Administration Supervisor

Jessica.Adel@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

(916) 606-4730



Consideration of Amendment to Budget, Scope, and Term of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Agreement for the Lower San Joaquin River Riparian Corridor Restoration Planning Project
Staff Report

Grantee	California Department of Water Resources
Project ID	P1-1808
Award Year	2021
County	San Joaquin
Category	Planning
Original Award Amount	\$522,027
Request	Scope, Term, Budget

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve a change to scope of work to modify the method of estimating the Project's salmonid benefits and to increase regulatory flexibility by allowing the Grantee to use Cutting the Green Tape (CTGT) tools in lieu of lengthy permitting processes. Staff also recommends the Board approve a term extension of one year and a budget modification to move funds from subcontractor line items to personnel and indirect costs.

DESCRIPTION

The Grantee requests to replace the current method of salmonid benefit quantification due to the current tool's limited ability to detect changes in habitat at the site. The updated tool will more appropriately estimate the Project's benefits to salmonids by using juvenile habitat suitability criteria and estimated riparian tree cover to determine the amount of habitat created by the Project.

The Grantee is also requesting to increase permitting and environmental compliance flexibility by removing specific permit application requirements and exploring CTGT opportunities. The State's CTGT initiatives have streamlined environmental compliance and permitting processes to expedite habitat restoration activities that benefit fish and wildlife. The Grantee proposes to leverage the CTGT initiatives by conducting outreach with regulatory agencies to determine the appropriate pathway to permitting and CEQA.

To accommodate design delays and complete the above tasks, the Grantee is requesting a one-year term extension of the grant's funding end date from November 30, 2024 to November 30, 2025. The extension will allow additional time for permitting, environmental compliance, design, and public engagement and outreach. These tasks were delayed due to new levee planning guidance developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and lengthy negotiations to incorporate the new guidance.

The Grantee also requests to move funding from subcontractors to personnel and indirect costs. This request does not modify the total amount awarded. Coordination with USACE on project design expended more personnel funding than originally anticipated. One subcontractor has completed their tasks, and another subcontractor has partially completed their tasks, so funding for those subcontractors is no longer required. This budget modification would fund the additional costs of grant management for the term extension (if approved) and fund the Grantee's engagement with regulatory agencies and preparation of permitting and environmental compliance documentation.

BACKGROUND

Lower San Joaquin Riparian Corridor (Project ID P1-1808) is a planning project designed to restore approximately 2.5 miles along and within the San Joaquin River to provide habitat for native fish and wildlife. This project was awarded \$522,027 of Proposition 1 funds in 2019. This is the Grantee's second amendment request. In October 2023, the Grantee requested a funding term extension to accommodate delays in the Project. This request will have no impact on the availability of current funds as they are not set to expire until June 30, 2027.

CONTACT

Lauren Damon, Ecological Restoration and Climate Adaptation Programs Supervisor
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Lauren.Damon@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
(916) 634-5308



Executive Officer's Report

July 24, 2024

PROGRAM UPDATE

STAFFING UPDATE

Rachel Lane was our Drought Program Analyst overseeing the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP) and is now our newest Environmental Scientist. She started her new role on May 6. After five years with the Delta Conservancy, Larry Hughes, Retired Annuitant, re-retired on June 28. He served various roles in the Administration division and during the pandemic was a COVID-19 Contact Tracer.

DELTA DROUGHT RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM (DDRPP) UPDATE

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 continues to collect micrometeorological and soil data from these six sites through September 2026. The site visit following this Board meeting will include a presentation from the UC Davis research team and the opportunity to view the experimental equipment in the field. The DDRPP Oversight Committee has completed the analysis of water conservation and bird benefits actions taken by the DDRPP grantees during the 2022/2023 water year. Agenda Item 14.2 of this Board packet features a presentation outlining the 2023 DDRPP Program Report and Technical Analysis.

DELTA CONSERVANCY FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET UPDATES

We are pleased to report that all baseline funding for facilities and operations remains for the 2024-2025 budget. As anticipated, the one-time General Fund allocation of \$6 million for wildfire prevention was pulled back. Current language in the proposed Climate Bond includes \$29 million for the Conservancy.

RETURN TO WORK

As of July 1, 2024, Conservancy staff are reporting to the office two days per week. Our in-office days are Tuesday and Wednesday.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

From March through June the administrative team collected Form 700s from Conservancy staff and Board members; prepared and submitted requested documents for the Department of General

Services Procurement Division's triennial accreditation audit, State Agency Waste Management Annual Report (SARC), the Workforce Analysis Survey, and the 10-day Language Survey. Staff began work on the fiscal year 2025/26 budget process with the submittal of technical adjustment to the California Natural Resources Agency and prepared Conservancy electronic folders to migrate from our shared drive to a cloud-based system in the fall. Staff completed paperwork for the recruitment of the newest Environmental Scientist position, changed the Office Technician position from a limited term to a permanent position, and extended two limited term positions for another year. Staff processed five new contracts, two contract amendments, 75 invoices, and closed out three contracts.

DELTA CONSERVANCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) UPDATE

On March 21, 2024, the RFP titled "Cost Feasibility Analysis for the Restoration of Franks Tract" closed. The purpose of the contract was 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. During the contract negotiation stage, there were concerns regarding the contract type, requiring additional negotiations with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Conservancy staff anticipate a resolution in early summer 2024.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Conservancy staff recently submitted two grant proposals and are actively working on three grant proposals.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

On July 2, Conservancy staff applied for a \$25 million RCPP grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to fund restoration and rice conversion in the highly subsidized areas of the Delta that would expand the current NBS funding. While there is a lot of funding available, the grant program is highly competitive. Staff anticipate hearing back from NRCS by the end of the year.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) America the Beautiful (ATB)

On July 18, Staff submitted a NFWF grant to fund projects that received planning grants from the Conservancy's Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program. Specific projects include restoration work at Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge and a project to restore approximately 2.5 miles along the San Joaquin River. The total award would be \$5 million to cover implementation work and the administration by the Conservancy. Staff expect to hear a decision about the proposal by the end of the summer.

Delta Science Program

Conservancy staff are working on two grant proposals for the Delta Science Program's Research Award. One proposal is to gain a deeper understanding of pathways to rice in the Delta, and the second proposal is to advance wetland paludiculture in the Delta. Each proposal's estimated budget is approximately \$500,000. Proposals are due August 29.

Clean Vessel Act Program

Conservancy staff are working on a grant proposal for the California State Park's Division of Boating and Waterways Clean Vessel Act Education and Outreach Grant Program. The \$280,000 annual grant includes education and outreach to boaters about proper sewage disposal and monitoring of pumpout and dump stations in the in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary and Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Proposals are due August 9. See Agenda Item 12.1 for more information.

NUTRIA ERADICATION

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

DELTA SCIENCE**Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Subcommittee (RSC):**

Conservancy staff continue to co-lead the DPIIC RSC with colleagues from the Delta Stewardship Council (Council). RSC staff are reviewing the work plan to capture accomplishments and prioritize future efforts. The next RSC meeting will take place in the last quarter of 2024 with a possible focus on the south Delta.

Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team

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 second quarterly meeting of the year on May 21, 2024. The team heard a talk about the impacts, risks, and management of invasive aquatic vegetation (IAV) in tidal wetland restoration sites, worked to update the team's research needs table, and shared general updates. Staff are facilitating a DIISC Team working group to develop general guidance for adaptive management of IAV in tidal wetland restoration sites. DIISC Team leadership is also coordinating with the Suisun Resource Conservation District to present on relevant topics in invasive species management at their September landowner workshop.

Delta Science Outreach

Conservancy staff attended the 2024 State of the Estuary Conference on May 28, 2024 in Oakland, California 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 million 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 synthesized 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 Dr. Sarah Lesmeister and highlighted projects funded through the Community Enhancement 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 Dr. Rachel Wigginton, highlighted 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), Dr. Rachel Wigginton, Dr. Elizabeth Brusati (Council), Dr. Dylan Chapple (Council), and Amanda Bohl (Council) and discussed the outcomes of the first two Delta Restoration Forums hosted by the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee. Copies of these posters are available upon request.

Conservancy staff have submitted abstracts for potential presentations at the 2024 Bay-Delta Science Conference scheduled for October 2024. 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 Dr. Rachel Wigginton, would describe the outcomes of the 2023 DDRPP and raise the profile of the final report on the Program. The proposed poster cluster “Advancing Ecosystem Restoration Towards a Resilient Delta,” chaired by Dr. Elizabeth Brusati of the Delta Stewardship Council and co-authored by Annie Merrit (Council), Dr. Rachel Wigginton, Dr. Dylan Chappel (Council), and Amanda Bohl (Council), would bring together posters about projects that were a part of the 2023 Delta Restoration Forum. One of these posters, “An Overview of the Delta Conservancy’s Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program,” co-authored by Anjali Shakya and Lauren Damon, would showcase several restoration projects funded by the Conservancy’s Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation program. Other posters would be authored by the San Francisco Estuary Institute, California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways. Finally, a proposed special oral session titled “Delta Carbon Farming” has been facilitated by Lauren Damon and will include presentations on long-term monitoring of greenhouse gas budgets in restored wetlands, the development of the CA Wetland carbon credit protocol, assessing the carbon market, generating carbon credits from DWR’s multi-benefit wetland restoration projects, and using Staten Island as a living library.

Conservancy staff participated in several science and community outreach efforts. Martha Ozonoff and Maya Garrett participated as mentors during field days organized by the Center for Land-Based Learning’s Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship Program (SLEWS) on March 22 and April 12, respectively. They also participated on career panels on those days where they discussed the Delta, grant management, and career opportunities. On May 7, Lauren Damon participated in a field trip to Staten Island, where she spoke to a UC Davis soils class about peat soils, land subsidence, and the Conservancy’s work to mitigate the climate change impacts of subsidence. On June 6, Dr. Rachel Wigginton gave an invited lecture to a class of UC California Naturalist Program students on wetland restoration and other nature-based solutions. On June 25, Campbell Ingram led a Delta tour for an international exchange group sponsored by the State Department. Visitors included leadership from government and nonprofit organizations from the five countries that border the Mekong River (Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar).

MEDIA MENTIONS

[Bay City News](#) published an article about the city of Pittsburg setting a completion date for waterfront improvements that are being funded by the Delta Conservancy.

[The Press](#), which covers news in East Contra Costa County, wrote about the plans underway to restore wetlands in Knightsen. The Delta Conservancy previously provided funding for project planning.

[AsAmNews](#) published a piece on Conservancy grantee Jean Yokotobi’s efforts to build a park in Isleton honoring Asian pioneers in the Delta.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- None

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 6 (2): Budget and Expenditure Report

CORRESPONDENCE

- On June 10 the Conservancy received a Public Records Act request for a copy of the proposal for the Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center (P6802). The document has been sent to the requester.

CONTACT

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
campbell.ingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
(916) 281-4145



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Nutria Eradication Program Update

Field Update July 9, 2024

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

1. Completed full and/or rapid assessments on over 1.9 M acres
2. Executed entry permits with 4,600 landowners for over 9,800 parcels in 14 counties
3. Set up 11,184 camera stations (1,599 currently active)
 - Conducted 91,449 camera checks
4. Detected nutria in 1,096 sites (40-acre cells)
5. Deployed 13,529 trap sets (740 currently active) for a total of 148,991 trap nights
6. Taken or accounted for the take of 4,597 nutria (since March 2017)
 - Merced - 2,453
 - Stanislaus - 983
 - Fresno - 668
 - San Joaquin - 110
 - Solano - 319
 - Sacramento - 34
 - Mariposa - 18
 - Madera - 12 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)

Of 4,586 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.16 sex ratio (M:F)
- Of the females captured:
 - 21% 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
- 5,407 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 6.1. 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 July 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	1,239	7.9
2021	145	701	4.8
2022	112	580	5.2
2023	120	677	5.6
2024	117	539	4.6
Total Across Years	558	4,597	8.2

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

July 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Personal Services (PS)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
1	Salaries & Wages	\$1,439,561	\$1,269,206	\$170,355	88%
2	Temporary Help	\$39,800	\$31,099	\$8,701	78%
3	Benefits	\$855,659	\$752,146	\$103,513	88%
4	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	\$2,335,020	\$2,052,451	\$282,569	88%
Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Operating Expenditures and Equipment (OE & E)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
5	General Expense	\$13,427	\$6,778	\$6,649	50%
6	Printing	\$100	\$0	\$100	0%
7	Communications	\$14,730	\$5,484	\$9,246	37%
8	Postage	\$260	\$175	\$85	67%
9	Travel-In State	\$7,010	\$3,455	\$3,555	49%
10	Training	\$4,125	\$1,500	\$2,625	36%
11	Facilities Operation	\$110,890	\$91,943	\$18,947	83%
12	Contracts & Personal Services-External	\$107,000	\$107,000	\$0	100%
13	Contracts & Personal Services-Interdepartmental	\$99,549	\$24,041	\$75,508	24%
14	Information Technology	\$50,500	\$439	\$50,061	1%
15	Non-Capital Asset Purchases	\$11,485	\$199	\$11,286	2%
16	Indirect Cost Recovery	(\$89,422)	(\$68,397)	(\$21,025)	76%
17	Unallocated Operating Expense & Equipment	\$193,361	\$0	\$193,361	0%
18	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES & EQUIPMENT	\$523,015	\$172,617	\$350,398	33%
Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Multi-Year Appropriations	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
19	Proposition 1 Program Support	\$543,895			
20	Proposition 68 Program Support	\$331,177			
21	Wildfire & DDRPP23	\$666,337			
22	Nature Based Solutions and CAR	\$1,807,740			
23	Grants and Subventions	\$46,446,584			
24	TOTAL MULTI-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS	\$49,795,733			
Line Number	TOTALS	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
25	TOTAL PS, OE & E, MULTI-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS	\$52,653,768	\$2,225,068	\$632,967	4%
26	REIMBURSEMENT	(\$180,768)	(\$72,728)	(\$108,040)	40%
27	GRAND TOTAL	\$52,473,000	\$2,152,340	\$524,927	4%



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 9.1). 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 June 24, 2024, there are 19 active projects and 20 closed projects.

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) – all of which are active.

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	Planning for the rice conversion and wetland restoration projects has started. The Grantee held a public outreach meeting on July 10. Staff prepared a detailed update on the projects in Agenda Item 8.1 of this Board packet.

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	Active as of 6/13/2024
New Information	The Grantee released the Request for Proposals to enroll farmers into the program. Land conversions are expected to start this year.

Project Name	Land Acquisition on Bethel Island (Acquisition)
Amount Awarded	\$2,197,466
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	Active as of 3/25/2024
New Information	Community outreach is on-going; cost-share from other entities is in negotiations and pending Board approvals; purchase contract expires January 2025.

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 subsided 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	Active as of 4/19/2024
New Information	Planning (funded by a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Proposition 1 Grant) is nearly complete and final design is underway. The Grantee has received tribal interest and is communicating with tribes regarding planning.

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	A Notice to Proceed has been issued. Project is underway.

Proposition 1 Cycle 5 – Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The Board awarded approximately \$3.0 million for six projects (two planning and four implementation) – all of which are active.

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. The 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 Fall 2024.

Project Name	Ulati 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 Ulati 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 continues to work on weed control but has also started planting and avian monitoring. 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	The Grantee submitted permit application packages and construction contracts are expected to be executed in summer 2024. Construction at one site is delayed due to necessary bridge repairs.

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	Technical studies, field assessments, and design development are in progress.

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 has been conducting outreach and planning is ongoing. They have been in communication with the Army Corps regarding the levee at the Project site and design of the levee will begin in 2026. The Grantee is seeking a setback levee and levee walking trails.

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, three 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	Project is complete. Conservancy staff are working with the Grantee to complete closeout.

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 is working on permitting, implementation funding, and landowner and agency coordination for the four sites.

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 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on design plans. Conservancy staff prepared a staff recommendation for consideration for an amendment to modify the Project's budget, scope, and term (see Agenda Item 5.2).

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 conducting outreach to permitting entities and completing final design.

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 Summer 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 project team is finalizing an easement holder. The Grantee is 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	The Project team is finalizing the 65 Percent Design Plans.

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	The Grantee started construction of the Project on May 13, 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 20 projects funded by Proposition 1 have fully closed (11 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 3/31/2022
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 funds for implementation at the 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 4/5/2023
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 11/1/2022
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. San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJFCA) is now the project lead. In summer 2023, the CA Department of Water Resources granted the project \$3 million in funding for a feasibility study.

Project Name	Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$984,695 (\$71,604 unspent)
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	Closed as of 3/12/2024
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

Prop 1-1807: Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement Project (Planning)

The purpose of this project was to identify a detailed fish passage and flood improvement design for Elk Slough that would meet the Recovery Actions identified in the 2014 NOAA Fisheries Salmon Recovery Plan. Water quality monitoring, hydrodynamic modeling, and community outreach were completed to inform project design plans. The Design Report prepared under this grant includes plans for bioengineered levee improvements that would enhance the existing riparian habitat along the slough to improve habitat conditions for listed species in the area. Design plans include the installation of two gates – one upstream and one at the downstream end of Elk Slough. These gates could be opened and closed to improve water quality in Elk Slough and to protect adjacent agricultural lands from flooding. Knowledge gained during the planning phase indicated a need for additional CEQA compliance beyond what was funded by the Delta Conservancy Proposition 1 grant. The project team is exploring funding opportunities to prepare an Environmental Impact Report, secure required permits, and to fund project construction.



Figure 7.1. Confluence of Elk Slough and Sutter Slough along southern project segment.



Figure 7.2. Riprap on the left bank of Elk Slough.



Figure 7.3. A typical vegetated levee along the bank of Elk Slough.

Meeting Date: July 24, 2024

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Attachment: 1

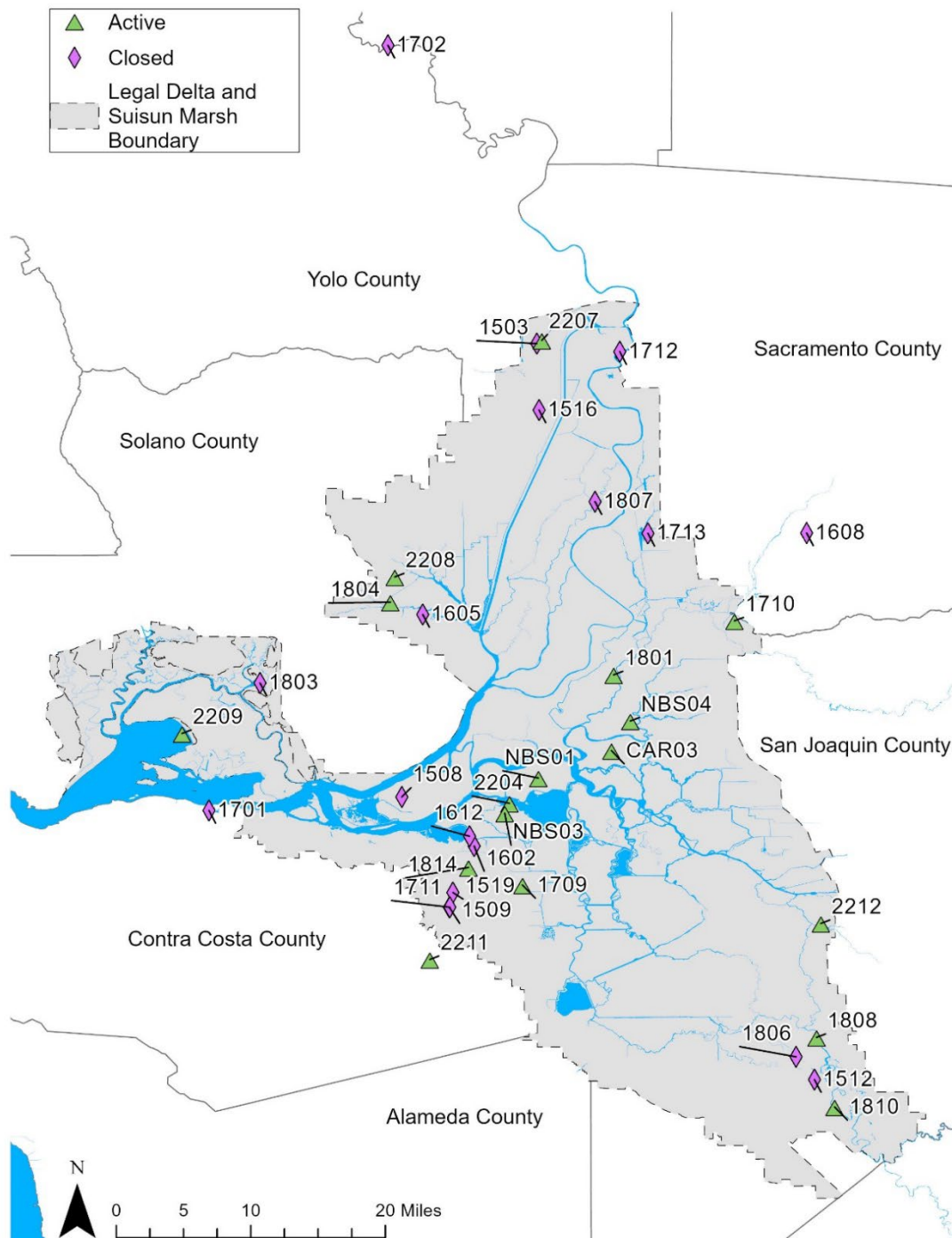
CONTACT

Anji Shakya, Environmental Scientist
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Anjali.Shakya@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

(916) 634-3856

FIGURE 7.4. MAP OF ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECTS



Two active projects (P1-1813 and NBS02) and two closed projects (P1-1505 and P1-1718) are not mapped due to their large spatial coverage.



Rice Conversion and Wetland Restoration on Webb Tract Projects Update Staff Report

This agenda item provides an update on the two-phase Webb Tract Projects and describes a timeline for Board consideration of authorization of implementation funding for the Rice Conversion Project on Webb Tract.

DESCRIPTION

In May 2023, the Board approved an award to Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for the Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project, which will stop subsidence and reduce emissions on the entirety of Webb Tract (approximately 5,500 acres). This award authorized the Conservancy to enter into an agreement for both Planning and Implementation of a project. To comply with regulatory processes, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), authorization of implementation is contingent on several actions, including the Board's consideration and adoption of Responsible Agency Findings; if adopted, filing appropriate CEQA documentation with the State Clearinghouse; and processing an amendment to the Grant Agreement.

Since consideration by the Board, MWD determined that planning for the rice conversion component of the project could be completed at least one year prior to planning for the wetland restoration component and requested that the projects be separated. In partnership with MWD, Staff developed the grant agreement to reflect a two-phase approach (planning and implementation) for the two projects. MWD anticipates bringing a request to authorize the Rice Conversion Project implementation funding at the January 2025 Board meeting.

Rice Conversion Project

To be prepared for rice conversion as soon as possible, MWD recently released a solicitation seeking farmers to sign a five-year lease agreement to convert previous corn fields to rice on about 1,361 acres of Webb Tract. The request for proposals is available at the following link until the submission window closes on August 2, 2024: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/real-property-assets>. MWD also held a public outreach workshop on July 10, 2024 at the Big Break Regional Shoreline to engage the public on their initial concepts for Webb Tract and solicit feedback from the community. A recording of the meeting is [available via MWD's website](#).

MWD's Board must take action to authorize signing a lease agreement and they will make subsequent CEQA Lead Agency Findings or authorize a Notice of Exemption simultaneously. They anticipate taking these actions at their Board meeting on November 12, 2024. Funding for implementation of the Rice Conversion Project will not be authorized until the Conservancy Board takes action.

Wetland Restoration Project

Planning for the Wetland Restoration Project is underway. If the planning process indicates that the Project is viable and the appropriate environmental compliance work has been completed, staff would bring a request to authorize implementation funding for the Wetland Restoration Project to the Board

in late 2025. Currently, MWD is completing technical studies, working on design plans in partnership with tribal representatives, and engaging regulatory entities, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Cutting Green Tape team, to determine the most appropriate path to permitting and environmental compliance.

BACKGROUND

Chaptered on September 5, 2022, the Amended Budget Act of 2022 (Assembly Bill 179, Item 3875-101-0001 of Section 111) provided the Conservancy with \$36 million for projects that support Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration (NBS: WR). In May 2023, the Conservancy Board authorized \$20.9 million in funding to design and construct between 1,000 and 1,500 acres of rice and between 3,000 and 3,500 acres of wetlands on Webb Tract (the entire 5,500 acre island) to stop ongoing organic soil subsidence, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated through increased carbon sequestration opportunities, develop sustainable agriculture opportunities, investigate sustainable water management practices, and study how managed wetlands may augment the Delta pelagic food web in line with goals of Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan and the Delta Plan. Funding was awarded in two phases: \$3,221,199 for the planning phase and a conditional \$17,686,172 for the implementation phase, subject to further review and consideration by the Board. Funding the award had the added condition that the funds being released will not be used for mitigation requirements of the Delta Conveyance program. Conditions of implementation funding include the Board's consideration and adoption of any needed California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) responsible agency findings and filing appropriate CEQA documentation with the State Clearinghouse. As a responsible agency, the Conservancy will be required to consider and make its own findings on any environmental document MWD prepares prior to any further action on the implementation phases of the projects. The Delta Conservancy retains full discretion to approve or deny the implementation phase and to adopt any further mitigation measures or alternatives identified through the environmental review process. Webb Tract is in the northeastern portion of Contra Costa County, north of Bethel Island and southwest of Bouldin Island. Webb Tract is situated entirely within the Primary Zone of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Historically, Webb Tract was used to farm corn and cattle graze, but recent cattle grazing leases were not renewed due to the island being too wet to farm and resulting poor grazing conditions. A short video about the Projects and intended outcomes is available on MWD's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/x84x0Myhmyk?si=cs2FvpiL0fDgdZNq>.

CONTACT

Lauren Damon, Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Supervisor
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Lauren.Damon@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
(916) 634-5308



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 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 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 June 26, 2024, there are 13 active projects, one closed 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 \$5,934,102 for active, awarded closed, or requested Proposition 68 projects, \$5,596,239 (94 percent) is expected to support SDAC communities.

ACTIVE PROJECTS

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 preparing 95 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 continues to finalize 90 Percent Design Plans and work towards final tasks for grant close out.

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 is working on final deliverables for project close out.

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 is working on final deliverables.

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 working on final deliverables.

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 started construction June 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 completed over three quarters of project construction.

Project Name	Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building Phase 2 (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$13,442
County	Sacramento
Project ID	P6824
Grantee	Isleton Museum
Overview	Purchase pedestal covers, wayfinding signs and restore banner to display within the Isleton Museum, located in the Bing Kong Tong Building.
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 4/8/2024
New Information	The Grantee has started banner restoration.

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	Active as of 6/26/24
New Information	The Grant Agreement was executed on June 26, 2024.

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 coordinating with Project Management subcontractor to begin project.

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 anticipates submitting a request to increase the project budget and extend the term in Fall 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 is working on a concept proposal to apply for Proposition 68 funding to support the purchase of property. After plans for acquisition of the properties are complete, work on project designs can begin.

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 received a budget amendment in March 2024 to shift \$515,896 between line items.

CLOSED PROJECTS

To date, one project funded by Proposition 68 has fully closed (acquisition). To receive a copy of a final report, please submit a written request specifying the project(s) of interest to prop68grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

Project Name	Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse & Delta Welcome Center (Acquisition)
Amount Awarded	\$310,373 (\$2,747 unspent)
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	Closed as of 5/14/2024
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review

WORKING PROPOSALS (TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$950,000)

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	DAC/SDAC	Proposal Status
P6818	Maritime Museum	Stockton Historical Maritime Museum	Planning	\$950,000	San Joaquin	SDAC	Before the Board (Agenda Item 10.1)

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS**P6802: Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse & Delta Welcome Center (Acquisition)**

The purpose of the project was to acquire a 1.13-acre parcel located at 36446 Riverview Drive in Clarksburg, California, to serve as the permanent home for the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse. Once restored, the schoolhouse will host a Delta Welcome Center and Education Center that will showcase Clarksburg's history and culture, provide a community gathering space, and provide information about tourism and recreational opportunities and the natural and historical resources of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The implementation phase of this project, which was funded through the Delta Conservancy's Proposition 68 funds (Project ID P6813), is currently underway.



Figure 9.1. Acquired property with schoolhouse under construction.

Meeting Date: July 24, 2024

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Attachment: 1

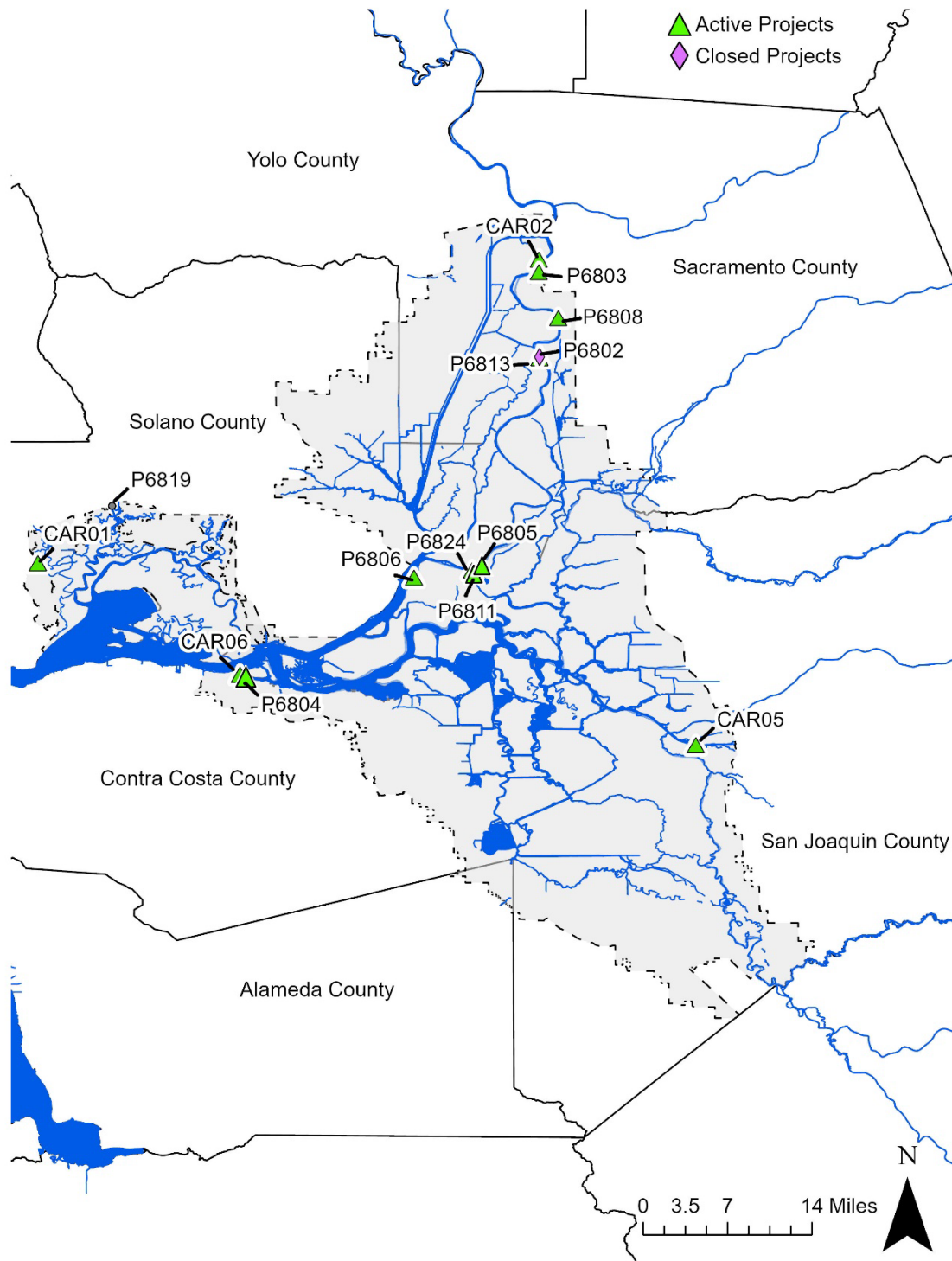
CONTACT

Maya Garrett, Ecological and Community Program Analyst
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

maya.garrett@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

(916) 634-3743

FIGURE 9.2. MAP OF LOCATION AND STATUS OF COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM PROJECTS





**Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grant Program Funds for the Stockton Maritime Museum Planning Project
Staff Recommendation**

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program funding for the Stockton Maritime Museum Planning Project (Project).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Applicant	Stockton Historical Maritime Museum
Project ID	P6818
Project Type	Planning
County	San Joaquin
Funding Request	\$950,000
Total Project Cost	\$950,000
Funding Recommendation	\$950,000

RECOMMENDATION

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$950,000 in grant funding for the Stockton Maritime Museum Planning Project (P6818) proposed by the Stockton Historical Maritime 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 Stockton Historical Maritime Museum. 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 purpose of this grant is to fund the preconstruction planning activities for construction of the Stockton Maritime Museum (Museum). The plans will include three structures replicating old shipyard buildings using material salvaged from Colberg Boat Works. The three structures include a guard shack/maintenance building; a two-story ship access building to provide ADA access to the Museum ship; and the Colberg Boat Works building that will include classrooms and a second story event center. This Project includes preliminary design producing 65 Percent Design Plans, environmental compliance and permitting, community engagement and outreach, and grant management. Once built the Museum facilities will showcase the fully restored USS Lucid, which will be docked adjacent and connected to the Museum. The USS Lucid MSO-458, the last restorable "Aggressive Class" oceangoing minesweeper remaining in the world, is currently being restored by Museum volunteers including active, wounded, and retired veterans and students from the Discovery Challenge Academy in Stockton.

Environmental Compliance

This Project is a planning project and therefore 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 the City of Stockton, the Stockton Maritime Museum Planning Project serves a severely disadvantaged community.

Cost Share

The Stockton Historical Maritime Museum, a nonprofit organization, will not contribute cost share. While planning for 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 the restoration of the ship and acquisition of the Project site.

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 Stockton Historical Maritime 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 also has approximately \$3 million in legacy gifts committed to the implementation of the Project. Lastly, local support is evident through letters from local and regional community organizations, including the Department of the Navy, Downtown Stockton Alliance, San Joaquin Community Foundation, San Joaquin Office of Education, and Visit Stockton.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Applicant's Board members had significant involvement in the preparation of materials for this Project and proposal. To ensure fair and reasonable procurement practices, any current or former members of the Applicant's Board may not bid on subcontracts of this grant.

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 Stockton Maritime Museum Planning Project is the 15th 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 \$950,000 to the Stockton Historical Maritime Museum from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Stockton Maritime Museum Planning Project.

CONTACT

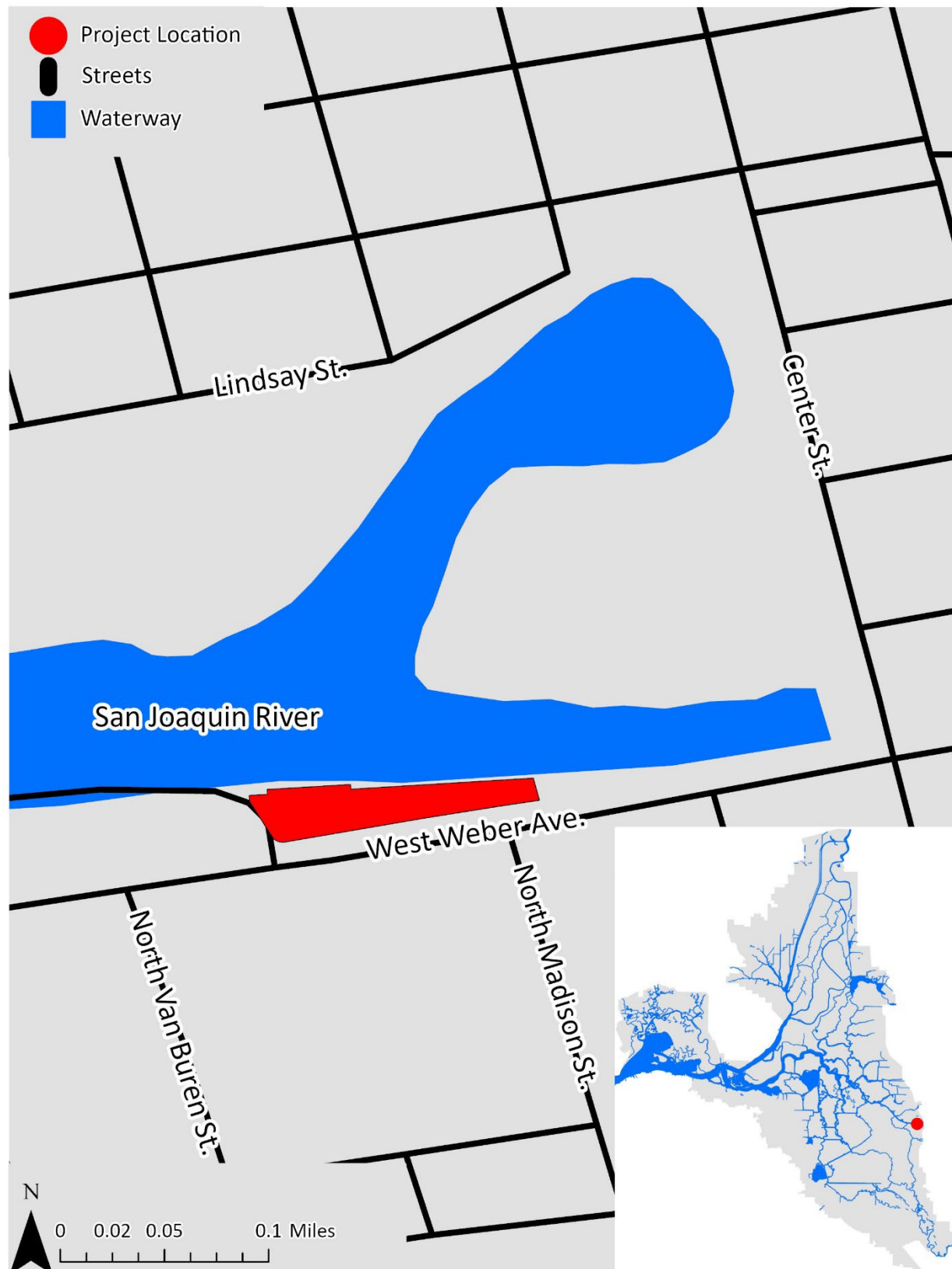
Maya Garrett, Ecological and Community Program Analyst

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

maya.garrett@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

(916) 634-3743

FIGURE 10.1. MAP OF STOCKTON MARITIME MUSEUM IN THE STOCKTON MARITIME MUSEUM PLANNING AREA PROJECT AREA





Consideration of Updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines Staff Report

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Board approval of the updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines.

DESCRIPTION

To maintain consistency with other California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) entities and implement procedural changes to invoicing processes, the following edits were made to the General Grant Guidelines:

- Addition of language clarifying that grantees must maintain, rather than submit during invoicing, documentation of 100 percent time accounting. Edits were made to page 18.
- Addition of language clarifying that grantees must maintain, rather than submit during invoicing, documentation that payment has been made. Edits were made to page 18.

BACKGROUND

On April 24, 2024, the CNRA Bonds and Grants Office released a memo to their grantees that outlined procedural changes to their invoicing (payment requests and advance payment reconciliations) submission process. Rather than requiring grantees to submit all their supporting documentation during the invoicing process, grantees are required to submit a portion of the documentation during the invoice submission process. There are no changes to the requirement that Grantees maintain all invoicing supporting documentation should the State Auditor need to review if auditing the grant. These changes create consistency across CNRA grant programs, simplify the submission process for grantees, and result in faster payment times.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has statutory authority to provide grants to state agencies, local public agencies, and nonprofit organizations to further the goals of the Conservancy (Pub. Resources Code, § 32364.5). At the January 26, 2022 meeting the Board approved the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines (GGG). At the November 12, 2022 Board meeting the Board approved updates to the GGG that addressed statewide diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. The General Grant Guidelines guide the Conservancy in granting funds not subject to more specific requirements identified within the funding source.

Since adopting the GGG, the Conservancy has used the guidelines in awarding grants from the following sources: \$5.2 million and \$6.1 million General Fund allocations for Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection; a \$36 million General Fund allocation for Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration; and \$21.5 million of General Funds provided to the Conservancy by the Department of Water Resources to support implementation of the 2022 and 2023 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

Move that the Board approve the updates to Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines for use in granting funds that are not subject to more specific requirements.

CONTACT

Dr. Sarah Lesmeister, Ecological and Community Programs Manager

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

sarah.lesmeister@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

(916) 621-8270



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

GENERAL GRANT GUIDELINES

July 24, 2024

A. Introduction

A1. Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) is a primary state agency in the implementation of ecosystem restoration in the Delta and supports efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. The Conservancy works collaboratively and in coordination with local communities, leading 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.

A2. Purpose of Grant Guidelines

These General Grant Guidelines (General Guidelines) establish the process and criteria that the Conservancy uses to administer grants for which individual grant-specific guidelines have not been adopted. Each grant provided by the Conservancy will specify the governing grant guidelines. More information can be found at: <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/grant-program/>.

A3. Contact Information

More information is available on the Conservancy's website at www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov. For questions or assistance, please contact the Delta Conservancy at (916) 375-2084 or contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

B. What the Conservancy Will Consider Funding

The Delta Conservancy supports efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents, in accordance with statewide priorities. The Conservancy will not fund activities associated with regulatory compliance responsibilities. The Conservancy may limit any funding opportunity to one or more of the following activities that further the Conservancy's mission.

1. Protect and enhance habitat and habitat restoration.
2. Protect and preserve Delta agriculture and working landscapes.
3. Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation in the Delta.
4. Promote Delta legacy communities and economic vitality in the Delta, in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission.
5. Mitigate the impacts of climate change and increase climate change resilience.

6. Increase the resilience of the Delta to the effects of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission.
7. Protect and improve water quality.
8. Assist the Delta regional economy through the operation of the conservancy's program.
9. Identify priority projects and initiatives for which funding is needed.
10. Protect, conserve, and restore the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical, and living resources.
11. Assist local entities in the implementation of their habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans.
12. Promote environmental education.

B1. Activity Types

The Conservancy may grant funds for the following types of activities.

Planning

Planning includes activities that prepare for and enable implementation activities. Receipt of a grant for planning activities does not guarantee that a grant will be provided for implementation activities.

Examples of planning activities include, but are not limited to:

- **Project scoping:** Partnership development, outreach to impacted parties, stakeholder coordination, negotiation of site access and land tenure
- **Planning and design:** Engineering design, planting plans, identifying appropriate best management practices
- **Environmental compliance:** Permitting, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) activities, Delta Plan consistency
- **Science:** Developing adaptive management and monitoring plans, baseline monitoring, biological surveys, and studies that will aid and inform the implementation activities

Pilot Projects

Pilot projects must be directly related to and inform eligible implementation activities. Pilot projects that are large in scale or duration may be considered implementation activities. The Conservancy recommends that applicants proposing a pilot project consult with Conservancy to determine the most applicable activity type.

Implementation

Implementation includes activities such as construction or improvement of a capital asset. Planning for implementation must be complete or near completion. Implementation activities that include a construction component must, at a minimum, have design plans completed to at least 65 percent level of development. Implementation activities that do not have a construction component must have completed plans at a level that the Conservancy determines to be appropriate to the activities to be implemented. Implementation activities may include final design and permitting activities. The Conservancy may require that the outputs of implementation specific to capital assets be maintained for a minimum number of years after conclusion of the Grant Funding Term.

CEQA and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance must be completed prior to grant award. CEQA and NEPA-related activities are not eligible for implementation funding.

Land Acquisition or Easement

Land acquisition is purchase of real property. An easement is a real estate ownership right (and encumbrance on the title) granted to an individual or entity to make a limited, but typically indefinite, use of the land of another. Activities that the Conservancy may choose to fund include, but are not limited to purchase, appraisals (including water rights appraisals), negotiation, due diligence, surveys, escrow fees, title insurance, and closing costs.

Research, Analysis, or Support

Research, analysis, and technical support activities provide information, data, and technical or capacity assistance that contributes to the Conservancy's mission, contributes to problem solving, advances best available science, and enables advancement of high priority initiatives. Research, Analysis, and technical assistance activities may or may not relate to specific grant-related planning or implementation activities.

B2. Grant Terms

Grant Funding Term: The period from the Effective Start Date through the Funding End Date listed on the grant agreement during which grantees may incur grant-related expenses. The Funding Term is typically three years.

Grant Term: The period, which may extend beyond the end of the Grant Funding Term, during which the outcomes of implementation activities must be maintained. Acquisitions and easements must comply with the Grant Term outlined in the applicable grant agreement.

For implementation, or land acquisition and easement activities, grantees must submit a final report and invoice at the end of the Grant Funding Term but will be held to the terms of the grant agreement until the end of the Grant Term.

Effective Start Date: The date that the grant agreement has been fully executed which entails being signed by both parties and completion of all noticing and filing required of the Conservancy. The Conservancy will provide grantees written confirmation of the Effective Start Date of their grant.

C. Eligibility Requirements

C1. Eligible Geography

The Conservancy may fund activities within or benefitting the Delta and Suisun Marsh as defined in Public Resources Code section 85058 (a map can be found at this link: <https://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/delta-plan/figure-1-1-delta-boundaries.pdf>).

The Conservancy may fund an action outside the Delta and Suisun Marsh if the Board makes all the findings described in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (CWC, div. 35, §§ 85000 – 85350). Applicants applying for funds for activities outside of the Delta and Suisun Marsh must address the following:

- How the activities implement the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan.
- How the activities are consistent with the requirements of any applicable state and federal permits.
- How the activities will provide significant benefits to the Delta.

C2. Eligible Grant Recipients:

Grants may be awarded to:

- State agencies
- Local public agencies
- Nonprofit organizations

C3. Ineligible Activities and Expenses

Activities that are not eligible for grant funding include but may not be limited to:

- Design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of water conveyance facilities.

- Activities dictated by a legal settlement or mandated to address a violation of, or an order (citation) to comply with, a law or regulation.
- Activities that subsidize or decrease the pre-existing mitigation obligations of any party.
- Monetary donations.
- Food or refreshments.
- Fees or expensed related to tours.
- Activities related to eminent domain processes.
- Subsidization or decrease the mitigation obligations of any party.
- Any other activities or expenses that the Conservancy deems inappropriate use of grant funding.

C4. Eligible Expenses

To be eligible for grant funding, activities must be conducted, and expenses must be incurred during the Grant Funding Term. Other than land acquisition costs, grant funding will be paid in arrears on a reimbursement basis. All expenses require supporting documentation and are subject to audit. Funding for all grant-related activities will be dispersed quarterly in arrears for all costs save for the cost of land acquisition, for which funds will be transferred into escrow once all requirements of the Land Acquisition Checklist have been met. Some grant funds may allow for advanced payment of funds rather than reimbursement and payments on a monthly rather than quarterly basis. If reimbursement and quarterly payments are cost prohibitive for your organization, work with Conservancy staff to determine if advanced payments are allowable in your case.

Direct Costs

Direct costs are for work specified in the scope of work, terms, and conditions of the grant agreement, and that are distinctly related to tasks and expenditures to implement activities as described in the grant agreement. The Conservancy will fund direct costs related to personnel services, operating expenses (general), operating expenses (subcontractor), operating expenses (equipment), land acquisition, and land easement costs.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs do not have a specific direct relationship to the project but are required for completion of the grant activities. The Conservancy may elect to include or exclude indirect costs as an eligible expense for a specific funding opportunity.

D. Grant Proposal and Determination Process

Funding opportunities, along with instructions and any application forms and templates specific to each opportunity, will be available through the Conservancy's website.

Grants may be competitive or non-competitive in nature. The Conservancy may define a timeframe in which it accepts proposals or accept proposals on a continuous basis. If a timeframe for proposals is specified, only proposals submitted by the submission deadline will be considered.

The Conservancy will post notice of any public workshop opportunities on its website. For competitive grants, the Conservancy will post responses to questions of universal relevance on its website. The Conservancy Board has final decision-making authority regarding grants and grant funding.

The Conservancy may use a two-step process that consists of a concept proposal and a full proposal or a one-step process that requires only a full proposal. If concept proposals are required, full proposals will only be accepted if a concept proposal was submitted.

D1. Concept Proposal

Step 1: Concept Proposal Submittal: The applicant submits a concise proposal that describes at a high level the proposed activities and budget that will form the basis for a full proposal. Applicants may, and are encouraged to, consult with the Conservancy during the drafting of their concept proposal.

Step 2: Concept Proposal Review: Conservancy staff will review concept proposals and provide feedback to all applicants to aid them in assembling a complete, clear, and responsive full proposal. Concept proposals will not be scored. All applicants will be provided with written feedback regarding their concept proposals, as well as an opportunity to meet with Conservancy staff to discuss feedback. Feedback is provided on aspects such as:

- Description of Activities
- Project Team
- Budget
- Cost Share and/or Cost Leveraging
- Alignment with State Priorities
- Long Term Benefit
- Readiness
- Local Support

- Scientific Merit

D2. Full Proposal

Step 1: The applicant submits a proposal that comprehensively describes the proposed activities, budget, and applicant and others that will conduct activities through the grant. The full proposal provides the information upon which Conservancy staff and external reviewers, if applicable, base their scoring and/or recommendations for Board consideration. Each application must include the required attachments, in the specified file type (Word or Excel), and use the templates that the Conservancy provides. For more information on components of a full proposal, see Proposal Requirements section below.

Step 2: Administrative Review: After the submission deadline, the Conservancy will conduct an administrative review of all full proposals to check for eligibility, consistency with grant requirements, and completeness. Proposals that fail to meet the administrative review requirements may not receive further consideration.

Step 3: Site Visits: Conservancy staff will conduct site visits for all implementation, pilot, and land acquisition or easement grants. At its discretion, the Conservancy may conduct site visits for planning, or research, analysis, and support grants. Applicants may be required to accompany Conservancy staff on site visits. Adjustments will be made in consideration of public health as needed.

Step 4: Full Proposal Evaluation: Full proposals will be evaluated and may be numerically scored by Conservancy staff. As needed to ensure review and evaluation appropriate to the proposed activities, the Conservancy may utilize independent reviewers from state, federal, or local agencies, academia, non-profit organizations, or other entities or individuals with technical or subject matter expertise.

Proposals that do not provide enough information to allow reviewers to adequately evaluate them may not be considered.

Full proposals will be evaluated using criteria, which may or may not include numerical scoring, specific to the funding opportunity; evaluation criteria will be specified for each funding opportunity. The Conservancy may specify a minimum score that must be obtained in order for staff to consider recommending the Board fund the proposal. Achieving the minimum score does not guarantee that the proposal will be recommended for funding, that a grant award will be made, or that an applicant will receive the requested funding. The Conservancy may specify key evaluation criteria, each of which must be deemed adequate by reviewers, regardless of the adequacy of other components of the proposal, to be considered for funding.

D3. Board Consideration

All final determinations regarding grant funding will be made by the Conservancy Board at a public meeting. The Delta Conservancy Executive Officer, with coordination of the Conservancy Board Chair and/or Vice Chair, may award grant funding for projects less than or equal to \$50,000 in time-sensitive situations. Staff recommendations regarding grant funding, and final scores, if applicable, will be posted on the Conservancy's website and shared with all applicants at least nine days in advance of the Board's consideration of grant funding. All applicants and members of the public will have the opportunity to appear before the Board at the public meeting. Any applicant whose proposal was not recommended for funding may contest the recommendations by notifying Conservancy staff in writing by 5:00 p.m. at least five business days prior to the Board meeting at which funding recommendations will be considered. The notification must describe the specific aspects of the staff recommendation that the applicant wishes to contest and provide information relevant to the grant proposal that they wish the Board to consider.

If proposals for a funding opportunity exceed the funds available, the Conservancy may choose to award partial funding to one or more proposals. The Board may also choose to designate for award proposals that were initially denied funding, should additional funding become available. If a proposal does not demonstrate strong local support or a lack of significant conflict from local interests, the Conservancy reserves the right to not fund activities or to require that the conflict is satisfactorily resolved before awarding funding. The Board may, within its discretion, approve a conditional award of funds.

D4. Grant Agreement

If funding for a grant proposal is approved, Conservancy staff will coordinate with the applicant to complete a grant agreement that specifies the scope of work, reporting requirements, specific performance measures, invoicing protocols, funding disbursement, and other terms and conditions of the grant.

E. Proposal Requirements

Required components of all full proposals includes, but are not limited to:

- Financial Management System Questionnaire and Cost Allocation Plan
- Schedule and List of Deliverables
- Line Item Budget by Task
- Justification of Expenses and How Determined to be Fair and Reasonable
- Funding by Source

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan

The following attachments are required if relevant to the proposed activities:

- California Conservation Corps Consultation
- Acquisition Table
- Performance Measures Table

The following supplementary materials are required if relevant to the proposed activities:

- Authorization or Resolution to Apply
- Organizational documents
- Acquisition information (see E12. LAND Acquisition~~E12. LAND Acquisition~~ in this document for more information)
- Maps and site plans
- Letter from landowner/water rights holder (if not the applicant)
- Final CEQA documents
- Covered action checklist
- Letters of support and cost share commitment letters
- Resolutions of support from applicable local government agencies

Formatte

E1. Conflict of Interest

Applicants are subject to state and federal conflict of interest laws. If an applicant has formerly worked for the Conservancy, presently works with the State of California, or has an existing or previous contract with the Conservancy and is contemplating applying for a grant, the applicant should consult with Conservancy staff to determine eligibility. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, Public Contract Code sections 10365.5, 10410, and 10411.

All proposals must identify current and prior relationships of all individuals or entities that will directly or indirectly receive grant funding or be responsible for substantive decision-making responsibility.

E2. Privacy Rights

Once an applicant has submitted a proposal to the Conservancy, any privacy rights, as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law with respect to the application package, are waived. All proposals are public records under the California Government Code sections 6250-6276.48 and will be provided to the public upon request.

E3. California Conservation Corps

Funding opportunities may require applicants to consult with the California Conservation Corps and the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (Corps) to determine the feasibility of using their services to implement activities unless noted exceptions apply. Planning activities and acquisition activities are generally exempt. If an applicant submits a proposal to the Conservancy for activities for which it has been determined that Corps services can be used, the applicant must identify in the proposal the appropriate Corps and the component(s) of the activities in which they will be involved, and include estimated costs for those services, and enter into a contract with the Corps if awarded a grant. Even if not required, applicants are encouraged to consult with the Corps to explore opportunities for collaboration.

E4. Environmental Compliance

Grant-funded activities must comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Delta Plan, and other environmental permitting requirements. Conservancy staff may be able to assist with the compliance process; however, the applicant is solely responsible for compliance. Applicants should be prepared to submit any permits, surveys, or reports that support the status of their environmental compliance.

For projects subject to CEQA, the Conservancy will not serve as a responsible agency unless there is no other public agency responsible for carrying out or approving the project for which the applicant seeks funding, in which case the Conservancy may serve as the lead agency. If the Conservancy is proposed to act as the lead agency for the project, the applicant must coordinate with the Conservancy, beginning at the concept proposal stage if concept proposals are applicable to the funding opportunity.

For proposed activities that include an action that is likely to be deemed a covered action pursuant to the California Water Code section 85057.5, the applicant is responsible for ensuring consistency with the Delta Plan. The Conservancy encourages all applicants to communicate with the Delta Stewardship Council to understand if their activities will need to certify their consistency with the Delta Plan. For all implementation activities, a covered action checklist must be submitted with the full proposal. For those activities that will need to certify consistency, the proposal shall include a description of how consistency will be achieved and may include in its budget the funding necessary to complete related tasks, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan. The activities must be certified as consistent with the Delta Plan before funds are disbursed for construction or the physical implementation of the activities. If the Conservancy is proposed to act as the covered action lead agency for the

proposed activities, the applicant must coordinate with the Conservancy, beginning at the concept proposal stage if concept proposals are applicable to the funding opportunity.

E5. Water Rights

Funded activities that address stream flows and water use shall comply with the Water Code as well as any applicable state or federal laws or regulations. Any activities that would require a change to water rights, including, but not limited to, bypass flows, point of diversion, location of use, purpose of use, or off-stream storage shall demonstrate in their grant proposal an understanding of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) processes, timelines, and costs necessary for approvals by SWRCB and the ability to meet those timelines within the grant funding term. In addition, any activities that involve modification of water rights for an adjudicated stream shall identify the required legal process for the change as well as associated legal costs. Proposals to acquire a permanent dedication of water must be in accordance with section 1707 of the Water Code. Specifically, the SWRCB must specify that the water proposed for acquisition is in addition to the water that is needed to meet regulatory requirements (CWC, § 79709(a)). Applicants may apply for funding from the Conservancy to complete the section 1707 petition process, but the SWRCB must approve the petition prior to the dispersal of funds for any other activities. Prior to its completion, any water right acquisition must be supported by a water rights appraisal approved by the Department of General Services, Real Property Services Section.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to comply with SWRCB regulations regarding the diversion and use of water, including ensuring that the applicant has adequate water rights to complete the activities and that the activities will not reduce or otherwise affect the rights of other water rights holders (CWC, § 79711(d)). For implementation activities and pilot projects that require water application (e.g., restoration, working lands enhancements, etc.), applicants must submit a statement number or application number for the water right they propose to use, as well as a short narrative demonstrating that the activities' water use has been considered, is reasonable, and that there is sufficient water to implement and maintain the activities without causing adverse impacts to downstream users or surrounding landowners. Conservancy staff will consult with the office of the Delta Watermaster regarding activities that propose to use water. The Delta Watermaster will review the water rights affiliated with the proposed activities and will provide an informal opinion as to whether these water rights appear to be subject to challenge. When considering if a proposal should be recommended for funding, Conservancy staff will consider the Watermaster's input and any issues identified during review.

If applicable, applicants must provide a letter of support from the entity providing water for implementation activities. The letter must verify that the water rights holder has the right to deliver water to the property on which the proposed activities will be implemented, and that the water rights holder recognizes its obligation to provide water to that property for the purposes of implementing the proposed activities. The Conservancy may at any time request that an applicant or grantee provide additional proof that it has a legal right to divert water and sufficient documentation regarding actual water availability and use.

E6. Best Available Science

All proposals with a scientific component will be evaluated on the scientific basis of the proposed activities. Applicants must provide a description of the scientific foundation of their activities, including scientific literature, studies, or expert opinion that they have consulted. Applicants must use the best available science when planning and implementing their proposed activities. A more complete review of best available science can be found in [Appendix 1A of the Delta Plan](#).

Applicants proposing ecosystem restoration and enhancement activities are encouraged to take into account the landscape considerations and guidelines discussed in A Delta Renewed: A Guide to Science-Based Ecological Restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (A Delta Renewed, SFEI-ASC, 2016) when determining appropriate habitat restoration or enhancement actions. All applicants are encouraged to consult relevant climate change-related resources, which include, but are not limited to: California Natural Resources Agency's [Safeguarding California Plan: 2018 Update](#) (particularly the Biodiversity and Habitat Section), [Cal-Adapt](#) (includes climate tools, data, and resources), the [California Climate Commons](#), Point Blue Conservation Science's [Climate-Smart Restoration Toolkit](#), [Adapting to Rising Tides \(Bay Area, Eastern Contra Costa County, and Contra Costa County\)](#), [Delta Adapts](#), and the Ocean Protection Council's [2017 Rising Seas in California: An Update on Sea-Level Rise Science](#).

E7. Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is a framework and flexible decision-making process that advances scientific understanding and increases the likelihood for activities to achieve desired goals, objectives, outcomes, and outputs in the face of uncertainties such as climate change or ecological response to management decisions. Long-term management is related to adaptive management, and the two terms are frequently conflated. Adaptive management describes the scientific process in which an entire project is embedded, whereas long-term management deals with the ongoing stewardship and maintenance. The process for collecting and analyzing science-based information – a critical component of adaptive management – should be a factor

in long-term management planning and decisions. The Conservancy will require all applicants, as relevant, to develop and utilize science-based adaptive management that is consistent with the [Delta Plan's Nine-Step Adaptive Management Framework](#). Resources and support can be found through the [Interagency Adaptive Management Coordination](#) webpage.

Depending on the status and type of proposed activities, adaptive management expectations will vary. Planning, research, analysis, or support activities may not have all nine steps fully developed but are expected to describe how they will be considered and incorporated as the activities progress. Conservation easement proposals must describe the application of an adaptive management framework but may not have much leeway to alter easement terms. Activities that employ well-established best management practices do not carry the same burden of proof as those attempting new, untested approaches. Since the adaptive management approach should be integrated throughout activities, its description will be incorporated into many sections of the proposal. Where relevant, applicants will be asked to summarize their approach to adaptive management in the Scientific Merit section of the full proposal.

E8. Performance Measures

Performance measures are used to track progress toward project goals and objectives. They provide a means of reliably measuring and reporting the implementation and effectiveness of a project and how it contributes value to the Delta, Suisun Marsh, and the state. Performance measures will be developed to reflect the unique benefits of individual projects. Conservancy staff may help in development of performance measures. All implementation, land acquisition, land easement, and pilot project proposals must include a performance monitoring and assessment framework that identifies the performance measures that will be used to demonstrate public benefits for the required length of time years following the end of the Grant Funding Term, how they will be monitored and assessed, and how monitoring data will be reported.

E9. Monitoring and Assessment Framework

In addition to identifying performance measures and long-term management, some funding opportunities may require applicants to describe their approach to monitoring and assessing performance. Applicants should incorporate standardized monitoring approaches, where applicable, into their monitoring and assessment frameworks and evaluate opportunities to coordinate with existing monitoring efforts or produce information that can readily be integrated into such efforts. If an applicant determines that the use of standardized approaches is not appropriate, the proposal must provide a clear justification and a description of the

proposed approach. Examples of standardized methods and related data portals for environmental activities include:

- **Wetland and riparian restoration:** [Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Program](#) (WRAMP) framework for data collection, [EcoAtlas](#) for data reporting
- **Water quality, toxicity, and bioassessment data:** [Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program](#) (SWAMP) for standardized methods and data collection, [California Environmental Data Exchange Network](#) (CEDEN) for data reporting
- **Coastal salmonids:** [California Coastal Monitoring Program](#) for both methods and reporting

Grantees must add projects into [EcoAtlas Project Tracker](#) as relevant and provide periodic updates.

Environmental data and information collected through Conservancy grants must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users in a timely manner, except where limited by law, regulation, policy, or security requirements. All data collected and created is a required deliverable.

E10. Long-Term Management

The Conservancy may require applicants to describe future management activities, explaining how the activities, once implemented, will be stewarded for a specified timeframe for capital assets. Properties restored, enhanced, or protected, and facilities constructed or enhanced with funds provided by the Conservancy shall be operated, used, and maintained consistent with the purposes of the grant.

E11. Land Tenure

For activities conducted on land that is not owned by the grantee, the grantee may be required to demonstrate that they have adequate site control prior to the disbursement of grant funds. At the time of application, proposals for activities that require site access may be required to describe the status of site control and provide a letter of support from the landowner(s) of the activities site(s) if the applicant is not the landowner. Once funds are awarded, grantees may be required to submit documentation showing that they have adequate site control to implement the proposed activities. For implementation activities, grantees may be required to submit documentation proving that they have adequate control to improve or restore the site, and to maintain the outputs of the activities for the required timeframe. Grantees may assign the responsibility to implement, monitor, and maintain activities and their outputs, but will still be accountable for any assigned tasks. If the grantee owns the land on which the activities are

being conducted, the grantee may be required to record the grant agreement against the deed of the property. At the discretion of the Conservancy, a Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement may be substituted for recording the grant agreement against the deed of the property. If the grantee does not own the land on which the activities will be implemented, a landowner access agreement may be required as a condition of the grant agreement and may be required to be executed and recorded before funds are disbursed. Landowner access agreements must be signed by the grantee and the landowner(s) and must include a legal description of the land on which the activities are being conducted; the Conservancy will approve as to form. A landowner access agreement template can be found on the Conservancy's [Grant Program webpage](#). Grantees that must submit a landowner access agreement, who opt not to use the template, must submit an alternate agreement that conforms to the terms of the template. Costs associated with the development of land tenure agreements may be included in the grant budget but cannot be reimbursed until the landowner access agreement is approved as to form by the Conservancy. The Conservancy may also require recording of a landowner access agreements before disbursing grant funds. For lands being acquired with Conservancy grant funds, the Land Acquisitions section, below, describes land tenure requirements.

E12. Land Acquisition

The Conservancy may award grant funds for land acquisition. Land acquisitions must adhere to the following requirements.

- Property must be acquired from a willing seller and in compliance with current laws governing acquisition of real property by public agencies in an amount not to exceed fair market value, as approved by the state.
- If a signed purchase and sale or option agreement is unavailable to be submitted with the application, a Willing Seller Letter is required from each landowner indicating they are a willing participant in the proposed real estate transaction. The letter should clearly identify the parcels to be purchased and state that "if grant funds are awarded, the seller is willing to enter into negotiations for sale of the property at a purchase price not to exceed fair market value."
- Once a proposal is submitted, another property cannot be substituted for the property specified in the application. Therefore, it is imperative that the applicant demonstrate that the seller is negotiating in good faith, and that discussions have proceeded to a point of confidence.
- The Department of General Services (DGS) must review and approve all appraisals of real property. Appraisals must comply with section 5096.510 of the Public Resources Code. The Conservancy will not directly pay the Department of General Services to

review and approve the required appraisal; the grantee must pay DGS directly for this expense and seek reimbursement from the Conservancy.

Land acquisitions are also subject to a specific set of additional requirements that must be met prior to and immediately after closing escrow. The Conservancy will provide a Land Acquisition Checklist to assist applicants and grantees. Note that the Conservancy will do an assessment of mineral rights based on information provided by the applicant. Based on its assessment, the Conservancy will determine whether the risk posed by exercising existing mineral rights and the related consequences for intended conservation purposes is acceptable to the Conservancy. If the Conservancy determines that the risk is not acceptable and the risk cannot be reduced to an acceptable level within a reasonable amount of time, then the Conservancy may rescind the grant award.

In addition to the purchase of real property, applicants may seek reimbursement for costs associated with personnel time, appraisal and appraisal review, due diligence costs, closing costs, and other costs related to the acquisition of real property. In total, other costs related to the acquisition of real property may not exceed 10 percent of the land acquisition cost that is being requested from the Conservancy. The cost of land acquisition may not be factored into the indirect cost calculation. Funding for all grant-related activities will be dispersed quarterly in arrears for all costs save for the cost of land acquisition, for which funds will be transferred into escrow once all requirements of the Land Acquisition Checklist have been met. Some grant funds may allow for advanced payment of funds rather than reimbursement and payments on a monthly rather than quarterly basis. If reimbursement and quarterly payments are cost prohibitive for your organization, work with Conservancy staff to determine if advanced payments are allowable in your case.

Land acquisitions must address all requirements pertinent to implementation activities, including the development of scientific outputs and outcomes and a performance monitoring and assessment framework. The following additional information is required at the time of application:

- A table including parcel numbers, acreage, willing seller name and address, breakdown of how the funds will be budgeted, and an acquisition schedule (a template is available on the Conservancy's web page)
- Copy of the Purchase and Sale or Option Agreement, or Willing Seller Letter(s)
- Appraisal or justification of estimated Fair Market Value
- Map showing lands that will be acquired, including parcel lines and numbers

Proposals for acquisition of real property must also address:

- The intended use of the property
- The manner in which the land will be managed
- How the cost of ongoing operations, maintenance, and management will be provided, including an analysis of the maintaining entity's financial capacity to support those ongoing costs
- How payments will be provided in lieu of taxes, assessments, or charges otherwise due to local government, if applicable

E13. Budget

Using the Budget Tables provided with the full proposal application materials, applicants must identify all expenses for which Conservancy funds are being requested. **All budget numbers must be demonstrated to be fair and reasonable, consistent across budget tables, and fully explained and justified. Related-party contracts are prohibited.** All expenses must be eligible and be organized by the following cost categories.

- **Personnel Services:** Personnel rates may only include salary and wages, fringe benefits, and payroll taxes. Compensation for personnel services includes all compensation paid by the organization for services of employees during the Grant Funding Term. The expenditures are allowable to the extent that the total compensation for individual employees is supported and reasonable for the services rendered. Fringe benefit expenses may include holidays, vacation, sick leave, actual employer contributions or expenses for social security, employee insurance, workmen's compensation insurance, and pension plan costs. Grantees must ~~provide-maintain~~ timesheets with 100 percent time accounting ~~to the Conservancy~~ to support invoices.
- **Operating Expenses (General):** General Operating Expenses include all materials and supplies, such as field supplies, office supplies, permits and fees, travel expenses, and other general expenses required to directly implement grant activities. All costs should be allocated according to the most equitable basis practical. ~~During invoicing, all expenses must be supported by receipts or other documentation payment has been made (not just incurred).~~ For all invoiced expenses, grantees must maintain receipts or other documentation to demonstrate payments have been made (not just incurred).
- **Operating Expenses (Subcontractor):** Subcontractor expenses, including equipment rentals, are allowable if work to be completed or services to be provided are directly linked to the proposed activities and are consistent with the tasks and schedule provided in the proposal. Note that subcontractor expenses may not be factored into the indirect cost calculation. Grantees must provide copies of all contracts to the Conservancy.

- **Operating Expenses (Equipment):** Equipment includes nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and a unit price of \$5,000 or more, as well as theft-sensitive items of equipment costing less than \$5,000 (such as electronics). All equipment purchased or built by the Grantee is owned by the Grantee during the Funding Term. The Conservancy will only reimburse for a cost proportionate to the usage of the equipment for the activities being funded by the Conservancy. Equipment purchases are allowable, if specified as a requirement for the completion of the activities. However, justification for the purchase of equipment must be provided at the time of application. The Grantee is required to maintain accountability for all property purchased and to keep, and make available to the Grantor, adequate and appropriate records of all equipment purchased with grant funds. Grantees must keep an inventory record including the date acquired, total cost, serial number, model identification, and any other information or description necessary to identify said equipment for the duration of the Grant Funding Term. Note that equipment expenses may not be factored into the indirect cost calculation.
- **Acquisition Cost:** The acquisition cost includes only the purchase of real property or conservation easement. In total, appraisal and appraisal review, personnel time, due diligence costs, closing costs, and other costs related to the acquisition of real property or conservation easement may not exceed 10 percent of the acquisition cost that is being requested from the Conservancy. Note that the acquisition cost may not be factored into the indirect cost calculation.
- **Indirect Costs:** Indirect costs that do not have a specific direct relationship to the grant activities but are a requirement for the completion of the activities may be eligible for reimbursement. If allowed, indirect costs may only be applied as a percentage of personnel services and will be limited to the percentage set by the Conservancy, not to exceed twenty percent of personnel services. Indirect costs over twenty percent that are paid by the grantee may qualify as cost share for the grant. Indirect costs must be reasonable, allocable, applicable, and must provide benefit to the grant funded activities. Indirect costs may include expenses such as administrative support (e.g., personnel time for accounting, executive, information technology, or other staff who support the implementation of the proposed activities but are not directly billing their time to the grant) and office-related expenses (e.g., insurance, rent, utilities, printing/copying equipment, computer equipment, and janitorial expenses), and other similar expenses that are not direct expenses and are not included in the hourly rate for personnel services that are a direct expense for the grant. Indirect rates are strictly enforced for all applicants. Applicants must provide their indirect cost rate, explain the

methodology for calculating it, and describe the cost pool used to calculate the indirect cost rate. Indirect costs are subject to audit and must be documented by the grantee.

Budget Tables should include costs for the tasks described in the full proposal and must demonstrate how grant management and reporting costs will be funded, either by the Conservancy grant funds or by cost share or state-leveraged funds. Applicants should review other Conservancy requirements that may be eligible for Conservancy grant funding (e.g., Delta Plan consistency, developing a landowner access agreement, etc.) and include these in their budgets where applicable.

Applicants must also identify cost share contributions if receiving funding for the activities from a source other than the Conservancy.

E14. Cost Share and State-Leveraged Funds

Cost share is the portion of the cost for proposed grant activities borne by private, local, and/or federal funding partners (other state funds may not count toward the cost share). Cost sharing encourages collaboration and cooperation, and the Conservancy may require cost share for grant funding opportunities. Even if cost match is not required for a particular funding opportunity, applicants are encouraged to cost share to support their proposed activities. Cost share percent is calculated by dividing the total cost share from federal, local, or private sources by the total dollar amount requested from the Conservancy.

In-kind contribution is defined as all non-cash contributions to the grant activities from private, local, and/or federal funding partners, that have an assigned value; this may include volunteer time, supplies, and equipment. The Conservancy may require that in-kind contributions be matched with cash cost share at a one-to-one ratio (for example, if a grant has \$25,000 of cash cost share, the maximum qualifying in-kind contribution is \$25,000).

The Conservancy will also consider, and may provide points if scored, for the leveraging of state funds. Leveraged funds do not count toward cost share. Applicants stating that they are leveraging other state funds must include commitment letters from leverage partners when submitting the full proposal, and funds must be spent during the Grant Funding Term. The Conservancy may require that in-kind contributions from state leveraged sources be matched with cash cost share at a one-to-one ratio.

Only commitments made explicitly for the proposed activities may count as cost share, in-kind contribution, or leveraged funds. Applicants stating that they have a cost share, in-kind, or leveraged funds must include commitment letters from partners at the time the full proposal is submitted; the letters must specifically confirm the dollar amount and/or in-kind cash value

committed. The Conservancy may require that Cost share, in-kind contributions, and leveraged funds be spent during the Grant Funding Term.

E15. Financial Management Systems Questionnaire and Cost Allocation Plan

A Financial Management Systems Questionnaire and Cost Allocation Plan form is required from all applicants at the time of full proposal (a template will be available through the Conservancy's website). The information provided will be used to assess the applicant's financial capacity for managing the proposed grant.

The Cost Allocation Plan should be tailored to fit the specific policies of the applicant. The plan requires information about how the applicant allocates costs to ensure an equitable distribution of costs to programs. Recipients must have a system in place to equitably charge costs.

E16. Demonstration of Local Support

Applicants are expected to demonstrate local support by describing in their proposals both public and institutional support for the activities, including how the community and stakeholders are engaged in the activities. Letters of support may also be included. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact, seek support from, and coordinate with applicable state agencies, cities, counties, local districts, other public and private stakeholders, and surrounding landowners. If an applicant has a specific resolution of support from the affected city, county, or local district, it should be included with the full proposal to facilitate the overall assessment process. A resolution of support from the Board of Supervisors from the county in which the activities are proposed to be conducted may be required as part of the full proposal.

E17. Local Notifications

The Conservancy will notify local government agencies – such as counties, cities, and local districts – and tribal organizations about eligible grant activities in their area being considered for funding. The Conservancy will also notify the applicable public water agency, levee, flood control, or drainage agency (when appropriate). The individual Conservancy Board members representing each of the five Delta counties will also be notified and may wish to communicate with the affected entities. For land acquisitions, the Conservancy will coordinate and consult with the Delta Protection Commission and the city or county in which a grant is proposed to be implemented or an interest in real property is proposed to be acquired. The Conservancy will work with the grantee to make all reasonable efforts to address concerns raised by local government entities.

E18. Consultation and Cooperation with State and Local Agencies

It is the responsibility of grantees to coordinate and cooperate with the appropriate state and local agencies with interests in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. State Departments may include but are not limited to: the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, the Delta Stewardship Council, the California Natural Resources Agency's EcoRestore program, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Delta Protection Commission (grantees are encouraged to utilize their Good Neighbor Checklist as relevant). It also may include applicable Native American tribal governments.

If activities are proposed to be funded by multiple agencies or entities, the Conservancy strongly encourages applicants to contact the applicable agencies or departments prior to applying for funding to discuss options for funding activities. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that proposals submitted to each potential funder describe the specific work that will be funded by all applicable entities. The proposed scope of each proposal must be distinct and without overlap. Applicants must describe the overall project and how the proposals relate.

E19. Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities

Many communities in the Legal Delta and Suisun Marsh are considered disadvantaged communities (DAC) or severely disadvantaged communities (SDAC). A DAC is a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average (based on the U.S. Census). Applicants must identify any disadvantaged communities that overlap with the footprint of the proposed activities or would be served by the proposed activities. Mapping resources available for the purpose of identifying SDACs and DACs by census tract and/or block group are available on the Parks for All Californians website (<http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>) and the Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>). The Conservancy may consider other means of identifying SDACs and DACs as well.

E20. Coordination with Tribes, Communities of Color, and other Underrepresented Groups

Applicants are strongly recommended to engage in early, meaningful, and often coordination with Native American tribes and tribal communities, communities of color and other underrepresented groups. If the proposal is citing benefit to one or more community, the applicant must demonstrate how they are working with that community to ensure community support.

F. Requirements if Funded

F1. Grant Provisions

For each awarded grant, the Conservancy will develop an individual grant agreement with detailed provisions and requirements specific to approved activities.

- Grant awards are conditional upon funds being available from the state (see Loss of Funding section, below).
- For implementation activities, funds for construction or physical implementation will not be disbursed until all required environmental compliance and permitting documents have been received by the Conservancy, including certification of consistency with the Delta Plan.
- As part of the grant agreement, the grantee is required to certify that it is the grantee's responsibility to comply with all federal, state, and local laws that apply to the activities.
- Grant funds will not be paid if any of the following conditions occur:
 - The grantee has been non-responsive or does not meet the conditions outlined in the grant agreement.
 - The activities have received alternative funding from other sources that duplicates the portion of work or costs funded by a Conservancy grant.
 - The activities have changed and is no longer eligible for funding.
 - Work was conducted outside of the grant funding term.
 - The applicant requests to end the grant.

F2. Reporting

All grantees must provide regular progress reports and a final report. The final report must be approved by Conservancy staff prior to the release of the final disbursement of grant funds. Specific reporting requirements will be included in the grant agreement.

F3. Amendments

Applicants should very carefully consider the Scope of Work and budget for the proposed activities as amendments to grant agreements will generally only be considered by the Conservancy for unavoidable circumstances where no other feasible solution exists. If an unanticipated situation arises which jeopardizes the approved activities, it is imperative that the grantee contact the Conservancy Grant Manager as soon as possible to discuss options.

F4. Signage and Recognition

Grantees shall inform the public of activities received funds through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. Grantees shall recognize the Conservancy on signs, websites, press or promotional materials, advertisements, publications, digital content, or exhibits that they prepare or approve and that reference grant-funded activities. For implementation activities, grantees shall post signs at activity sites acknowledging the source of the funds. Size, location, number of signs, and draft design shall be approved by the Conservancy. Whenever possible, Grantees shall notify the Conservancy at least ten working days prior to any public event or media feature publicizing the accomplishments and/or results of the activities and provide the opportunity for attendance and participation by Conservancy representatives.



**Consideration to Take Action Outside the Delta and Suisun Marsh for Clean Vessel Act Program
Proposal
Staff Report**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve findings to allow Staff to conduct education, outreach, and monitoring of sites located outside of the legal Delta and Suisun Marsh for the Clean Vessel Act Program.

DESCRIPTION

Conservancy Staff are interested in submitting a grant proposal to California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), Clean Vessel Act Education and Outreach Grant Program. The objectives of the grant program are to provide education, outreach and monitoring to inform the boating community about sewage related issues, impacts, available resources, proper disposal practices, and encourage the use of pumpout facilities and mobile pumpout services. The grant program focuses on two targeted regions: San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary and Southern California coastal counties. Two grants will be awarded – one for each of the targeted regions.

For over 15 years, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) has led the Clean Vessel Program in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary but recently expressed interest in sunsetting their involvement in the program. As part of the monitoring component, SFEP has identified more than 80 pumpout facilities at 65 locations in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. Nearly 90 percent of the pumpout stations are located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Suisun Marsh, and the San Francisco Estuary. However, nine stations are located outside the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary in Monterey and other Northern California counties. To submit a competitive proposal, Staff recommends that the Board consider findings so Staff may take action outside the legal Delta and Suisun Marsh. If approved, Staff anticipate less than 80 hours of staff time, per year, to conduct monitoring efforts in other Northern California coastal areas.

Public Resources Code section 32360.5 requires the Board make certain findings to take action for activities outside the Delta. Staff recommends the Board find that an implementation project resulting from the award of funds to the Delta Conservancy to support the Clean Vessels Program in the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary will meet the following requirements: (1) the project implements the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan by protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem; (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 protecting and enhancing recreational values of the Delta and water quality for human and environmental health.

Staff believes these qualifications have been met:

- 1) Staff believes the project meets the Delta Plan ecosystem goals by protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The primary objective of this grant is to prevent water pollution and improve water quality by educating boaters about use pumpout and dump stations and monitoring conditions of pumpout stations. Nearly 90 percent of the pumpout stations are located in or are hydrologically connected to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh.

2-4) Staff have taken steps to ensure compliance.

5) In addition to advancing the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan, Staff believes this Project provides significant benefits to the Delta, protecting and enhancing the recreational values of the Delta and improving water quality to protect human health and the environment (Chapters five and six of the Delta Plan). Improper sewage discharge creates environmental and human health problems and may discourage recreation and tourism. Many boaters travel to locations throughout California; by educating boaters throughout the State, boaters who visit the Delta for recreation will be more informed about best practices for sewage management. Monitoring pumpout and dump stations will help ensure they are operational and accessible which will decrease discharging sewage directly into waterways.

BACKGROUND

The California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), Clean Vessel Act Education and Outreach Grant Program uses federal Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund grants to support programs that educate California boaters and increase public awareness about boat sewage management and proper disposal. The grant program is aimed at all coastal recreational boaters including the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, but most specifically those with onboard holding tanks in two targeted geographic regions: the 13-county San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary and the six Southern California coastal counties. DBW will fund two grants, one for each targeted California region, to develop and implement a 12-month boater education, outreach, and vessel pumpout monitoring program. There is a maximum of \$560,062 available statewide, and each region is eligible for a maximum of \$280,031.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

Move that the Board approve findings to permit Staff to conduct education, outreach, and monitoring of sites located outside of the legal Delta and Suisun Marsh for the Clean Vessel Act Program.

CONTACT

Dr. Sarah Lesmeister, Ecological and Community Programs Manager
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
sarah.lesmeister@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
(916) 621-8270



Delta Conservancy 2024 Implementation Plan Status Update Staff Report

This item presents the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy's (Conservancy) progress toward meeting the goals of the 2024 Implementation Plan.

DESCRIPTION

Staff provides the Board with a mid-year status update on work identified in the Implementation Plan. The Conservancy has made steady progress toward the 2024 Implementation Plan goals and, overall, work is progressing according to the timelines. A summary of progress in achieving 2024 Implementation Plan goals is detailed in Agenda Item 13.2.

BACKGROUND

The [2022-2027 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan](#) was adopted by the Board in January 2022. The Strategic Plan provides a high-level road map and sets objectives and performance measures to achieve them. The annual Implementation Plan, which provides a more detailed accounting of the tasks the Conservancy will undertake this year to implement the Strategic Plan, was adopted by the Board in January 2024.

CONTACT

Karen Buhr, Deputy Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
karen.buhr@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
(916) 996-8117



Delta Conservancy 2024 Implementation Plan Status Update

2024 AT A GLANCE

Project Initiation

- Two projects awarded
- 6 new grant and contract agreements executed

Project Management

- 145 invoices processed
- Eight amendments processed
- 58 projects closed out

List of projects/efforts not included in January 2024

- RCPP grant Proposal
- NFWF grant Proposal
- Clean Vessel Act Education and Outreach Grant Program Proposal
- Delta Science Program Research Award Proposals
- Conservancy Lite
- Board member conversations
- Continue advancing carbon projects

2024 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATES

Table 1: 2024 Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
The Conservancy will identify and apply for alternative sources of funding to support ERCA projects	Ongoing	Staff are working with partners to pursue a \$5 million grant from the National Foundation for Fish and Wildlife: American the Beautiful Challenge to implement at least two Conservancy-funded planning projects.
The Conservancy will update protocols and procedures to complete RAPTR database transition	Q4	Planned for Q4 2024

Table 2: Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team (DIISCT) 2024 Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Hold four quarterly Team meetings to coordinate and exchange information	Ongoing	The first two quarterly Team meetings took place in February and May. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for August and November.
Continue to identify high-priority research topics to better inform conservation work	Ongoing	Staff are facilitating a working group to develop guidance for adaptive management of invasive aquatic vegetation in tidal wetland restoration sites.
Utilize the early detection and rapid response framework if new threats emerge	Ongoing	Staff continue to follow state and federal efforts to promote EDRR, including sharing funding opportunities with the Team.
Continue to follow up on the symposium to build on valuable insights, contacts, and connections	Q1-Q2	Staff coordinated with the Suisun Resource Conservation District to present to their landowner workshop in September (Q3).

Table 3: Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Subcommittee (RSC) 2024 Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Provide forums for meaningful community participation in Delta restoration efforts	Ongoing	RSC (Conservancy and DSC) staff organized an RSC meeting on March 7 that provided (1) a presentation on the impacts of invasive aquatic vegetation in tidal wetland restoration sites, (2) a summary of the Delta-Suisun tidal wetland restoration symposium, and (3) a summary of the November 2023 Delta Restoration Forum.
Increase interagency collaboration to streamline restoration implementation	Ongoing	RSC staff surveyed the Delta Science Tracker for restoration projects and began collaboration among Conservancy and DSC staff to create standards for reporting.
Identify opportunities in restoration planning and long-term management efforts	Ongoing	RSC staff worked to expand tools for modeling the impacts of various management decisions and review capacity of existing restoration monitoring programs.
Increase transparency and coordination around existing, new, and needed restoration funding	Ongoing	RSC staff continue to disseminate information about new and existing funding opportunities.

Table 4: Delta Carbon and Subsidence Management 2024 Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
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	Staff submitted a \$25 million grant application to the Natural Resource Conservation Service to support an additional 7,500 to 8,500 acres of rice conversion or managed wetland restoration that will halt subsidence and reduce carbon emissions; Staff are also pursuing two research grants with the Delta Science Program to identify barriers to marsh restoration and paludiculture in the Delta.
Continue working with partners to advance GHG avoidance and subsidence halting/reversal projects in the Delta	Ongoing	Provided technical assistance on Conservancy-funded Nature Based Solutions projects to support outreach, public engagement, and climate goals. Worked with project partners to identify additional opportunities for GHG avoidance and subsidence halting/reversal projects in the Delta. Continued efforts to ensure projects are in ready-to-fund condition when funding becomes available.

Table 5: 2024 Land Ownership, Easements, and Management Strategy Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Have relevant Conservancy policies for acquiring and managing land and easements	Q1-Q3	Rough policy guidance has been developed. Met with DWR to discuss the possibility of the Conservancy holding title to the Tides End project in the Lower Bypass once restoration is complete in 2 to 3 years.

Table 6: Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP) 2024 Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Use water efficiency knowledge gained from 2022 and 2023 DDRPP projects to inform future selections should the program be continued	Complete	Recommendations for future programs are detailed in the 2023 DDRPP Report.
Work with partners to evaluate the efficacy of practices and produce a final report that will share results	Complete	The final 2022 and 2023 DDRPP Reports are both available on the Conservancy's website.
Host a forum for program partners, local researchers, Delta growers, and community members to communicate results and analysis of the 2024 DDRPP final report	Complete	The DDRPP Forum was held on June 20, 2024 and attended by more than 50 individuals, including DDRPP applicants and enrollees, staff from Delta water agencies, scientists from the State and academia, and interested members of the public.

Table 7: Delta Fish Friendly Farming 2024 Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Certify acres committed to within the grant agreement	Complete	Staff completed certification visits for all enrolled sites during Q1. The Fish Friendly Farming Program is now complete.

Table 8: 2024 Community Enhancement Grant Program (CEP) Strategic Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
The Conservancy will identify and apply for alternative sources of funding to support CEP projects	Ongoing	Staff are actively pursuing a \$275,000 grant from California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways for education, outreach, and monitoring to encourage boaters to use appropriate pumpout stations to maintain healthy waterways. Staff will pursue other opportunities as funding becomes available.
Proactively identify and recommend projects that enhance the Delta community, especially disadvantaged communities	Ongoing	Staff are working with project proponents to identify projects that enhance the Delta community.
Staff intends to recommend projects for the remaining \$4.4 million Proposition 68 funds	Ongoing	Staff are recommending \$0.9 million of the \$4.4 million for consideration of award (see Agenda Item 10.1).
The Conservancy will update protocols and procedures to complete RAPTR database transition	Q4	Planned for Q4 2024

Table 9: 2024 Delta Marketing Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Install 11 signs per the Delta Sign Plan	Ongoing	There are currently two signs up: one on Hood-Franklin Road and one on Jefferson Boulevard. Caltrans is no longer able to install the signs due to a structural design issue. The rest of the signs are on hold until the Delta Protection Commission can determine the best path forward.
Continue to raise awareness of Delta tourism and recreational opportunities	Ongoing	Staff participated in several events this year, including Earth Day at CNRA and the Honored Elders Day Event. During these events Staff share materials that encourage people to visit and learn about the Delta.

Table 10: 2024 Delta Week Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Expand on Delta Week efforts with external entities	Q3	Staff are engaging with local groups to increase awareness among the public.
Create a vision for Delta Week	Ongoing	Staff are developing collateral that expands upon last year's social media campaign and outreach.

Table 11: 2024 Waterway Cleanup Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Organize Delta cleanups that involve local community groups	Ongoing	Staff coordinated with a local group for a spring cleanup at Sherman Island. Staff are currently planning additional cleanups in the fall as part of Coastal Cleanup Day.

Table 12: 2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Update DAC bylaws (if needed), set annual goals, and meet quarterly	Quarterly	Completed January 2024
Conduct DEI working group meetings to implement the DEI Action Plan	Ongoing	Switched focus to consider DEI for each project/process/policy etc. Staff receive mandatory DEI trainings.
Continue to engage with agencies and partners for shared learning, best practices, and opportunities to advance equity	Ongoing	Participate in multiple DEI or tribal-focused groups through DGS, CNRA, and Delta agencies. Groups support either coordination of efforts or provide lessons learned, tools, and resources.

Table 13: 2024 Administrative Goals

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Continue to update processes, procedures, policies, and create division manuals	Q4	Staff updates processes and procedures as needed. 22 Conservancy policies were reviewed by CalHR legal and will be sent to Labor Relations for their review.
Complete the reorganization of the Conservancy's shared drive	Q3	Vendor has been secured and on track to complete in Q3.
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	As of Q2, required reports, plans, and proposals have been submitted. The Federal Indirect Cost Rate Proposal was delayed due to workload and submitted in July.
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	Received DGS/PD Accreditation findings in June 2024 and completed Corrective Action Plan in early July.
Continue enrollment in professional development trainings and team-building activities	Ongoing	All trainings were cancelled from December 2023 through June 2024 per the budget freeze order. The restrictions were lifted in June 2024. Staff training will resume in Q3.
Establish procedures for annual Individual Development Plans for staff	Q4	On track.
Surplus goods and equipment from office	Q1	Staff submitted 13 Property Survey Reports (STD. 152) to surplus a variety of excess and obsolete office equipment. Will continue surveys in Q3 and Q4.

2024 Goals	Timeline	Updates
Create a legislative outreach plan	Q4	Identified key legislative members at the federal and state level and met with regularly. Conservancy staff created collateral to better inform legislators about the needs in the Delta.
Participate in CNRA and other legislative groups to track legislation affecting the Conservancy and the Delta	Ongoing	Regularly attend CNRA-sponsored legislative meetings and analyze CNRA-created bill lists to make sure the needs of the Delta and the Conservancy are being met.



The 2023 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Report and Technical Analysis Staff Report

DESCRIPTION

This agenda item presents an overview of the 2023 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (Program/DDRPP) Report (Report), which includes a technical appendix that analyzes water savings and evapotranspiration estimates on enrolled acres. The objectives of the 2023 Program were to evaluate if changing specific field management practices could result in water savings during water year 2023; protect Delta water quality by providing additional incremental instream flow benefits to reduce the effects of salinity on water quality; mitigate potential drought impacts on fish and migratory birds; and promote soil health. The 2023 Report focuses on the results from the 2023 water year (October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023) with a short analysis comparing fields enrolled in both the 2022 and 2023 Program. The full Report is available on the Delta Conservancy's [Delta Drought Response Pilot Program webpage](#).

With \$10.8 million provided by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Delta Conservancy solicited bids from growers through a reverse auction process, which opened on October 3, 2022 and closed on October 18, 2022. The competitive aspect of the auction, combined with the variety of costs across different farmers and locations, brought the cost per acre enrolled down substantially when compared to the fixed price scheme used for DDRPP 2022. A total of 61 projects, encompassing 18,450 acres, were successfully enrolled in the 2023 Program. Enrolled fields were assigned to a variety of water conservation practices and beneficial bird habitat practices.

The DDRPP Oversight Committee performed analyses using OpenET, a non-invasive and open-source satellite-based method, to evaluate consumptive water use and estimate water savings. The analysis found that, though growers in the Delta were willing to undertake water conservation practices, and all enrolled growers decreased applied water, the maximum estimated water savings for all fields enrolled in the 2023 DDRPP was 1,890 acre-feet — or 0.2 acre-feet/acre. This is in line with the savings estimates from 2022, which were also low. However, there was wide variation in the estimated savings among fields, with some areas showing more potential for effective water savings than others. Even though water savings were lower than initially anticipated, the Program provided a wealth of data about water use and incentives in the unique and complex setting of the legal Delta. There are several key takeaways from this analysis:

- Reducing applied irrigation may not be sufficient to produce substantial water savings within the legal Delta, especially at low elevations.
- Agricultural areas at lower elevations resulted in water savings less consistently, and areas at higher elevations show more potential for water savings and lower cost/acre-foot of water saved. Future programs could use elevation as a project selection criterion and/or focus on areas farther up in the watershed.

- In addition to field elevation, variation among fields may have been driven by crop type, vegetation management, soil type, and local flooding.
- OpenET makes it possible to cost-effectively study water use to improve the precision of water conservation guidance. Additional studies could identify field characteristics, practices, and regions likely to produce the most cost-effective and efficient agricultural water savings — within the Delta and beyond.
- Estimated average water use was slightly higher in the 2023 water year than in the 2022 water year, likely due to higher soil moisture.
- Droughts are multi-year and variable, and a program to address drought needs to be flexible enough to respond to that variability. Future water conservation programs could work with growers to build in flexibility for postponement or rapid deployment of practices, depending on water year conditions.
- Future water conservation programs and regulations will need to balance actions that produce the most water savings with consideration for climate and biodiversity objectives.

The Program also provided an opportunity for the Conservancy to strengthen its connections with Delta growers and water users. To further develop these relationships, the Conservancy convened a forum on June 20, 2024 to present the results of the 2023 DDRPP and to solicit feedback. The forum was attended by more than 50 individuals representing Delta growers, Delta water agencies, State workers, and interested members of the public. Attendees heard presentations from the Delta Conservancy, the Office of the Delta Watermaster (ODWM), the UC Davis research team, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Feedback was gathered during two interactive sessions facilitated by collaborators from the UC Cooperative Extension.

BACKGROUND

The Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (the Program/DDRPP) was funded by DWR and administered through an interagency agreement with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. The DDRPP launched in January 2022 as a response to the continuing risk of drought in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed. The information derived from the 2022 DDRPP analysis was sufficiently valuable to warrant refinement and redeployment of a follow-up Pilot Program during water year 2023. The second year of the pilot program included additional goals and an updated implementation approach. The 2023 Program was developed and overseen through a partnership with DWR, the Delta Conservancy, ODWM, TNC, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, UC Merced, the UC Cooperative Extension, and conducted in coordination with Delta water users.

CONTACT

Rachel Lane, Environmental Scientist
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
rachel.lane@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
(916) 612-9576

Dr. Rachel Wigginton, Senior Environmental Scientist
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
rachel.wigginton@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
(916) 634-3682



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2023 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Outcomes

Board Meeting
July 24, 2024

Outline

- Program Background
- Overview of 2023 DDRPP Analysis
- Conclusions & Recommendations
- Questions

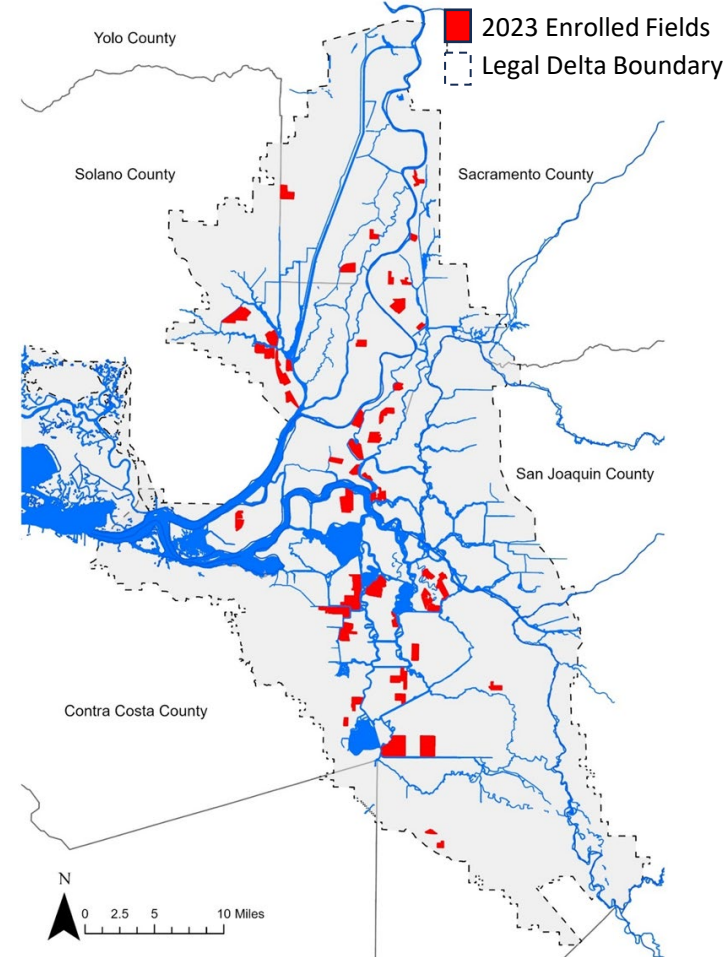
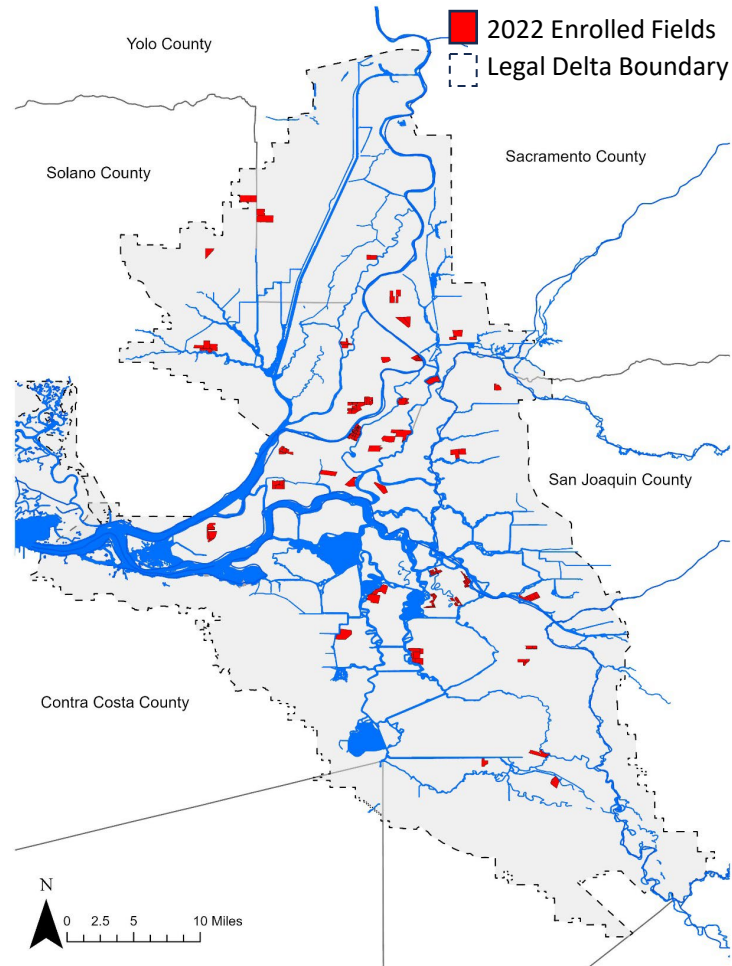


2023 DDRPP field growing safflower

Key Differences between 2022 to 2023

In 2023:

- Reverse auction and bid selection
- Increase in acreage enrolled and decrease in cost per acre enrolled
- Addition of bird benefits practices





2023 DDRPP Objectives

Evaluate if changing specific field management practices could result in water savings during water year 2023

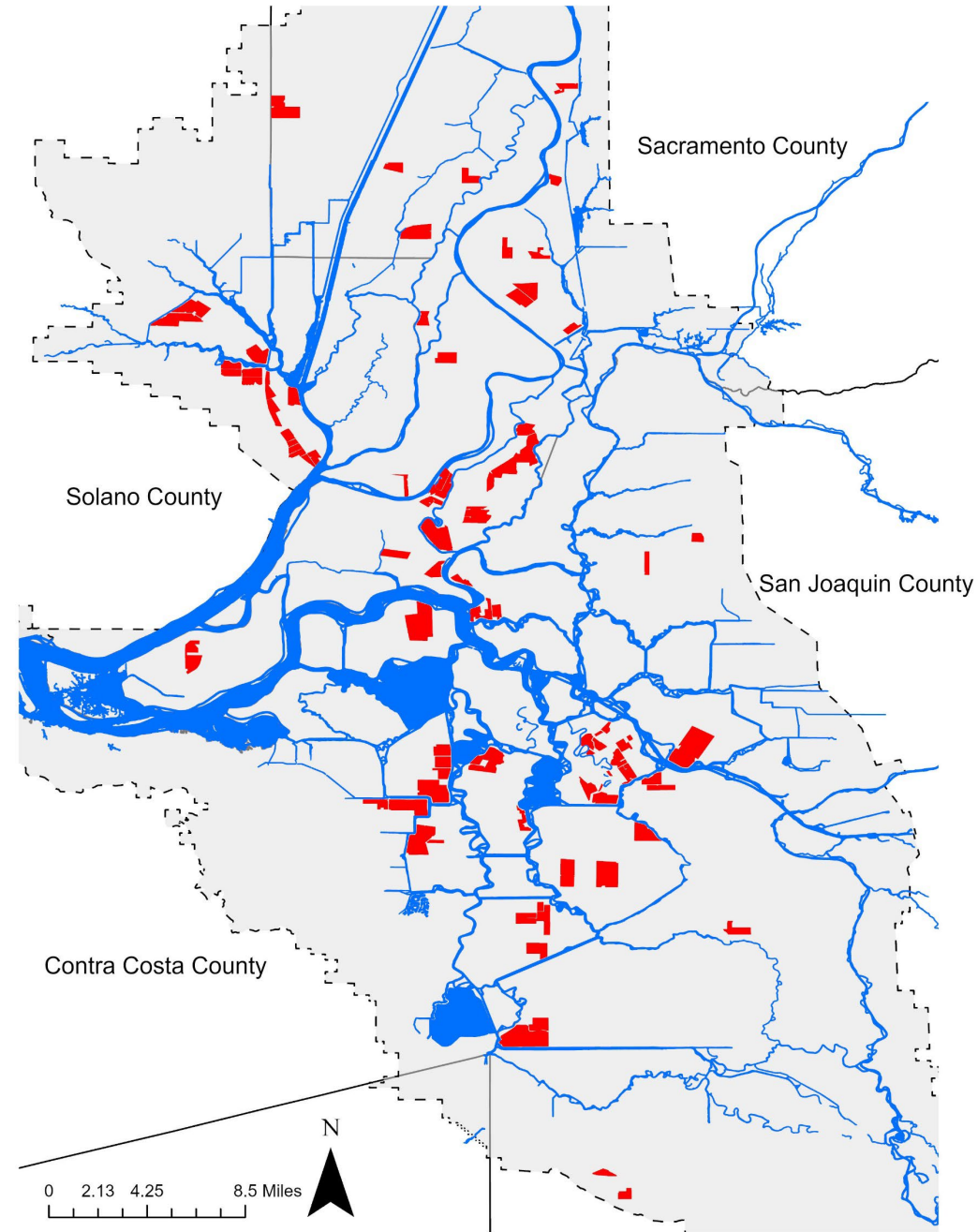
Protect Delta water quality by providing additional incremental instream flow benefits to reduce salinity effects on water quality

Mitigate potential drought impacts on fish and migratory birds

Promote soil health

2023 DDRPP Project Fields

- 18,000 acres enrolled across the Delta
- Practices implemented from early 2023 through the end of the 2023 water year (September 30, 2023)
- Analysis presented today is focused on 2023—the 2nd year of the pilot program



Data Collection and Analysis



Grower Surveys

- Grant Application
- Grant Agreement Survey
- Progress Report
- Grant Summary



Site Visits

- Follow up and verification



Water Use & Water Savings

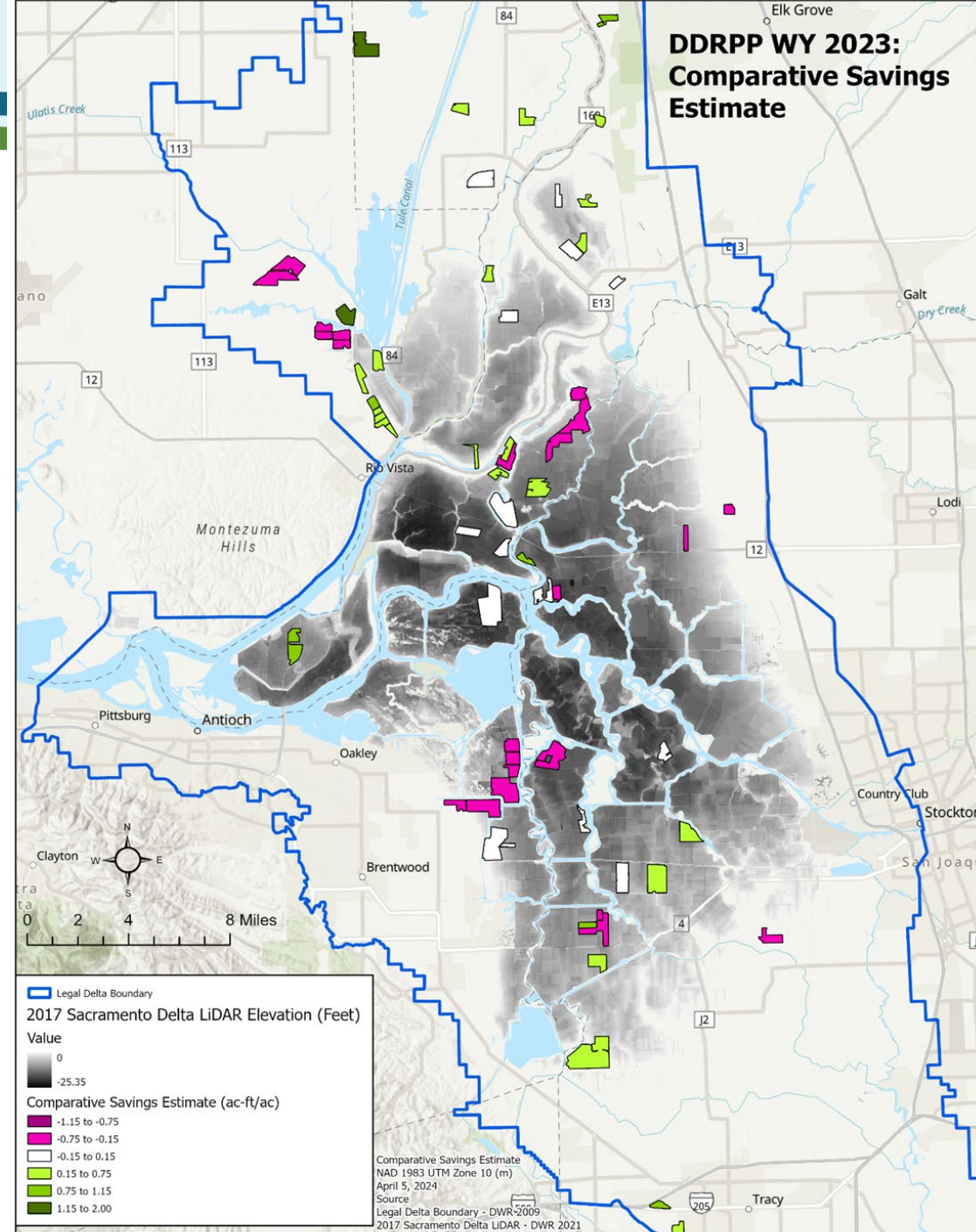
- OpenET used to measure evapotranspiration of project and comparison fields
- 3 different calculation methods for estimating use/savings



Incorporation of triticale on a DDRPP project field & alfalfa on a comparison field

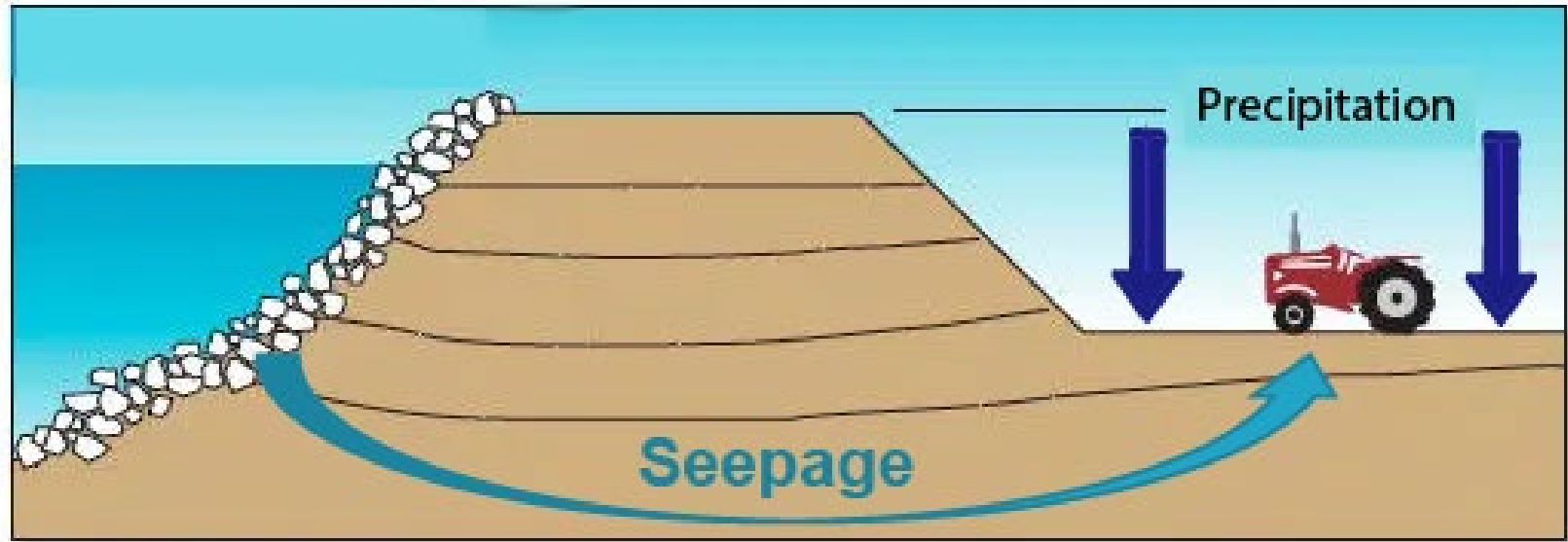
Savings Estimates Were Low

- Up to 1,890 ac-ft of estimated water savings during the 2023 Program
- 1.98 ac-ft/ac estimated at site with highest savings
- About half of the fields show some savings (27/58 fields)
- **Reducing applied irrigation may not be sufficient to produce substantial water savings within the legal Delta, especially at low elevations**



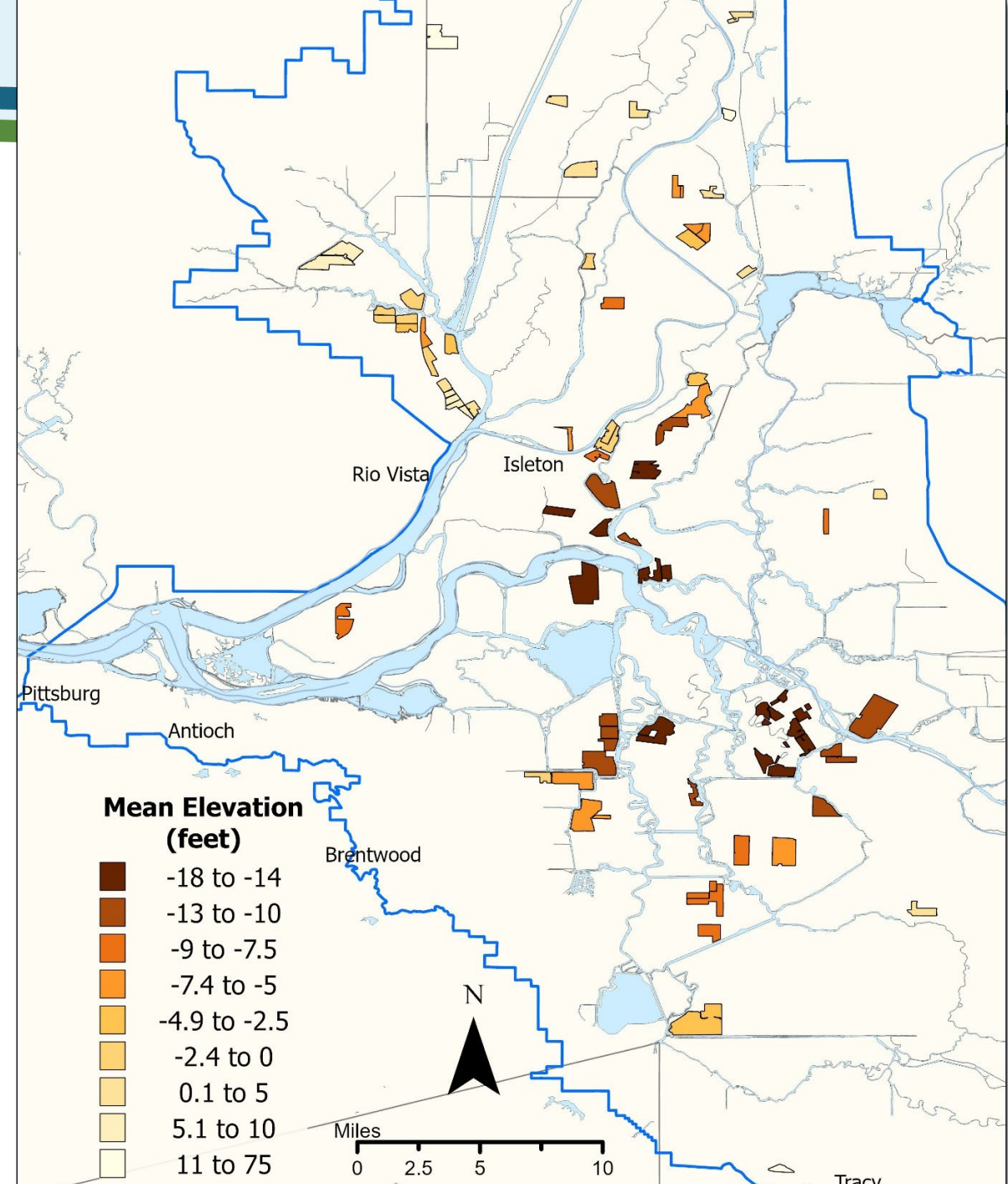
Why Might Field Elevation Matter?

- High soil moisture in the root zone allows plants to grow well and use water, ***even without applied irrigation***
- Fields at low elevation likely have more soil moisture available



Project Fields Varied by Elevation

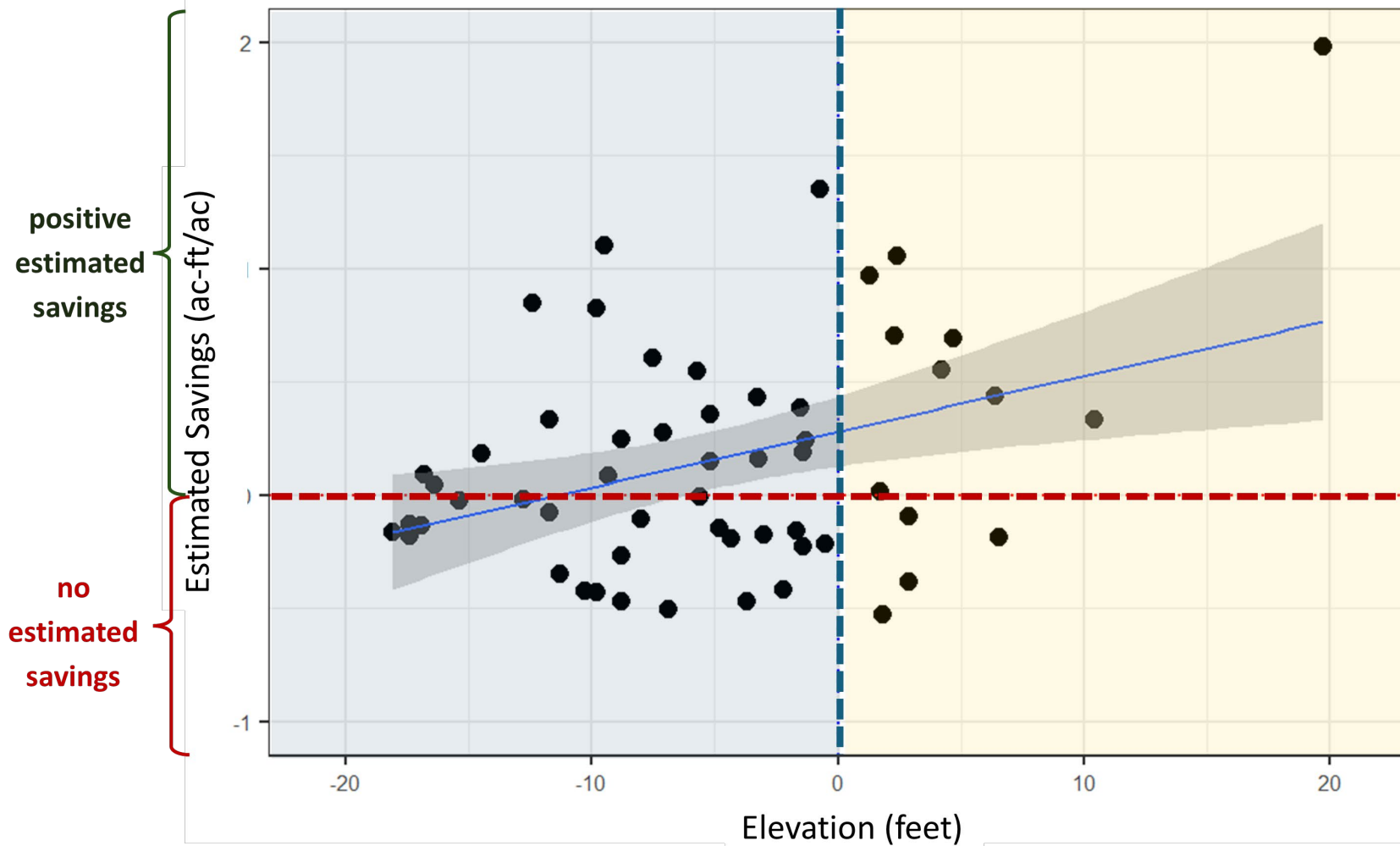
- Elevations range from -18 ft below sea level to 75 ft above sea level
- Only 26% of projects above sea level (15 of 58 projects)



Fields at Higher Elevations More Consistently Save Water

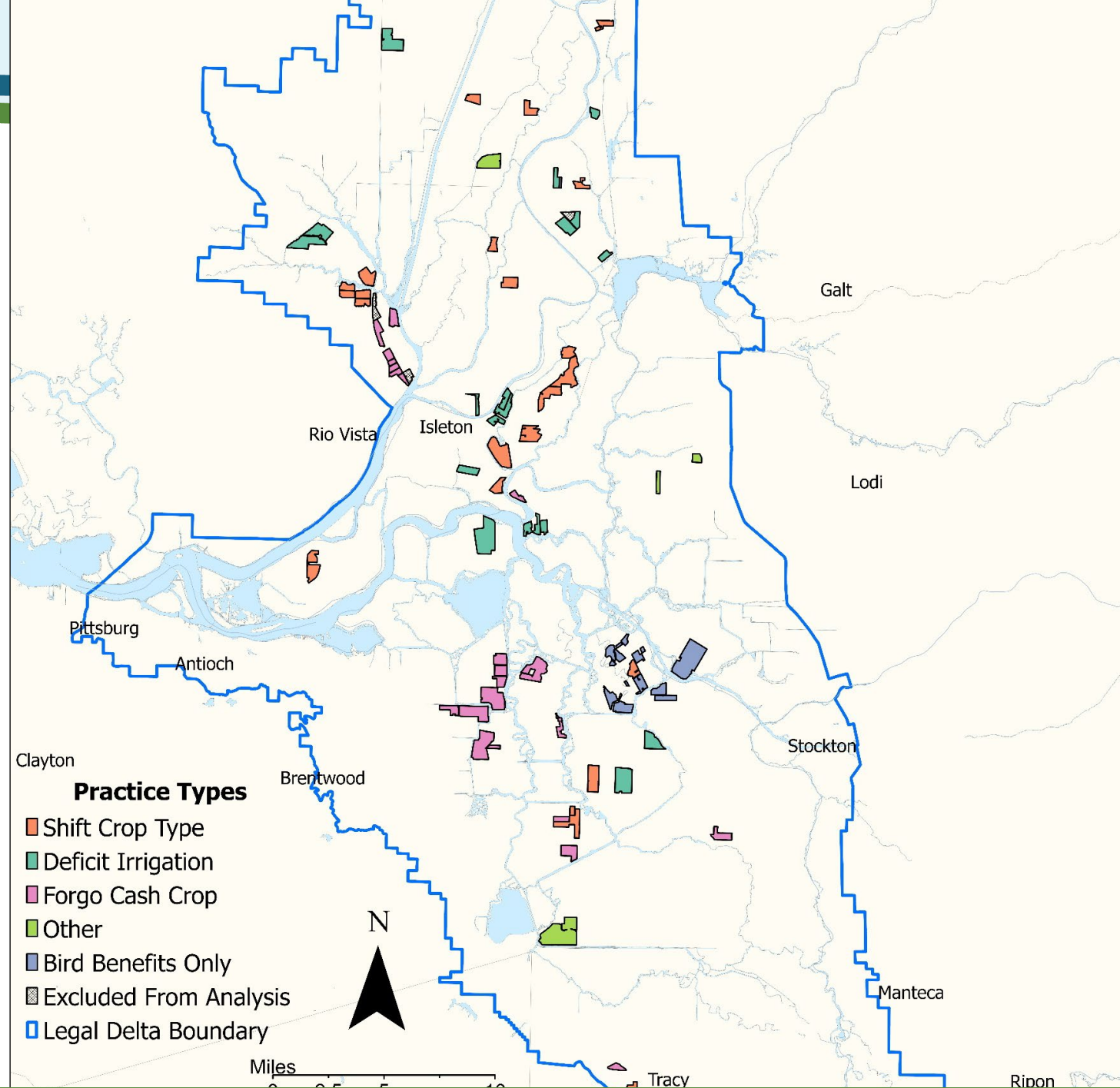
2023 Comparative Savings vs Elevation

- 26% of fields were above sea level, and accounted for 76% of total savings
- 74% of fields were below sea level, but only accounted for 24% of total savings
- **Agricultural areas at higher elevations show more potential for water savings and lower cost/acre-foot of water saved; lower elevations resulted in water savings less consistently**



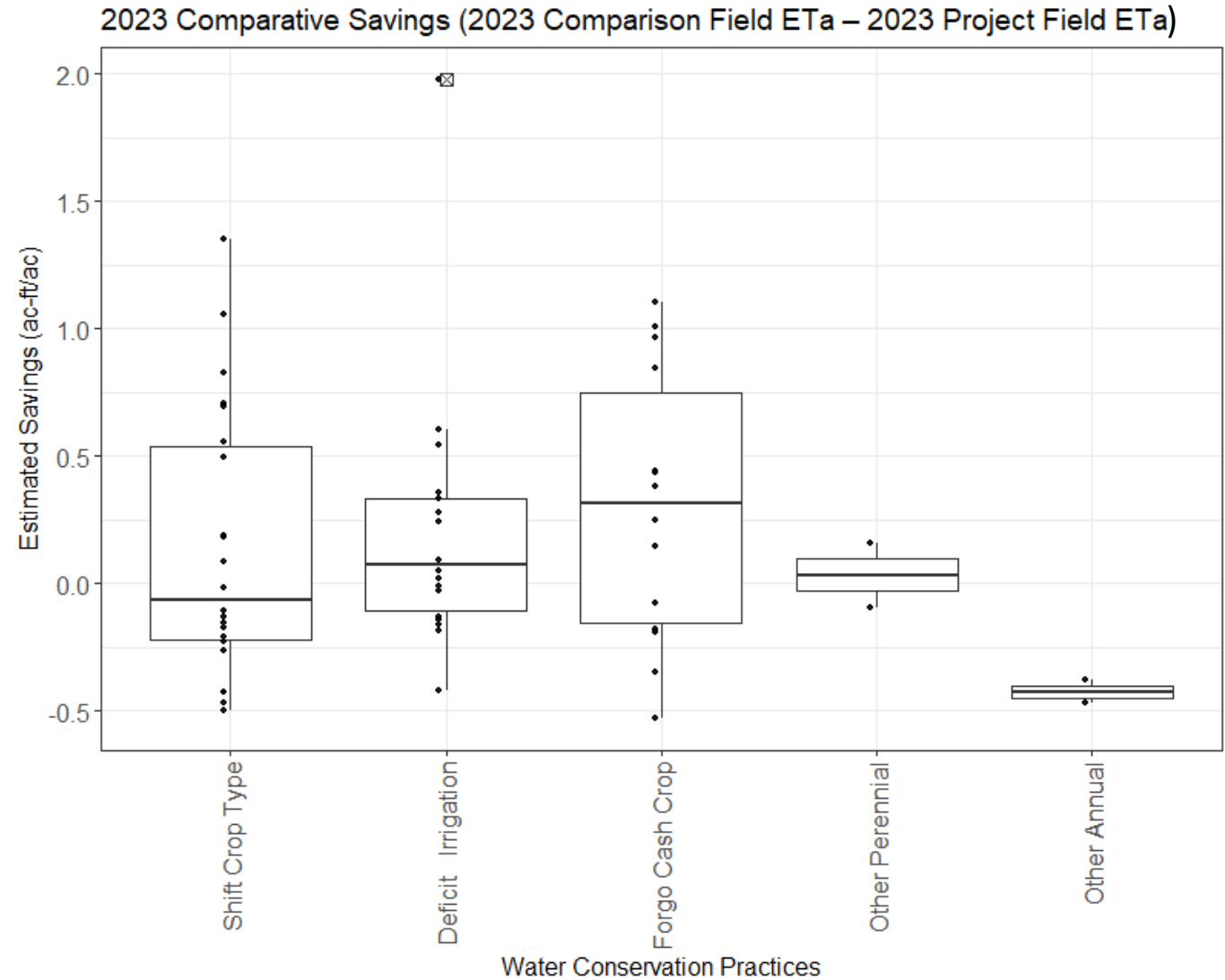
2023 Projects by Practice Type

Water Conservation Practices	Number of Projects	Total Project Area (ac)
Shift Crop Type	22	5,048
Deficit Irrigation	18	4,769
Forgo Cash Crop	14	4,362
Other Annual	2	209
Other Perennial	2	1,370
Total Analyzed	58	15,758

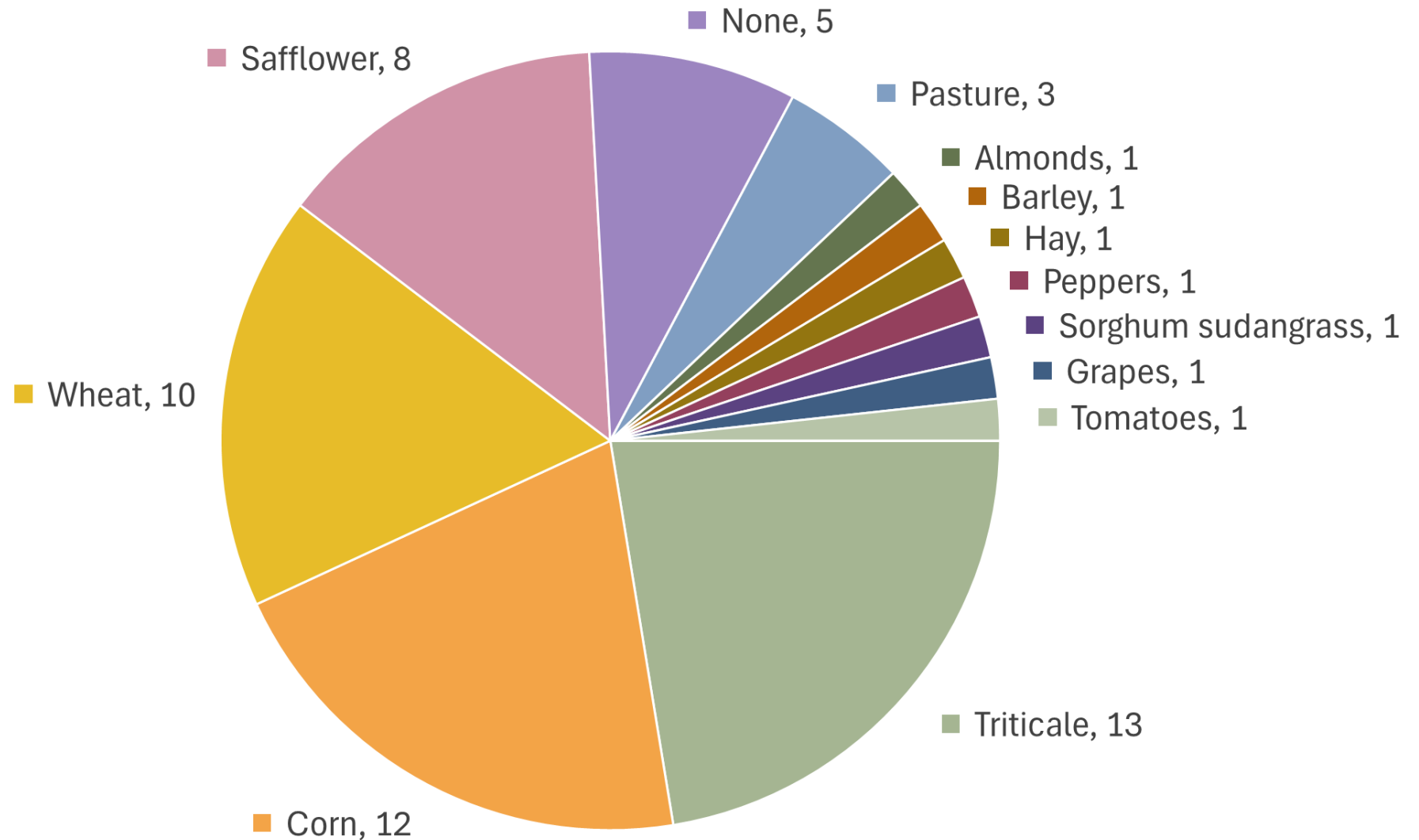


No Differences Among Water Conservation Practice Types

- Large variation within and among practice types
- **Categorizing by these practice types did not help explain the variability among fields**

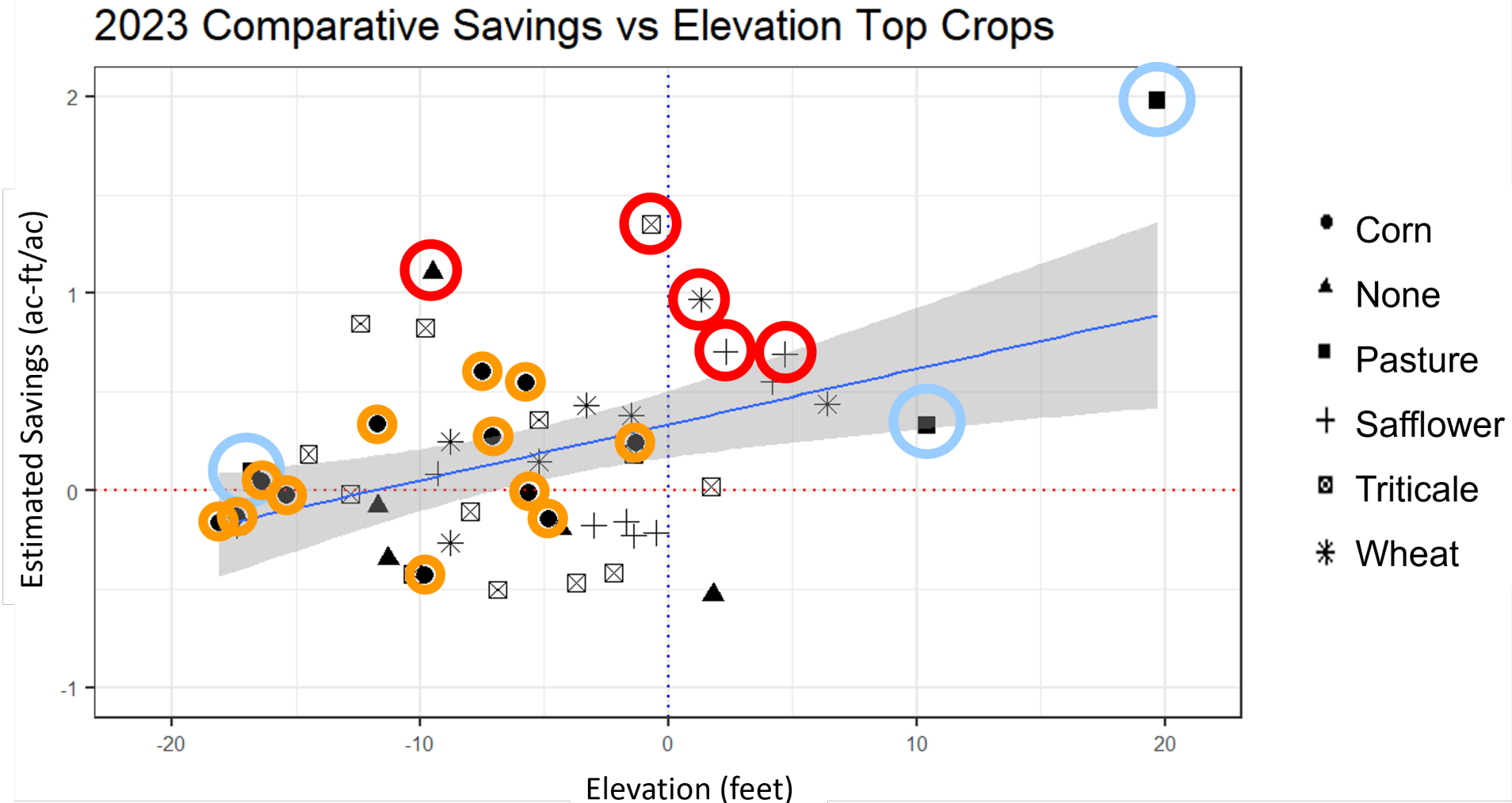


Project Fields Varied by Crop Planted in 2023



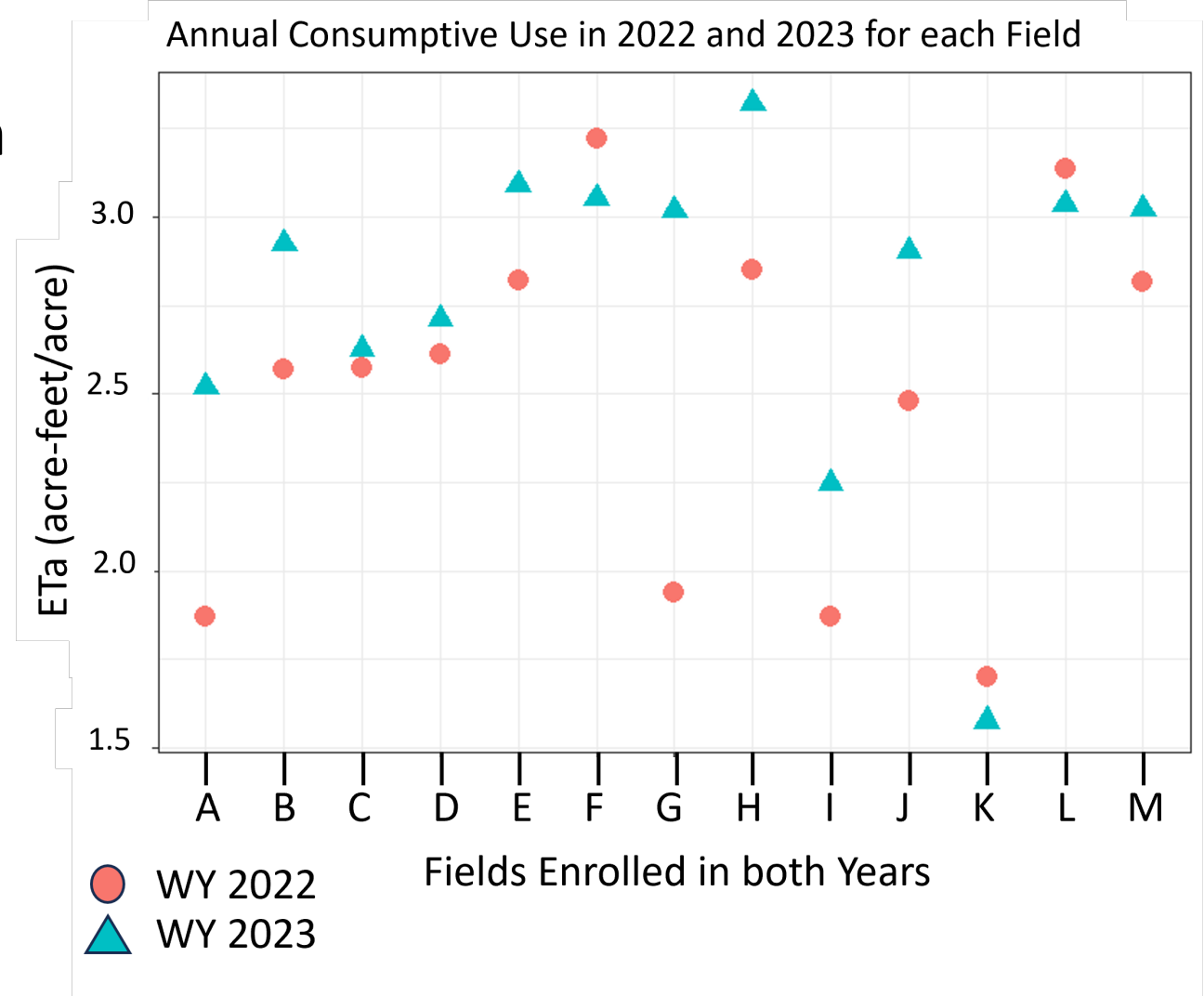
Crop Types and Water Savings Vary Across Elevations

Savings variation may have been driven by crop type, vegetation management, soil type, and local flooding



Higher Consumptive Use in 2023

- Small sample size of field enrolled in both years (13 fields; 3,717 ac)
- Average ETa in 2022 lower than in 2023
- Plants likely able to grow more vigorously because of overall conditions
- **Estimated average water use was slightly higher in the 2023 water year than in the 2022 water year, likely due to higher soil moisture**



Conclusions/Recommendations



Future water conservation programs and regulations will need to balance actions that produce the most water savings with consideration for climate and biodiversity objectives.



Crop planning often takes place before water year conditions are apparent. Future water conservation programs could work with growers to build in flexibility for postponement or rapid deployment of practices, depending on water year conditions.



Overall water savings were lower than anticipated, particularly at lower elevations. Future programs could use elevation as a selection criteria and/or focus on areas further up in the watershed.



OpenET makes it possible to cost-effectively study water use. Additional studies could identify field characteristics, practices, and regions likely to produce the most cost-effective and efficient agricultural water savings.



2023 DDRPP Forum and Program Partners

- Hosted by Delta Conservancy on June 20, 2024
- Shared outcomes of the 2023 DDRPP and related research from project partners
- Solicited feedback from Delta water users, researchers, and members of the public
- Thanks to all the project partners that made the DDRPP possible



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Attendees at the June 2024 DDRPP Forum

"One of the best [forums] I've attended."

"DDRPP was/is a very good program. All the admin staff are very helpful."

Questions?

Key Takeaways:

- Reducing applied irrigation may not be sufficient to produce substantial water savings within the legal Delta, especially at low elevations
- Agricultural areas at lower elevations resulted in water savings less consistently, and at higher elevations show more potential for water savings and lower cost/acre-foot of water saved
- Consumptive use and water savings estimates did not differ among water conservation practice types
- Variation may also have been driven by crop type, vegetation management, soil type, and local flooding
- Estimated average water use was slightly higher in the 2023 water year than in the 2022 water year, likely due to higher soil moisture

Scan the QR code to visit the DDRPP webpage and see the full report





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DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

Rachel Lane

Environmental Scientist

(916) 612-9576

Rachel.Lane@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

Rachel Wigginton, PhD

Senior Environmental Scientist

(916) 634-3682

Rachel.Wigginton@deltaconservancy.ca.gov



Potential Agenda Items for the October 23, 2024 Board Meeting

Staff are seeking input from the Board regarding additional agenda items for the October 23, 2024 Board meeting.

Potential items include:

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

CONTACT

Jiantie (Jenny) Hou, Fiscal & Board Analyst
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Jiantie.Hou@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
(916) 612-4805