



## BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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**January 28, 2026, 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.

Board Members will be participating remotely from the following publicly accessible locations, where members of the public may join and participate:

- 190 E. 4th Street, Pittsburg, CA 94565
- 44 N. San Joaquin Street, Suite 627, Stockton, CA 95202

### Join via Microsoft Teams

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

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Introductions**
3. **Public Comment (New Business)**
4. **Consent Calendar (Action Item)**
  - Approval of July 23, 2025 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items (Attachment)
5. **Executive Officer's Report**, Campbell Ingram
  - Program Update (Attachment)
  - Budget and Expenditure Report (Attachment)
6. **Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Update**, Anji Shakya (Attachment)
7. **Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act Responsible Agency Findings and Amendment to Budget and Scope of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Agreement for Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase Two**, Anji Shakya (Attachments)  
**(Action Item)**

8. **Community Enhancement Program Update**, Maya Garrett (Attachment)
9. **Delta Conservancy 2025 Annual Report**, Hope Miller (Attachment)
10. **Delta Conservancy 2025 Implementation Plan Status Update and Consideration of 2026 Implementation Plan**, Karen Buhr (Attachments) **(Action Item)**
11. **Delta Carbon Program Update**, Lauren Damon (Attachment)
12. **Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team Update**, Rachel Wigginton (Attachment)
13. **California Department of Water Resources Multibenefit Restoration Program Update**, Charlotte Biggs
14. **Delta Stewardship Council Update**, Audrey Cho
15. **Delta Protection Commission Update**, Amanda Bohl
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](mailto:contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov). This contact information may also be used for questions.
  - Public comments are generally limited to three (3) minutes but may be more or less at the discretion of the Board Chair.
  - The Board may consider the agenda items listed above in a different order at the Delta Conservancy Board meeting, pursuant to the determination of the Board Chair. All items appearing on this agenda, whether listed expressly for action, may be deliberated upon and subject to action at the discretion of the Delta Conservancy Board.



**July 23, 2025 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items  
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento, CA 95691**

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Video and audio of the meeting are available here: [July 23, 2025 Board Meeting Recording](#)

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Vice Chair Winternitz.

**Agenda Item 2 – Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Introductions**

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

**Board Members Present:**

- Chair Pat Hume – arrived after first vote at 9:08 a.m.
- Vice Chair Sheila Allen
- Sonny Dhaliwal – teleconference
- Sandi Matsumoto
- Gloria Sandoval – teleconference
- Shanelle Scales-Preston – teleconference
- Leo Winternitz

**Ex-Officio Members Present:**

- Nicole Cuellar-Nelson – Senator Cabaldon Representative

**Liaison Advisors and Counsel Present:**

- Steve Chappell
- Marge Kolar
- Todd Plain
- Dan Ray
- Nicole Rinke (Counsel)

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment**

- None

**Agenda Item 4 – Board Elections**

The Executive Officer thanked Supervisor Hume and Board Member Winternitz for the past year of service as Chair and Vice Chair of the Conservancy and opened nominations for the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Supervisor Hume was nominated for Chair for a second term, and Supervisor Allen was nominated for Vice Chair.

**Motion:** Vice Chair Winternitz moved, seconded by Board Member Matsumoto, that the Board approve the nomination of Supervisor Allen as Vice Chair of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

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

**Motion:** Board Member Winternitz moved, seconded by Board Member Matsumoto, that the Board approve the nomination of Supervisor Hume as Chair of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

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

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Consent Calendar**

**Motion:** Vice Chair Allen moved, seconded by Board Member Matsumoto, that the Board approve the following:

- Approval of May 27, 2025, Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

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

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Executive Officer’s Report**

The Executive Officer briefly highlighted several items in the staff report. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget appropriations were similar to last year, and we anticipate the Climate Bond funding will be appropriated before the next Board meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaption Program Update**

As of July 15, there are 15 active projects and 23 closed projects. Conservancy staff highlighted significant project milestones from the staff report for the Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration and the Ulati Creek Habitat Restoration Projects.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Project Updates and Consideration of Amendment to Scope of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Agreement for Wetland Mosaic Landscape of Webb Tract Project**

Conservancy staff presented for consideration a scope change to the Wetland Restoration Project to move final wetland restoration design and planning from Phase II (implementation) to Phase I (planning) to complete wetland restoration design plans and report and prepare final construction documents.

**Motion:** Board Member Winternitz moved, seconded by Board Member Matsumoto, that the Board approve a scope change to authorize the grantee to complete final wetland restoration design and planning as part of Phase I of the Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project conditional upon the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Director signing an updated Statutory Exemption for Restoration Project concurrence and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California submitting an updated Notice of Exemption to the State Clearinghouse.

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

**Motion:** Vice Chair Allen moved, seconded by Chair Hume, that the Board authorize the Executive Officer to approve Phase II of the Rice Conversion Project and approve a budget change to reallocate up to \$2,680,000 from the Wetland Restoration Project to the Rice Conversion Project, conditional on the Grantee (the lead agency) approving the Phase II activities, concluding that the rice lease is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and there are no exceptions to the exemptions, and the Conservancy's Executive Officer reviews and concurs with those determinations.

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

**Agenda Item 9 – Request for Approval to Enter into an Architectural and Engineering Contract with the Most Qualified Firm for an Amount up to \$120,000 to conduct a Subsequent Analysis for Potential Restoration of Franks Tract**

Conservancy staff posted a Request for Qualifications on Cal eProcure for an Architectural and Engineering contract, and after evaluating the candidates are now in the negotiation phase with the most qualified firm. The Conservancy sought Board approval for the subsequent contract as the available budget exceeds the Executive Officers' \$100,000 authority.

**Motion:** Vice Chair Allen moved, seconded by Board Member Winternitz, that the Board authorize the Executive Officer to enter an Architectural and Engineering contract with the most qualified firm for an amount up to \$120,000 to conduct the Cost Feasibility Analysis for the Restoration of Franks Tract.

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

**Agenda Item 10 – Community Enhancement Programs Update**

As of June 20, there are 11 active projects, three approved projects, and four closed projects. Conservancy staff highlighted significant project milestones from the staff report for the Restoration of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Creation of a Delta Welcome Center and Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Projects.

**Agenda Item 11 – Overview of the Clean Vessel Act Program**

Conservancy staff highlighted the tasks and objectives of the Clean Vessel Act Program while narrating a slide presentation.

**Agenda Item 12 – Delta Conservancy 2025 Implementation Plan Status Update**

The Deputy Executive Officer presented a mid-year status update of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy's progress toward meeting the goals of the 2025 Implementation Plan.

**Agenda Item 13 – Nutria Eradication Program Update**

Valerie Cook, Nutria Eradication Program Manager for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, presented an update.

**Agenda Item 14 – California Department of Water Resources Multibenefit Restoration Program Update**

Charlotte Biggs, Assistant Deputy Director of the California Department of Water Resources, presented an update.

**Agenda Item 15 – Delta Stewardship Council Update**

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

**Agenda Item 16 – Delta Protection Commission Update**

Dan Ray, Interim Executive Officer of the Delta Protection Commission, presented an update.

**Agenda Item 17 – Delta Conveyance Update**

Carrie Buckman, Environmental Program Manager of the California Department of Water Resources, presented an update.

**Agenda Item 18 – Public Comment**

- None

**Agenda Item 19 – ADJOURN**

**BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

- None

**MEETING ADJOURNED** by Chair Hume at 11:22 a.m.

**CONTACT**

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## Executive Officer's Report

January 28, 2026

### PROGRAM UPDATE

#### STAFFING UPDATE

Please welcome Meredith Howard, PhD as the new Ecological and Community Programs Manager, having transferred from the Regional Water Quality Control Boards in October. Sadly, the Conservancy must say goodbye to Brenda Lusk, the Conservancy's Administration Manager. After seven years with the Conservancy, Brenda has moved on to work at the CA Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. Recruitment is underway to backfill the Administration Manager position. The Conservancy must also say goodbye to Rachel Wigginton, PhD, the Senior Environmental Scientist. After five years with the Conservancy, Rachel has been appointed by the Governor to be the Special Assistant for Planning and Science at the Delta Stewardship Council. Recruitment to backfill the Senior Environmental Scientist position will begin soon. The Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Projects Supervisor limited-term position will be extended for another 12 months starting in March.

#### FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

The Notices from the Fair Political Practices Commission to complete Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests have been sent to Conservancy Board Members, alternate Board Members, and Liaison Advisors. The final filing deadline is April 1, 2026. Forms are completed on the Fair Political Practices Commission [online portal](#). If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Chelsea Martinez at [chelsea.martinez@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:chelsea.martinez@deltaconservancy.ca.gov).

#### CLIMATE BOND SOLICITATION (PROPOSITION 4)

The Conservancy has completed its Climate Bond grant solicitation notice, proposal application materials, and comprehensive assessment criteria. Opening the solicitation is still pending. The Legislature did not approve an exemption to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). The APA sets the requirements for adoption, publication, review, and implementation of regulations by State agencies and affects all departments managing Proposition 4 grants. Prior natural resource agency bonds (e.g. Propositions 68, 84, 50) included language that exempted bonds from the APA, meaning that the development of program guidelines did not need to undergo the formal regulation process through the Office of Administrative Law. The Conservancy is working with California Natural

Resources Agency and other agencies to navigate the emergency rulemaking process as directed by the Legislature. In addition, the Legislature earmarked three projects that are estimated to cost between \$24 million and \$32 million. Given that the Conservancy received \$29 million, it is trying to navigate providing funding for earmarked projects while also funding projects that meet the entire mission of the Conservancy.

### **Overview**

Each program, Nature-Based Solutions, Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation, and Community Enhancement, will receive approximately \$8.6 million. Each solicitation will include two rounds of review: **Concept Proposal**: This initial step will help staff identify projects that are ineligible, not ready, or not competitive. **Full application**: Projects that pass the concept proposal stage will be invited to submit a full proposal. These proposals will be reviewed and scored competitively based on the following criteria: project readiness, scientific or community value, community support, geographic balance, cost share, service to disadvantaged or vulnerable communities, partnerships, tribal involvement, cost-effectiveness, and alignment with state and Delta goals. The highest-ranking projects will be recommended to the Board for funding. It is anticipated that the first set of funding recommendations will be brought to the Board starting in Fall 2026.

### **Small Grant Program**

In addition, a small grant program will be launched for awards up to \$100,000. This program is intended to support smaller organizations by building their capacity and providing technical assistance. Funds can be used for various purposes, including staffing, technical support, equipment, and research.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

All staff completed Situational Leadership II training, as well as the annual mandatory IT training courses. The Fair Political Practices Commission approved the Conservancy's updated Conflict of Interest Code, which took effect in December. The System for Award Management (SAM) renewal has been completed. Required reports, including the State Agency Buy Recycle Campaign (SABRC), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Subcontracting Report, and Contracting Activity Reports (CAR) were submitted, and the Conservancy met its Small Business (SB) and DVBE participation goals, achieving 28.27 percent in both categories. Compliance submissions were completed for Department of General Services (DGS) Reasonable Accommodation requirements, and staff annual performance appraisals were completed. The lease renewal process with DGS was initiated, and several budget drills were completed. In December, CalHR approved the Conservancy's Workforce and Succession Management Plan. In 2025, the Conservancy executed five new grant and contract agreements and 16 amendments, closed two agreements, and processed 309 invoices.

### **COST FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS FOR THE RESOTORATION OF FRANKS TRACT**

As approved by the Board during the July 2025 meeting, the Architectural and Engineering contract for this project was awarded to the most qualified firm, Environmental Science Associates. The agreement was executed on October 27, 2025, and a project kick-off meeting was held in December.

## **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

### **Clean Vessel Act Program**

The Conservancy was awarded the 2026 California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways Clean Vessel Act Education and Outreach Program grant. This \$292,600 grant is a continuation of the project activities from 2025 and includes education and outreach to boaters about proper sewage disposal and monitoring of pumpout and dump stations in the San Francisco Bay, Delta, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties.

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

The six DDRPP grantees currently hosting micrometeorological equipment on their project sites continue to implement water conservation practices as part of the Conservancy's interagency agreement with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) at least until the end of the water year in September 2026. The second annual field water budgets were submitted during the November 2025 reporting period, and UC Davis presented the initial results to members of the Delta Measurement Experimentation Consortium on November 20, 2025.

## **DELTA SCIENCE**

### **Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Subcommittee (RSC)**

The Conservancy continues to co-lead the DPIIC RSC with colleagues from the Delta Stewardship Council (Council). The Restoration Subcommittee's work is guided by the [workplan](#). The vision of the DPIIC RSC is a Delta ecosystem that supports the mosaic of natural and human communities, is resilient to stressors, adapts to change, and is accessible for recreation. In 2026, the DPIIC RSC plans to host the fourth Delta Restoration Forum and two Subcommittee meetings.

### **Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team**

The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team is facilitated by the Conservancy and co-led by the Delta Stewardship Council, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Department of Water Resources. A detailed update on the 2025 activities of the DIISC Team will be presented during Agenda Item 12.1.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH**

### **Annual Report**

A summary of the Conservancy's [2025 Annual Report](#) will be provided during Agenda Item 9.1.

### **Coastal Cleanup Day**

As part of Coastal Cleanup Day, the Conservancy and the Rio Vista Windsports Association held a cleanup at Sherman Island on September 20, 2025. Volunteers collected trash along a 1.5-mile stretch of the Sacramento River, filling a 40-yard dumpster with trash that would have otherwise ended up in the river.

### **Sausalito Boat Show**

The Conservancy participated in the Sausalito Boat Show September 19-20, 2025, to promote clean and safe boating. With support from the Conservancy's Clean Vessel Act Program, the Conservancy handed out more than 130 free kits for boaters and promoted the Pumpout Nav app, which shows nearby boat sewage disposal facilities.

## 2025 State of the Estuary Conference

The Conservancy attended the State of the Estuary Conference in Oakland in October and presented a poster, co-authored by Anjali Shakya and Maya Garrett, about the Conservancy's Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) program and hosted a booth to share the important work of the Conservancy with regional scientists, community organizers, students, legislators, resource managers, planners, and others who are working to improve, conserve, and monitor the health of the estuary.

## MEDIA MENTIONS

- [Stocktonia](#) produced an article about the ongoing work on the Stockton Maritime Museum, which will showcase a retired Navy minesweeper that is currently being restored. The Conservancy is providing funding for the planning portion of the museum project.
- [Soundings Journal](#) published a video story to preview the Delta Invasive Species Symposium, which was held at the California Natural Resources Agency headquarters on December 4, 2025.

## BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- None

## DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 5.2: Budget and Expenditure Report

## CORRESPONDENCE

- In December, Deltek submitted a public records request for information about the Cost Feasibility Analysis for the Restoration of Franks Tract solicitation. The Conservancy provided copies of the statement of qualifications evaluations and the awarded contract.

## CONTACT

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**SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY  
BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE REPORT  
July 1, 2025 through September, 2025**

Line Number	Category of Expenditures Personal Services (PS)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
1	Salaries & Wages	\$1,440,635	\$326,419	\$1,114,216	23%
2	Temporary Help			\$0	0%
3	Benefits	\$823,225	\$189,052	\$634,173	23%
4	<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,263,860</b>	<b>\$515,471</b>	<b>\$1,748,389</b>	<b>23%</b>
Line Number	Category of Expenditures Operating Expenditures and Equipment (OE & E)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
5	General Expense	\$48,900	\$2,757	\$46,143	6%
6	Printing	\$2,400	\$146	\$2,254	6%
7	Communications	\$11,230	\$817	\$10,413	7%
8	Postage	\$0		\$0	0%
9	Travel-In State	\$39,700	\$3,961	\$35,739	10%
10	Training	\$11,500	\$920	\$10,580	8%
11	Facilities Operation	\$116,802	\$27,582	\$89,220	24%
12	Contracts & Personal Services-External	\$91,289		\$91,289	0%
13	Contracts & Personal Services-Interdepartmental	\$103,449	\$4,402	\$99,047	4%
14	Information Technology	\$53,600	\$45	\$53,555	0%
15	Non-Capital Asset Purchases	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
16	Indirect Cost Recovery	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
17	Unallocated Operating Expense & Equipment	\$195,861	\$0	\$195,861	0%
18	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$674,731</b>	<b>\$40,630</b>	<b>\$634,101</b>	<b>6%</b>
Line Number	Category of Expenditures Multi-Year Appropriations	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
19	Proposition 1 Program Support	\$104,139			
20	Proposition 4 Program Support	\$214,303			
21	Proposition 68 Program Support	\$55,288			
22	Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Support	\$23,437			
23	Nature Based Solutions and CAR	\$1,074,286			
24	Grants and Subventions	\$4,000,000			
25	<b>TOTAL MULTI-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$5,471,453</b>		<b>\$5,471,453</b>	
Line Number	TOTALS	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
26	<b>TOTAL PS, OE &amp; E, MULTI-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$8,410,044</b>	<b>\$556,101</b>	<b>\$7,853,943</b>	<b>7%</b>
27	REIMBURSEMENT	(\$351,043)	\$0	(\$351,043)	0%
28	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,059,001</b>	<b>\$556,101</b>	<b>\$7,502,900</b>	<b>7%</b>



## Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Update

### Staff Report

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#### PROGRAM UPDATE

As of January 16, 2026, there are 12 active projects and 22 closed projects.

For updates on a specific project, please visit: [Delta Conservancy Project Table Updates page](#).

For an interactive map of program projects, please visit: [Delta Conservancy Project Maps page](#).

#### SIGNIFICANT PROJECT MILESTONES

##### P1-2209: Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh

Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh is an implementation project that will install resilient hydrological infrastructure at various managed wetlands in Suisun March to improve water quality and support ecosystem enhancement projects determined by the Suisun Marsh Improvement Report. Staff are reviewing a request to extend the grant term, shift funds across budget line items, and an insignificant modification to project scope to replace one of the four project sites with three alternative sites. Per the Conservancy's grant modifications and amendments policy, a decision on this request can be made by the Executive Officer.





**Figures 6.1.** Managed wetlands at Suisun Marsh. Hydrologic infrastructure improvements have been completed at three separate project sites.

#### **NUTRIA ERADICATION PROGRAM UPDATE (JANUARY 14, 2026)**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has provided the following update on their Nutria Eradication Program.

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

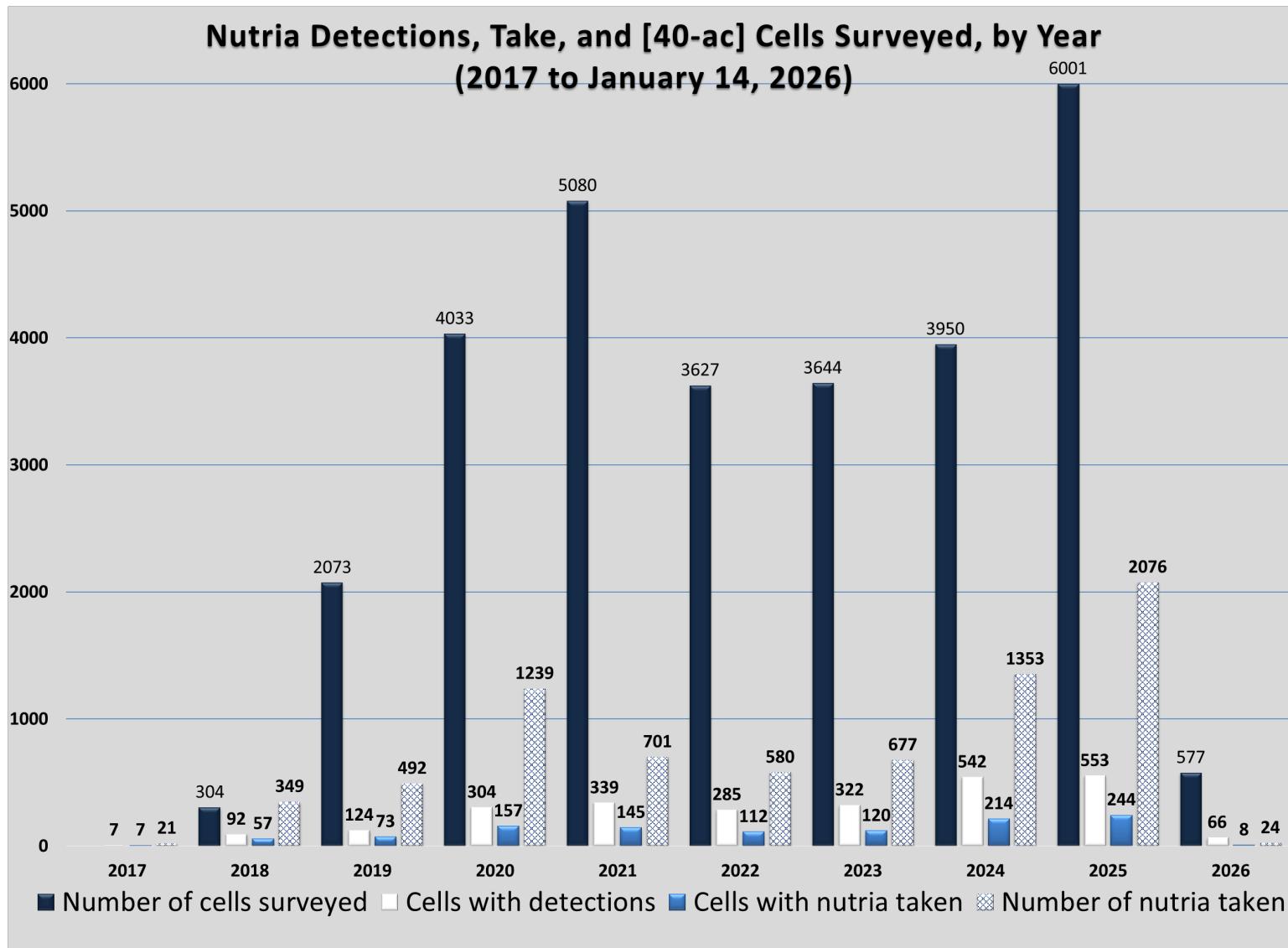
- Completed full and/or rapid assessments on over 1.9 million acres
- Executed entry permits with nearly 5,300 landowners for over 13,600 parcels in 20 counties
- Set up 14,304 camera stations (1,022 currently active) and conducted 117,503 camera checks
- Detected nutria in 1,502 sites (40-acre cells)
- Deployed 19,741 trap sets (336 currently active) for ~210,000 trap nights
- Taken or accounted for the take of 7,512 nutria (since Mar 2017)
  - Merced - 3,092
  - Fresno - 1,977
  - Solano - 1,061
  - Stanislaus - 1,005
  - Madera - 133
  - San Joaquin - 110
  - Sacramento - 61
  - Contra Costa - 30
  - Mariposa - 27
  - Kings - 16
- See Figure 6.3 for distribution of take by county, by year. See [www.wildlife.ca.gov/nutria](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/nutria) for an interactive map showing locations and densities of nutria taken over time

Of 7,512 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.2 sex ratio (M:F)
- 9,528 fetal nutria have been removed from the population
- Litter size ranged from 1-14, with an average of 6.1
  - 21% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
  - 67% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
  - 70% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
  - Average litter size for adult females (> 14 mos.) in California is 6.6

**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 January 14, 2026.

Year	Total (unique) cells with nutria taken	Total # nutria taken	Average # nutria taken per cell
2017	7	21	3.0
2018	57	349	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	214	1,353	6.3
2025	244	2,076	8.5
2026	8	24	3.0
<b>Total Across Years</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>7,512</b>	<b>9.7</b>



**Figure 6.2.** The total number of 40-acre cells (sites) surveyed, number of cells with nutria detections, number of cells with nutria taken, and total number of nutria taken, by year from March 2017 to January 14, 2026.

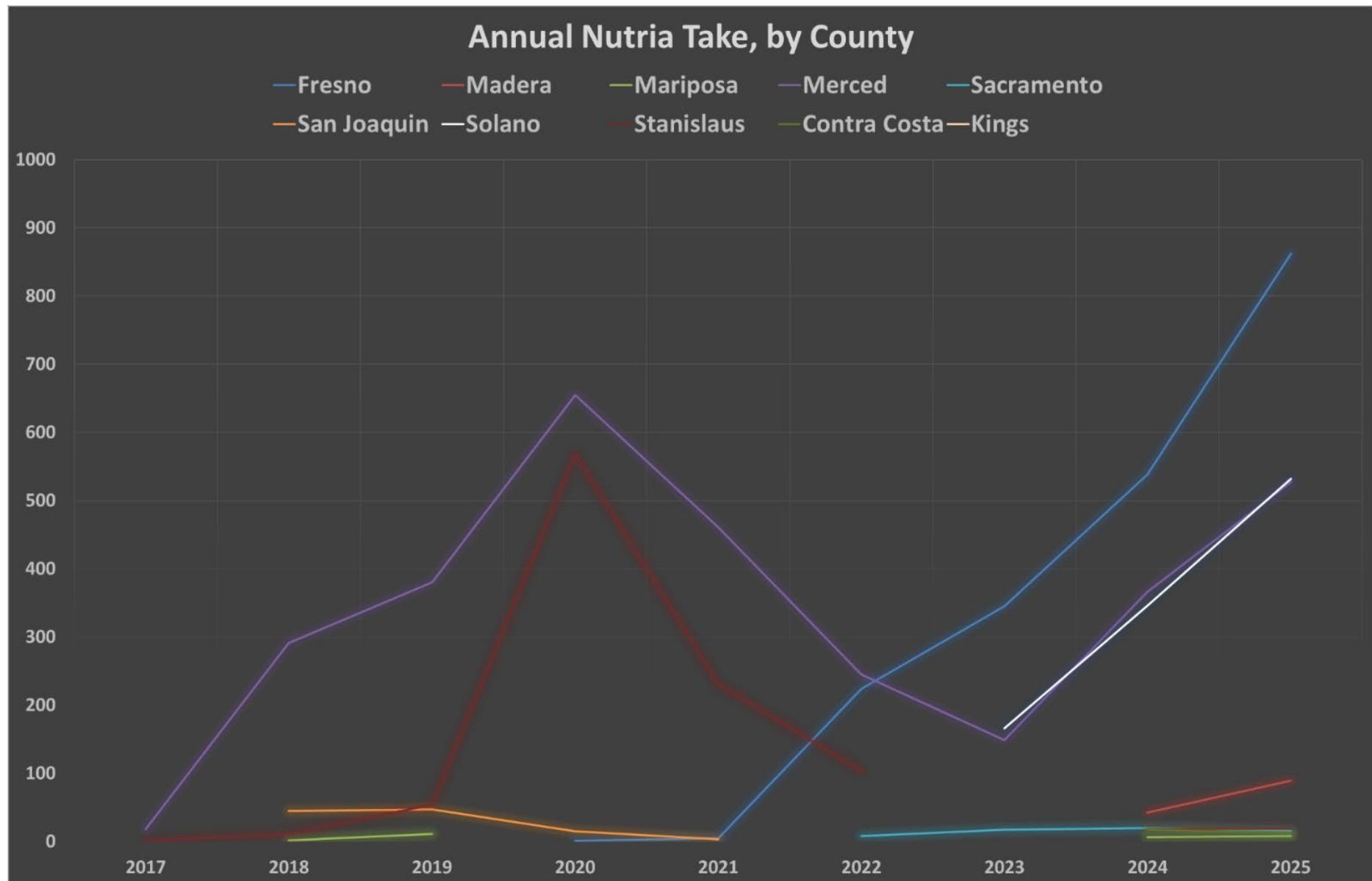


Figure 6.3. The distribution of nutria taken by county, by year, in California from 2017 through January 14, 2026.

**BACKGROUND**

The Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) 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 and Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR). 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 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 table below highlights the allocations for Proposition 1 (bond funds) and CAR (general funds). Each funding source has funds allocated for both administration and grants. The amounts remaining to be allocated are funds available for new grants.

**Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Funding Sources. CEP refers to the Community Enhancement Program (Agenda Item 8.1). 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

**CONTACT**

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**Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act Responsible Agency Findings and Amendment to Budget and Scope of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Agreement for Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase Two**

**Staff Report**

<b>Grantee</b>	Ducks Unlimited
<b>Project ID</b>	P1-2207
<b>Award Year</b>	2022
<b>County</b>	Yolo
<b>Category</b>	Implementation
<b>Original Award Amount</b>	\$887,516
<b>Request</b>	Budget, Scope

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board adopt California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) responsible agency findings, approve a budget modification to move funds from permits and fees, and associated indirect costs to the subcontractor line item, and to change the scope of work to modify one of the construction tasks, replacing the original task of constructing a new pump station with alternative improvements.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Grantee is requesting to forgo construction of a new pump station and instead pursue the replacement of water control structures, the modification and installation of an irrigation ditch, and the removal of an existing canal crossing with associated construction of two high-flow crossings. This change would save the project \$40,000 in permitting and fees, and the Grantee proposes to use these savings in their subcontractor budget for construction and monitoring costs. The amendment is needed because the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), a project partner, the CEQA Lead Agency, and cost-share provider, is not supportive of the pump station due to its long-term costs of operations and maintenance. If the Conservancy does not approve this amendment, improvements to the drainage and water supply system at the project site will be incomplete and the full project benefits to habitat will not be realized.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

This implementation project is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act. On January 8, 2018, CDFW as the CEQA Lead Agency, submitted a Notice of Determination based on the results of an Initial Study (IS) that found potential significant project impacts on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, and hydrology and water quality; determined all of the identified impacts can be reduced to insignificant levels through implementation of Mitigation Measures outlined in the

IS; and prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project to satisfy the requirements of CEQA.

On January 24, 2018, the Conservancy Board voted to approve resolution 2018-01, which adopted responsible agency findings for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Drainage Improvements Project and staff filed the corresponding [Notice of Determination](#). These CEQA actions fulfilled the Conservancy's role as a responsible agency for both phase one (P1-1503) and phase two (P1-2207) of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Drainage Improvements Project.

On June 12, 2025, CDFW as the CEQA Lead Agency, completed an Addendum (see Agenda Item 7.4) and filed a corresponding [Notice of Determination](#) to account for the project updates described in this report. Through the Addendum, CDFW determined the proposed project change would not result in any environmental impacts beyond those analyzed in the original IS/MND and that all potential significant impacts were accounted for in the measures described in the original IS/MND. Conservancy staff have reviewed the Addendum and advise the Board to adopt Board Resolution 2026-01, which makes responsible agency findings that the Addendum to the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration is complete and sufficiently demonstrates that the project changes will not result in any new adverse environmental impacts. Based on that conclusion, staff requests that the Chair sign the attached Notice of Determination (see Agenda Item 7.2).

Updated permits are needed to support the work proposed in this amendment. Staff understands that CDFW, United States Army Corps, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board are in agreement to amend existing permits for the proposed project modifications; permitting with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board is underway.

## **BACKGROUND**

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase II (Project ID P1-2207) is an implementation project to construct the remaining two components of a five component multi-phase project that will improve the existing drainage and water supply system in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. This project was awarded \$887,516 of Proposition 1 funds to the Grantee in 2023. This is the Grantee's first amendment request requiring Board consideration. Conservancy staff have reviewed and approved one prior amendment request to extend the grant term. The project is on track to be completed by February 15, 2027, when the agreement expires. This request will have no impact on the availability of current funds as they are not set to expire until June 30, 2027.

## **SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Two separate motions are required.

Move that the Board adopt Resolution 2026-01, which makes CEQA Responsible Agency Findings that all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration, and that the Addendum to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project does not require any changes to the previously approved MND.

Move that the Board approve a budget modification to shift funds across budget line items, and a change to the scope of work to modify the construction task, replacing the construction of a new pump station with alternative plans to improve habitat and drainage at the project site.

**CONTACT**

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(916) 634-3856

**Notice of Determination****Appendix D****To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
 U.S. Mail: Street Address:  
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

 County Clerk

County of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**From:**

Public Agency: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Con  
 Address: 1450 Halyard Dr.  
 West Sacramento, CA 95691  
 Contact: Dr. Rachel Wigginton  
 Phone: (916) 634-3682

## Lead Agency (if different from above):

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.**

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2017122001

Project Title: Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project

Project Applicant: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Project Location (include county): Yolo County, 2.5 miles east city of Davis. 38.553540 North -121.624150 West

## Project Description:

The proposed project includes five major improvements, identified as Project Components, that are being proposed to enhance the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's ability to manage wetland resources and agricultural operations within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. This Addendum addresses a minor, technical change from installing a cross channel pump to installing passive structures to drain water, which are similar to other structures being used as part of the current site management.

This is to advise that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has approved the above  
 ( Lead Agency or  Responsible Agency)

described project on 01/28/2026 and has made the following determinations regarding the above  
 (date)  
 described project.

1. The project [ will  will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2.  An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [ were  were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [ were  were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

The California Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research and the County Clerk-Recorder Office (see address)

Signature (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Chair, Delta Conservancy Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

*A California State Agency*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY ADOPTING RESPONSIBLE AGENCY FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) FOR THE YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA HABITAT AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AMENDMENT.**

**Whereas**, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project (“Project”) is a project being implemented by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. to improve water management and drainage for the Yolo Bypass; and

**Whereas**, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is the lead agency pursuant to CEQA (Public Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR § 15000 et seq.); and

**Whereas**, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife prepared an Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to CEQA to analyze all potential adverse environmental impacts of the project; and

**Whereas**, the Delta Conservancy, as a responsible agency, made findings based on the MND/IS (Delta Conservancy Board Resolution 2018-01) before voting to fund the Project; and

**Whereas**, the Delta Conservancy awarded funding to the project on July 27, 2022, and executed a grant agreement with Ducks Unlimited effective March 26, 2023; and

**Whereas**, Ducks Unlimited Inc. requested an amendment to the grant agreement to forgo construction of a cross-canal pump station and instead install passive structures to drain water; and

**Whereas**, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife prepared an Addendum to the IS/MND (Public Res. Code § 15164(b)), to analyze potential adverse environmental impacts of the project change, determined that no additional impacts would result from the amendment, and filed a Notice of Determination; and

**Whereas**, the Delta Conservancy must, therefore, as a responsible agency, make certain findings prior to its approval of an amendment for the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY AS FOLLOWS:**

- a. The Delta Conservancy has, in its independent judgment, reviewed and considered the previously certified MND and the Addendum, which are incorporated herein by reference, and finds, as to those potential impacts within the Board’s powers and authorities as a responsible agency, that the documents contain a complete, objective, and accurate reporting of the Project’s potential impacts and that mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Project that avoid and/or substantially lessen any of the potentially significant effects of the Project.

- b. The Board further finds that no additional feasible mitigation measures within the Board's authority are necessary to reduce the environmental impacts of the project to less than significant levels and that no additional environmental review is required.
- c. The Delta Conservancy hereby authorizes and directs staff to file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse.
- d. The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings for this Resolution are located on the Delta Conservancy's website.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD THIS  
JANUARY 28, 2026.**

**VOTE**

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

---

Pat Hume, Board Chair

### **Supporting Documentation**

- CDFW Lead Agency Notice of Determination for CEQA Addendum:  
<https://ceqanet.lci.ca.gov/2017122001/8>
- CDFW Lead Agency Addendum to the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration: See Agenda Item 7.4

**ADDENDUM**

**to the**

**FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**SCH 2017122001**

**as prepared by the**

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**as a**

**LEAD AGENCY UNDER THE**

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

**June 11, 2025**

I.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The California Department of Fish and Game (“Department”) has prepared this addendum to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.). The Department is the “lead agency” under CEQA with respect to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvements Project (“Project”) as the owner and manager of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA). (See generally Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21102.1, subd. (d), 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381; see also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 783.3, subd. (a).) <sup>1</sup>. The Department prepared this addendum in response to some modifications to the original Project.

The Department is lead agency under CEQA with respect to the Project because the State owns and manages the YBWA. The Department, as the lead agency under CEQA, analyzed the environmental effects of the Project in a prior Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The MND certified by the Department, for “Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvements” (State Clearinghouse No. 2017122001). The Department certified the adequacy of the MND under CEQA on January 29, 2018. In so doing, the Department imposed various mitigation measures for impacts to resources and concluded that Project-related impacts could be avoided or substantially lessened, such that the impacts would be less than significant. As approved by the Department, the proposed project includes five major improvements, identified as project components, that are being proposed to enhance the CDFW ability to manage wetland resources and agricultural operations within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Specific improvements include installing new water control structures, expanding canals, installing box culverts and two con-span bridges, replacing existing culverts, raising road grades, separating dual function ditches, relocating an existing water pump, and installing two new pumps.

This addendum is to address modifications to the original project that were a result of a change in flooding and drainage flow patterns and to reduce long term cost and impacts. Four of the five elements of the MND have been completed but one element will not be completed. Element 4, the cross canal pump station will not be built, and it will be replaced by passive structures to drain water from the YBWA. Additional description of the modifications to meet the objectives of the pump are described below.

### **Revised Project Components**

#### **Four Risers Conveyance Junction**

Six Water Control Structures (WCSs) in need of repair would be removed and replaced within and adjacent to an existing water conveyance junction, sometimes referred to as

the “Four Risers.” The junction is a circular levee enclosure that currently conveys water in the four cardinal directions connecting a major intersection of the Davis Drain with an unnamed major north / south running canal. The junction is just south of Greens Lake and is bordered on the west by rice fields and to the east by managed seasonal wetlands.

The replacement WCSs would consist of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) culverts with precast concrete flashboard risers. The WCSs would also include walkways supported by timber piles to allow access to operate and maintain the WCSs.

Associated WCSs would be replaced in kind with culverts ranging in size from 24-inches to 48-inches in diameter and varying lengths. The WCSs are proposed to improve management capabilities within the managed wetland units and rice fields within YBWA.

### **West Mace Delivery Ditch Improvement**

Approximately 8,400 linear feet and 38,600 cubic yards (CY) of new ditch would be excavated parallel along an existing north/south running ditch (i.e., the West Mace Delivery Ditch) to improve conveyance of winter water to the rice fields and managed wetlands of YBWA. The West Mace Delivery Ditch Improvement would reduce management complications and, improve the ability to flood adjacent habitat and pump efficiency. This would be done by improving the West Mace Delivery Ditch capacity to convey fall and winter flows meant to flood adjacent managed seasonal wetlands and rice fields. This conveyance would allow users to reduce dependency on existing pump station referred to as the 55 Lift Pump to convey fall and winter flows.

The construction of the new ditch would include installation of nine WCSs. The WCSs would consist of HDPE culverts with precast concrete flashboard risers. WCSs would also include walkways supported by timber piles to allow access to operate and maintain the WCSs. Associated culverts would range in size from 24-inches to 48-inches in diameter and varying lengths. The WCSs are proposed to improve management capabilities within the managed wetland units and rice fields within YBWA.

In addition to the ditch improvements, approximately 400 linear feet and 300 CY would be excavated within a managed wetland to create a new swale to facilitate the flow of water to a drain leading to the Cross Canal to the south. All excavated material would be repurposed to recontour and raise the existing north/south levee road to historic elevations. Settlement and erosion have occurred along the levee road alignment resulting in low spots and uneven grade.

A new 800-linear-foot east/west running irrigation ditch would be constructed to the north of the Cross Canal. Approximately nine new WCSs would be installed along the new ditch to convey water across existing road crossings and to connect it to the Cross Canal to the south. The new WCSs would consist of HDPE pipe with precast concrete flashboard risers. WCSs would also include walkways supported by timber piles to

allow access to operate and maintain the WCSs. Associated pipes would be 24-inches to 48-inches in diameter and varying lengths.

An existing crossing over the Cross Canal located approximately 3,700 feet to the west of the Parking Lot H crossing is in need of repair. Two flap gates and four canal gates would be replaced in kind to facilitate the conveyance of water through the canal.

### **Parking Lot H Crossing**

The existing crossing and all associated WCSs located within the Cross Canal just south of Parking Lot H would be removed. All derelict WCSs would be reused as part of the conveyance junction or West Mace Delivery Ditch Improvements or disposed of properly. Material excavated from the crossing would be repurposed to improve the existing roadways adjacent to the road and bring them back up historic elevations. Two small parking lots would be constructed along upland levees road shoulders south of the southern road of the Cross Canal. In addition, excavated material would also be used to recontour a sump that was put in as part of the original project before it was decided not to construct the proposed pump within the southeast corner of the existing rice field, just west of Parking Lot H. The berms around the sump would be removed and the sump would be filled in bringing the southeastern edge of the existing rice field to historic conditions. One WCS would be installed between the newly contoured rice field and an existing canal. The new WCS would consist of HDPE pipe with precast concrete flashboard risers. The WCS would also include walkways supported by timber piles to allow access to operate and maintain the WCSs. Associated pipes would be 48-inches in diameter. The WCS would act as a drain for the rice field.

To facilitate the drainage of flood flow between the rice fields and the managed wetlands on either side of the existing north/south roadway that runs between Parking Lot H and the Four Risers Conveyance Junction, two strategic locations have been identified as locations to convey flows. Two high-flow crossings would be constructed at these two locations. These two lowered sections of the existing roadway would be surfaced with appropriately sized rock and would function as weirs that could convey lower flood stages between the rice fields on the west and the managed wetlands on the east. Culverts would also be installed under the crossings. Culverts would consist of HDPE pipe with concrete headwalls and/or riprap aprons at the inlet and outlet to reduce scour during conveyance of higher flows.

### **Green's Lake Unit Delivery and Berm Improvement**

Approximately 7,000 liner feet and 9,750 CY of material would be excavated to create new swale alignments in the managed wetlands southeast of Greens Lake. The swale network would improve water conveyance on and off of the wetlands to improve management capabilities within YBWA.

All excavated material would be repurposed to raise and recontour the existing east/west and north/south running levee roads along the Davis Drain and address settlement and erosion that has occurred along the road alignment. Approximately 2,700 TN of gravel would be imported to top the roadway to allow access during the winter months and prevent erosion.

### **OBLIGATIONS OF A LEAD AGENCY**

CEQA establishes the type of environmental documentation required when changes to a project occur after an MND is certified. Specifically, Section 15164(b) of the CEQA Guidelines states that:

An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.

As the Lead Agency, the Department “must consider the environmental effects of the project as shown” in the Final MND. Such consideration must presume the adequacy of the conclusions reached in the Final MND regarding the significant environmental effects of the Project. (*Laurel Heights Improvement Association, supra*, 6 Cal.4th at 1130.) As discussed in more detail below, however, because any such changes do not rise to the level of change requiring preparation of a subsequent MND, the Department may properly prepare an addendum to the Final MND as required by CEQA Guidelines section 15164. (See also *Fund for Environmental Defense v. County of Orange* (1988) 204 Cal.App.3d 1538, 1552; *River Valley Preservation Project v. Metropolitan Transit Development Board* (1995) 37 Cal.App.4th 154, 177.)

## **CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT CHANGES, CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES AND POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT NEW INFORMATION**

The Department has considered the environmental effects of the discretionary decisions addressed by the Final MND. Notwithstanding the Department's obligation to make independent findings under CEQA, the Department's consideration is nonetheless constrained by the legal presumption that the conclusions reached in the Final MND regarding the significant environmental effects of the project are adequate. (*Laurel Heights Improvement Association, supra*, 6 Cal.4th at p. 1130.) That presumption is tempered, however, by a number of issues related to the Project that may reflect changes to the project, changed circumstances, or potentially significant new information. Each of these issues is addressed below in detail.

In considering the issues set forth below that may reflect project changes, changed circumstances, or potentially significant new information, the Department need not prepare a subsequent MND unless it concludes, based on substantial evidence in light of the whole record, that any of the three conditions in CEQA Guidelines section 15162, subdivision (b), are present. Stated another way, a subsequent MND is not required under CEQA where substantial evidence in light of the whole record supports the Department's determination that none of the following conditions are present:

- (1) Substantial changes are proposed to the Project that will require major revisions of the Final MND due to the involvement of the new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the Project is undertaken that will require major revisions of the Final MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the Department certified the Final MND, shows any of the following:
  - (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the Final MND;
  - (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the Final MND;

- (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
- (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous MND would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

(CEQA Guidelines, § 15164, subd. (a)(1)-(3).)

Based on the preceding legal standards, the inquiry that follows considers whether the issues detailed below reveal previously undisclosed significant environmental impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of previously disclosed impacts. (*Id.*, §§ 15162, 15163, 15164, subd. (a).)

The Department finds adherence to and implementation of the conditions of Project approval, as well as adherence to and implementation of the conditions of approval imposed by the MND and accompanying permits will avoid or reduce the potential for such effects to below a level of significance. The Department has determined that the CEQA review is sufficient and will not require preparation of a subsequent MND.

DocuSigned by:

Erin Chappell

B77E9A6211EF486...

Date

6/12/2025

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Erin Chappell  
Regional Manager Bay Delta Region  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife



## Community Enhancement Program Update

### Staff Report

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#### PROGRAM UPDATE

As of January 12, 2026, there are 12 active projects, two approved projects, and four closed projects.

For updates on a specific project, please visit: [Delta Conservancy Project Table Updates page](#).

For an interactive map of program projects, please visit: [Delta Conservancy Project Maps page](#).

#### SIGNIFICANT PROJECT MILESTONES

##### **CAR01: Pacific Flyway Center: Walk in the Marsh (Implementation)**

The purpose of the Project is to build three miles of Americans with Disability Act (ADA)-compliant hiking trails, educational signage throughout the restored wetlands in the Suisun Marsh, a parking area, access road upgrades, a shade structure, decorative asphalt art, and a bike rack. This Project was awarded \$1,486,050 of Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR) funds in 2021. The Grantee received an amended budget increase of \$450,000 in 2023. The Project is near completion and final construction elements will be completed in summer of 2026.



**Figure 8.1.** Pacific Flyway Center in Fairfield, CA.

**P6824: Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building Phase 2 (Implementation)**

The purpose of this Project is to obtain four pedestal covers to protect museum displays, signs mounted on foam board to provide interpretation for museum exhibits, wayfinding throughout the museum, and the conservation, cleaning, and delivery of a Chinese banner from the 1930s. The Grantee was awarded \$13,442 in Proposition 68 funds in 2024. The Grantee has completed the restoration and installation of the banner, and design, printing, and installation of interpretive signage.



**Figure 8.2.** Banner in the Isleton Museum in Isleton, CA.

**BACKGROUND**

The Community Enhancement 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 table below 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 Program Funding Sources. ERCA refers to the Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program (Agenda Item 6.1). Amounts listed in millions of dollars.**

Funding Source	Total Allocation	Minimum Amount Available for Grants	Total Amount Allocated for Grants	Amount Remaining to be Allocated	Allocation Date	Encumbrance Date	Program(s) Supported by Funding Source
Proposition 68	\$12.0	\$8.7	\$8.7	\$0	6/8/2018	6/30/2027	CEP
CAR	\$5.25	\$4.99	\$4.99	\$0	9/23/2021	6/30/2027	ERCA and CEP
CAR	\$6.125	\$5.82	\$5.8	\$0.02	9/6/2022	6/30/2027	ERCA and CEP

## CONTACT

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(916) 634-3743



## Delta Conservancy 2025 Annual Report

### Staff Report

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Over the past year, the Conservancy advanced impactful projects and partnerships that strengthen and support the Conservancy's efforts to support natural and working lands, local communities, and long-term ecological restoration efforts. Through collaboration, innovation, and on-the-ground action, this work continues to protect the Delta's unique landscape while supporting its people and economy.

Organized around the goals set in the Conservancy's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, the Conservancy has prepared an interactive annual report that highlights key accomplishments in 2025.

[Explore the report here.](#)

#### CONTACT

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## **Delta Conservancy 2025 Implementation Plan Status Update and Consideration of 2026 Implementation Plan**

### **Staff Report**

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This report presents for Board consideration the 2026 Implementation Plan.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Board approval of the 2026 Implementation Plan.

#### **DESCRIPTION**

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

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

This year, the Conservancy will be updating the Strategic Plan.

#### **SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Move that the Board approve as final the Draft Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 2026 Implementation Plan as presented in this item.

#### **CONTACT**

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA** CONSERVANCY  
*A California State Agency*

# 2026 Implementation Plan

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## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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

## SACRAMENTO SAN-JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY

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

### Ecological and Community Programs Staff

- Dr. Meredith Howard, Ecological and Community Programs Manager
- Martha Ozonoff, Community Projects Supervisor
- Lauren Damon, Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaption Program Supervisor
- Dr. Rachel Wigginton, Senior Environmental Scientist
- Anjali Shakya, Environmental Scientist
- Maya Garrett, Ecological and Community Programs Analyst
- Vacant, Environmental Scientist

### Administration Staff

- Vacant, Administration Manager
- Jessica Adel, Administration Supervisor
- Chelsea Martinez, Grant and Contract Analyst
- Hope Miller, Communications Analyst
- Jiantie Hou, Fiscal and Board Analyst
- Alexandria Valencia, Office Technician

## Introduction

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) seeks to achieve its mission through strategic planning, funding allocation, and collaborative efforts with stakeholders. This Implementation Plan outlines the goals, objectives, and key actions to be undertaken in 2026 to align with the Conservancy's [2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#).

## Mission Statement

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



An aerial view of Webb Tract, a 5,500-acre Delta island in Contra Costa County. The Conservancy provided Nature-Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration grant funding for two subsidence reversal projects on the island. (Photo by California Department of Water Resources)

## 2025 Highlights at a Glance

- **Implementing Restoration** – In 2025, the Conservancy advanced high-priority multi-benefit projects for habitat, salinity management, and flood control such as the Paradise Cut Bypass and Franks Tract Futures projects. Several planning projects reached the milestone of being “shovel-ready,” including the Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta-Carbona project. These projects are now seeking implementation funds.
- **Natural and Working Lands** – The Conservancy made progress in addressing subsidence and related carbon emissions in the Delta through its support of 11,000 acres of rice and habitat restoration. In 2025, the Conservancy amplified the Delta’s collective work by creating an ongoing team to coordinate and accelerate carbon work in the Delta.
- **Providing Technical Guidance** – Through the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP), the Conservancy provided valuable insight into the effectiveness of agricultural water conservation practices in the unique hydrology of the Delta by working with researchers at the University of California Davis to collect data on six farms.
- **Building Community** – The Conservancy furthered its commitment to building the community and economy of the Delta by launching two new projects. The first project will construct the Freeport gateway monuments and the second will acquire land for the future home of the Delta Aquatic Center – a center in downtown Stockton that will provide access to the Delta to everyone regardless of economic or physical limitations.
- **Building Partnerships** – The Conservancy continued to build meaningful partnerships to address Delta challenges throughout the year. A highlight is the Conservancy co-hosting the sixth biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium to share information and build connections among the over 200 people who attended.
- **Keeping the Delta Clean** – The Conservancy launched the Clean Vessel Act Program (CVAP), which provides clean, safe, and enjoyable aquatic recreation by providing boater education and monitoring boat sewage and disposal.
- **Preparing to Make an Impact in the Delta** – In anticipation of the \$29 million awarded to the Conservancy in Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (the Climate Bond), the Conservancy collected community input and established grant metrics and a procedure to ensure the funding meets the highest need in the Delta.
- **Administrative** – The Conservancy continued to grow its effectiveness as a team. In 2025, the team established the Delta Conservancy’s Core Values, advanced Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) goals, secured architectural and engineering (A&E) authority to more easily contract with private A&E firms, finalized its first Workforce and Succession Management Plan, updated the Conflict of Interest Code, and onboarded new staff and board members.

## 2026 at a Glance

- **Nature-Based Solutions** – The Conservancy remains committed to the adoption of nature-based solutions in the Delta. Working with partners, the Conservancy is seeking funding, advancing science, and supporting collaboration to increase the pace and scale of adoption.
- **“Delta as Place”** – is important to preserving the Delta’s past and building a vibrant future. The Conservancy will continue to work with partners to promote, fund, and support projects that help people access the Delta, highlight its history, and make it a place of discovery.
- **Making an Impact in the Delta** – The Conservancy is optimistic that it will open a funding solicitation in 2026. Committed to funding high-value projects, the Conservancy has created competitive evaluation criteria, established guidelines, and prepared to release a solicitation when funding becomes available.
  - New this year will be a small-grants program for projects under \$100,000
  - The Conservancy will also track the effectiveness of its grants and equity of the grant-making process
- **Amplifying the Impact** – The Conservancy will identify opportunities to bring additional funds to the important actions funded by the Climate Bond.
  - Creating a funding plan for the Conservancy and the Delta that seeks additional funding sources that may include carbon markets, private funding, and public partnerships
  - Educating the community about the important funding needs of the Delta as a whole
- **Bringing Value without Funding** – Because the Climate Bond funding will go quickly, the Conservancy is seeking ways to amplify its effectiveness in the Delta and make an impact through partnership, collaboration, and support.
- **Strategic Plan** – The Conservancy will launch its strategic plan efforts with a goal to have a strategic plan adopted in May 2027.
- **Broadening Partnerships** – The Conservancy is committed to broadening the partnerships and engaging an ever-widening set of partners including those who haven’t been part of the conversation.

# Goals and Objectives

## Goal 1: Ecological Conservation, Restoration, and Climate Adaptation

### *Objectives*

- Increase visibility, diversity, and resilience of the Delta and Suisun Marsh ecosystems
- Adapt landscapes to be resilient to climate change
- Create collaborative relationships across sectors to advance ecological restoration
- Engage with local entities, organizations, and agencies to identify Delta and Suisun Marsh ecosystem, climate, and science priorities

### *Strategy 1.1: Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program*

The Delta Conservancy's ERCA Program funds ecosystem protection, restoration, and enhancement; water quality improvement; sustainable agriculture; and climate resilience projects. In 2025, the Conservancy partnered with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to advance design feasibility of the Franks Tract project, supported innovative invasive species management projects such as the Little Franks Tract project, helped to design multi-benefit flood control projects like the Paradise Cut flood bypass, informed and advanced Cutting the Green Tape initiatives, and was a leader in increasing accessibility of ecosystem and climate data.

As of December 31, 2025, 24 projects have been completed, and 15 projects are in progress. In 2026, the Conservancy will increase the resilience of the Delta and capacity of the Delta community by investing Climate Bond funding (Proposition 4) into local entities and agencies. Climate Bond funding will prioritize multi-benefit projects that support native biodiversity; control and manage invasive species and salinity; and increase the Delta's resiliency to climate change by mitigating flood and drought impacts. Climate Bond funds are uniquely available to use for capacity building, feasibility projects, and planning projects, which allows the Conservancy to support and work collaboratively with the community to identify, prioritize, design, and implement 'shovel-ready' projects. The Conservancy will facilitate the tracking of ongoing ecosystem and climate projects and will make project data publicly available.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Develop long-term goals for ERCA through the strategic planning process and explore alternative funding sources to provide financial stability and a financial mechanism to implement the newly developed long-term goals
- Foster partnerships with nonprofits, state agencies, and local entities to develop projects and identify funding opportunities that advance ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

- Roll out the Climate Bond grant program in fall 2026 to fund ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation projects, aligned with statewide strategies for environmental justice and increased climate adaptation (e.g., Just Transitions, Delta Adaptations, Cutting the Green Tape, 30x30, etc.)
- Continue to monitor active and completed ERCA projects

### ***Strategy 1.2: A Collaborative State Partner***

Working with partners to solve critical conservation challenges and advance collective work in the Delta is a core function of the Conservancy.

#### *Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team*

To support the Conservancy's guiding principles to work collaboratively and use the best available science, the Conservancy facilitates and co-leads a team of invasive species professionals working across sectors, including local, state, and federal government staff, NGO staff, academic researchers, and extension specialists. In 2025, the DIISC Team built collaboration by holding quarterly meetings, convening a working group on the management of invasive aquatic vegetation in tidal wetland restoration sites that produced the [Quick-Start Guide to Managing Invasive Aquatic Vegetation \(IAV\) in Tidal Wetland Habitats of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh](#), and facilitating the planning of the sixth biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium. The symposium brought together over 200 managers, academics, and community members to educate and discuss the future of invasive species in the Delta.

In 2026, the Conservancy will continue to facilitate and co-lead the DIISC Team with staff from the Delta Stewardship Council, California Department of Water Resources, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. DIISC Team leaders plan to build on past initiatives in 2026 which includes advancing the draft early detection and rapid response framework; updating research and management needs to compliment the update to the Delta Science Plan; and advocating for the needs of the Delta and Suisun Marsh within regional and statewide invasive species groups.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Facilitate regular meetings to advance the objectives of the DIISC Team
- Focus on the draft early detection and rapid response (EDRR) framework highlighting research collaboration and next steps to make an impact
- Coordinate with and participate in the Golden Mussel Task Force
- Highlight the needs of the Delta to the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee and the Invasive Species Council of California

### *Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Sub-Committee (RSC)*

The Conservancy and the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) facilitate the DPIIC RSC to advance restoration activities at the pace and scale necessary to fulfill the objectives of the Delta Plan and support the objectives of the Water Resilience Portfolio, Cutting the Green Tape Initiative, and the Governor's California Biodiversity Initiative. In 2025, the DPIIC RSC held the third Delta Restoration Forum, published an information sheet on [Restoring the Delta's Ecosystems: Progress and Next Steps](#), raised awareness of regulatory streamlining tools for restoration projects, and highlighted opportunities for whole Delta island management as a mosaic of wetted agriculture and restored managed wetlands.

In 2026, the Conservancy will continue to facilitate the subcommittee to advance its [workplan](#) and provide forums for meaningful community participation in Delta restoration efforts, increase interagency collaboration to streamline restoration, and increase transparency and coordination in needed restoration funding.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Host regular subcommittee meetings to highlight critical issues in the Delta and Suisun Marsh focused on engaging members of the public
- Hold the fourth Delta Restoration Forum to build capacity to advance restoration in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, discuss restoration needs, identify funding, and continue collaboration
- Develop outreach materials, events and technical assistance to engage Delta growers, landowners, community members, tribes, and environmental justice organizations in Delta restoration planning and implementation
- Research issues and potential solutions to restoration implementation challenges and communicate findings. Research topics could include restoration sites, funding, incentive programs, and public-private collaborations

## **Goal 2: Economically and Ecologically Sustainable Working Lands**

### ***Objectives***

- Increase implementation of sustainable and ecologically beneficial farming and agricultural practices
- Reduce and reverse land subsidence and associated carbon emissions
- Incentivize sustainable land use practices by promoting and supporting economic viability

### ***Strategy 2.1: Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP)***

The Delta Drought Response Pilot Program is an experimental program that tests field management practices' effects on consumptive water use in the Delta. A University of California Davis (UC Davis) research team is informing remote sensing technologies and improving future responses to drought by using micrometeorological stations to collect data on six fields. In 2025, the Conservancy coordinated with UC Davis as they gathered data for a second full water year and shared preliminary results from the first two years of the experiment with interested parties at academic conferences and within state working groups.

In 2026, the Conservancy will support the UC Davis research team as they collect the final year of data and collaborate with all DDRPP partner organizations to share recommendations to inform science and policy during future drought.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Assist the UC Davis research team in gathering data and creating a final water budget for all three years
- Facilitate meetings with UC Davis and stakeholders to coordinate and inform policy
- Complete the six remaining grant agreements supporting farmers
- Seek opportunities to continue the work

### ***Strategy 2.2: Sustainable Agricultural Practices, Delta Carbon, and Subsidence Management***

Statewide strategies, including Delta Adapts and the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, recognize the significance of Delta subsidence and the associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to California climate mitigation goals. In accordance, they set targets including re-wetting 50,000 acres of deeply subsided, highly organic soils in the Delta by 2045. Conservancy staff, in partnership with other state and federal agencies, non-profits, tribes, and local districts, are addressing these targets by working to implement rice cultivation and wetland restoration in deeply subsided areas of the Delta.

In 2025, the Conservancy advanced implementation of sustainable agriculture by partnering with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and California Air Resources Board to incorporate rice cultivation into their Healthy Soils Program. The Conservancy also advanced subsidence reversal implementation by establishing a collaborative Delta Carbon Team and providing technical assistance on Conservancy-funded landscape-scale projects including the Rice Conversion Program and wetland/rice mosaics on Webb Tract and Staten Island. The Conservancy supported the California Air Resources Board and Natural Resources Agency efforts to efficiently track Natural and Working Lands targets as required by Assembly Bill 1757 (Garcia 2022). The Conservancy also participated in the ongoing acquisition and development of sustainable agriculture and subsidence reversal projects on Jersey Island, Bethel Island, and across the Delta.

In 2026, the Conservancy will advance Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and sustainable land use in the Delta by exploring alternative revenue streams such as carbon credits and selling wetland biomass for biofuels. The Conservancy will also partner with The Nature Conservancy and other entities to develop a governance and alternative land-use framework that will eliminate barriers to implementing NBS projects, including incentivizing additional funding sources and streamlining planning processes. This framework will establish the Conservancy as the central agency for NBS projects in the Delta.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Develop a project implementation framework to remove barriers to NBS projects in the Delta
- Continue working with grantees to ensure success of previously funded subsidence reversal projects
- Identify and apply for alternative funding sources to support subsidence and GHG reduction projects
- Partner with other agencies and organizations to improve data accessibility and tracking of carbon projects

## **Goal 3: Community and Economic Enhancement**

### ***Objectives***

- Foster robust and sustainable economies in the Delta and Suisun Marsh
- Preserve, enhance, and increase awareness of the unique history, culture, and values of the Delta and Suisun Marsh
- Increase public access to Delta and Suisun Marsh landscapes, communities, and cultural resources

### ***Strategy 3.1: Community Enhancement Program (CEP)***

The Conservancy's Community Enhancement Program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Delta residents by fostering economic vitality, recreational opportunities, and cultural preservation in the region. In 2025, the Conservancy funded two new community projects with Proposition 68 funds to construct the gateway monuments project in Freeport and to acquire the Darrahville land in Stockton that will be the future home of the Delta Aquatic Center – a facility that will provide access to the Delta regardless of physical ability or ability to pay. As of December 31, 2025, there are four completed projects, 12 active projects, and two approved to start.

In 2026, the Conservancy will continue to engage nonprofits, agencies, and local entities to create projects that bring high value to the Delta community in preparation for a Climate Bond

solicitation. The Conservancy will provide technical assistance, streamline the grant application process, and offer small grants to make funding more accessible to applicants from small organizations and organizations that represent disadvantaged communities. The Conservancy will seek additional funding to support projects.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Exploration of alternate funding sources, potentially including a “Delta as Place” specialty license plate with the purpose of generating funds for a new capacity building grant program to strengthen the Delta community
- Create a “Community Action Plan” pilot program to identify funding needs for Delta Legacy Communities, including identifying locations for listening sessions in 2027
- Roll out the Climate Bond grant program in fall 2026 to fund community-based public access projects
- Continue to monitor existing and completed Community Enhancement projects

### ***Strategy 3.2: Delta Cleanups and Outreach Events***

As part of the Conservancy’s outreach strategy, staff organize and participate in cleanup events to promote the importance of protecting and improving water quality in the Delta for both humans and wildlife. The Conservancy also facilitates and takes part in various events in the Delta to build connections, better understand Delta issues, and promote the Conservancy’s mission.

In 2025, the Conservancy and the Rio Vista Windsports Association (RVWA) partnered to hold two waterway cleanups on Sherman Island. At the cleanups, staff and volunteers collected enough trash along a 1.5-mile stretch of the Sacramento River to fill two 40-yard dumpsters. Partnering with RVWA and promoting the cleanups via social media helped increase the number of volunteers at both cleanups, with more than 60 volunteers participating in the two events. The Conservancy also supported a new partnership with Sacramento County to remove agricultural plastics from the waste stream and help farmers comply with regulations. At the Sacramento County plastic recycling event at KLM Ranch, Sequoia Environmental Compliance Counsel recycled more than 16,000 pounds of plastic containers from the 62 farmers and ranchers who participated.

As part of broader outreach efforts in 2025, the Conservancy participated in and created collateral for an array of in-person events, including the State of the Estuary Conference in Oakland, Native American Day at the Capitol, educational tours of the Delta, and co-organized public-facing gatherings such as the Delta Invasive Species Symposium and the Delta Restoration Forum. These events were attended by a wide variety of people, from academics to growers to students.

In 2026, the Conservancy will continue to organize and support cleanups in the Delta, identifying high-priority areas and looking for opportunities to expand partnerships and measure impact. Staff will build upon past outreach efforts by further developing outreach strategies, increasing presence at events, and fostering new and existing relationships with local communities, agencies, NGOs, and private entities.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Hold at least two cleanups to spread awareness of and improve water quality in the Delta
- Increase the number of volunteers at cleanups; track and quantify impact of cleanup events
- Work with partners at sister agencies to identify high-priority cleanup sites and potential partners to support cleanups
- Support collaboration and raise awareness of Delta needs by regularly participating in, organizing, and facilitating events, such as interagency forums, workshops, and tours of the Delta
- Develop an assessment to track, identify, and improve collaboration opportunities with communities and partner entities through joint projects and resource sharing

## **Goal 4: Education and Enrichment**

### ***Objectives***

- Broaden opportunities for education about the Delta and Suisun Marsh ecosystems, and cultural and historical values among individuals, groups, organizations, and decision-makers
- Strengthen the Conservancy's role as a state and community partner

### ***Strategy 4.1: Communications***

Environmental, cultural, and historical education and enrichment are important components of the Conservancy's programs. To achieve those goals, a robust communication strategy is essential to effectively engage interested parties, promote the Conservancy's mission, and advocate for the Delta's ecological and economic wellbeing. In 2025, the Conservancy created and refined a communications and outreach plan to establish strategies that resulted in increased engagement and growth across all its active social media platforms. Growth on Instagram was particularly noteworthy (over 200 new follows) as the Conservancy sought opportunities for collaborative posts with agencies such as California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways.

In 2026, the Conservancy will build off progress made in 2025 by setting a communications plan that increases collaboration with partners and produces materials that underscore the Delta's importance and funding needs. The Conservancy will continue to share funding opportunities and educational content via the website and social media accounts, and track metrics for those platforms.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Maintain an informative, interactive, user-friendly website
- Create and disseminate engaging and informative social media content utilizing a content calendar to strategically publish content weekly
- Build on last year's communication plan to create metrics and performance indicators as well as collaborate with other entities
- Compile key performance indicators for communications collateral and share best practices and success stories
- Engage students with presentations and written material

#### ***Strategy 4.2 Clean Vessel Act Program (CVAP)***

In 2025, the Conservancy launched the Clean Vessel Act Program to provide clean, safe, and enjoyable aquatic recreation through boater education and monitoring of boat sewage facilities. The Conservancy engaged recreational boaters across northern California by attending the Sacramento and Sausalito Boat Shows and distributing deck adapters and Y-valve kits. Staff also completed biannual monitoring at 64 marinas across the Delta, Bay Area, and Monterey counties. Lastly, the Conservancy shared regular clean-boating messages on our website and across social media platforms.

In 2026, the Conservancy will build on last year's success by growing education and outreach programs including a greater presence at northern California boat shows, biannual monitoring of marinas, and increased outreach activities.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Attend the Sacramento, Redwood City, and Sausalito boat shows
- Conduct biannual monitoring of pumpout and dump stations across 13 northern California counties
- Post on social media about clean boating practices
- Attend the 2026 States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) conference in Boise, Idaho

## Goal 5: Effective, Sustainable, Adaptable and Inclusive Organization

### ***Objectives***

- Provide a safe, creative, inspiring, equitable, and inclusive working environment at all levels
- Establish and maintain adequate resources for efficient operations and structure

#### ***Strategy 5.1: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion***

To further the Conservancy's commitment to serve the Delta community and the state of California, it is critical to address equity issues and remove barriers to accessing state resources, employment, and Conservancy programs. In 2025, the Conservancy assessed barriers in grant and hiring processes that inhibit equal access to state resources; provided technical assistance to applicants and grantees from small organizations and underrepresented communities; and increased knowledge and tools by participating in trainings and workgroups. The Conservancy designed a grant process that is transparent, centers around equity, promotes tribal engagement in bond-funded programs, and simplifies the application process for grantees. The program includes a new small grant program that will support the capacity of small entities in the Delta.

In 2026, the Conservancy will implement actions to address issues that were identified in 2025 and provide technical assistance to grantees. In addition, the Conservancy will implement a system to assess the effectiveness of the grant process in providing equitable access to grant funds. Finally, the small grant program will allow small entities in the Delta to receive funding and technical support to build the capacity of their organizations.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Continue to build partnerships that promote equity in Conservancy programs
- Implement the newly created assessment criteria that encourage equity and tribal engagement
- Create an assessment of the effectiveness of the equity goals in Climate Bond funding
- Continue to participate in committees, community gatherings, and learning opportunities
- Work with the Delta Stewardship Council to implement joint actions from their equity plan

#### ***Strategy 5.2: Tribal Engagement***

The Conservancy recognizes that tribes were the original inhabitants of the land and should be part of ongoing Delta land management. To this end, the Conservancy will continue to work with tribes and tribal entities. In 2025, the Conservancy expanded outreach to tribes, took training to increase cultural awareness skills, encouraged grantees to increase tribal

engagement on Conservancy-funded projects, and assessed ways to support tribal participation in land management in the Delta. The Conservancy also established metrics in the Climate Bond assessment criteria to prioritize projects that are tribally led or have meaningful tribal engagement.

In 2026, the Conservancy will continue to prioritize tribal engagement and seek opportunities to support tribal work and engagement in the Delta. The Conservancy will expand its work with tribes by encouraging tribal engagement in Conservancy-funded projects and working directly with tribes. Specifically, outreach will continue to build relationships and around the Climate Bond and tribal resource management.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Create metrics to assess the outcomes of the Climate Bond process
- Increase tribal engagement by seeking opportunities to support tribal objectives in the Delta
- Work with CNRA and the Legislature to change the Conservancy code to allow grants to tribes
- Build on previous work to build relationships with tribes and tribal entities
- Continue to participate in committees, community gatherings, and learning opportunities
- Continue outreach on tribal resource management in the Delta

### ***Strategy 5.3: Administration***

The Conservancy will continue to complete required administrative and operational work in collaboration with all staff. In 2025, the Conservancy met all required goals, reports, and tasks and adopted core values through a collaborative process.

In 2026, the Conservancy will continue submitting administrative and operational reports and plans, with a focus on completing a Records Retention Plan and Schedule, Workforce Violence Prevention Plan, Injury and Illness Prevention Plan, and an Upward Mobility Plan. The Conservancy will also finalize updates to the Conservancy policies, promote professional development, and coordinate department-wide trainings. Additionally, the Conservancy will create a centralized SharePoint page offering wellness resources and other helpful information for staff.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Develop a SharePoint page to provide staff with centralized access to wellness information and available resources
- Implement a Records Retention Plan, Workforce Violence Prevention Plan, an Injury and Illness Prevention Plan, and an Upward Mobility Plan

- Maintain a sound organization by updating policies, procedures, and processes, and creating division manuals
- Keep staff up to date by encouraging professional development and providing cross-training opportunities
- Comply with State requirements by submitting administrative and operational reports, plans, and proposals
- Stay up to date on requirements and policy changes by participating in meetings and trainings with other state agencies

#### ***Strategy 5.4: New Funding Sources***

The Conservancy relies on state bond funding to support its work. Given the uncertainty of funding and that the funding in the Climate Bond is small compared to the Delta's needs, staff will pursue additional funding for Delta work. In 2025, the Conservancy continued to apply for grants, conduct outreach to other state agencies that may contract with the Conservancy, build efficiencies into the agency, and assess billing systems to maximize organizational resources.

In 2026, the Conservancy will establish a comprehensive funding plan that provides more stable funding sources that allows the Conservancy to provide benefit to the Delta and thrive in between bond funding.

Goals for 2026 are:

- Create a comprehensive funding plan that seeks potential funding sources
- Submit applications for federal, state, and private funding as it becomes available
- Amplify the impact of Conservancy funds by partnering with other organizations on funding opportunities

## Funding at a Glance

The Conservancy utilizes multiple funding sources to support its mission. These include annual general and special fund appropriations, one-time general fund appropriations, bond funding, and reimbursement agreements.

Funding Source	Amount Allocated	FY 25/26 Allocation	Project Funding Remaining	Programs Supported
General Fund	\$1,512,000	\$1,512,000	N/A	All programs
Climate, Access, and Resource Funding	\$11,400,000	\$267,000	\$17,000	Community Enhancement Program and Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program
Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Funding	\$36,000,000	\$1,039,000	\$9,000	Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program
Environmental License Plate Fund	\$130,000	\$130,000	N/A	All programs
Reimbursements Agreements	\$671,000	\$351,000	\$320,000	Community Enhancement Program
Delta Drought Response Pilot Program	\$19,000,000	\$103,000	\$0	Community Enhancement Program
Proposition 1	\$50,000,000	\$485,000	\$600,000	Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program
Proposition 4	\$29,000,000	\$4,300,000	\$22,700,000	Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program
Proposition 68	\$12,000,000	\$277,000	\$0	Community Enhancement Program

## Next Step

The Conservancy will prepare an update on the 2026 Implementation Plan for presentation at the July 2026 Board meeting.



## Delta Carbon Program Update

### Staff Report

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#### PROGRAM UPDATE

As of January 16, 2026, there are three active projects and one closed project.

For updates on a specific project, please visit: [Delta Conservancy Project Table Updates page](#).

For an interactive map of program projects, please visit: [Delta Conservancy Project Maps page](#).

The Conservancy reviewed the most recent (October 10, 2025) draft of the Delta Independent Science Board's (ISB) Subsidence Review and provided a comment letter. The ISB Subsidence Review document is a summary of the issue of subsidence and associated carbon emissions in the Delta and the forum that occurred in October 2023. The draft document and comment letter are available on the [ISB webpage](#).

The Delta Carbon Team, facilitated by the Conservancy and co-led by The Nature Conservancy, held its fourth meeting January 6, 2026. This team consists of people working on Delta carbon issues and improves collaboration on reversing subsidence and associated greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining economic viability and improving climate resilience. The draft charter and meeting information will be available on the [Delta Carbon Program webpage](#) prior to the next Board meeting.

#### SIGNIFICANT PROJECT MILESTONES

##### **NBS01: Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project**

The Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project consists of planning and implementing two projects that will result in the rewetting of the majority of Webb Tract, a deeply subsided 5,500-acre island in Contra Costa County. The rice conversion project, which is expected to start this spring, will convert between 1,000 and 1,500 acres of existing agriculture fields to rice. The wetland restoration project is completing final design and permitting for up to 2,400 acres of wetland. A request to move to implementation is expected this spring.

##### **NBS02: Delta Rice Incentive Program**

The Delta Rice Incentive Program offers a financial incentive to farmers to convert existing agricultural fields to rice. The program has been running for two years and has enrolled 10 farmers and nearly 4,000 acres. An additional solicitation this spring is expected to enroll up to 1,000 more acres to use the remaining funds. The program is also monitoring two of the converted fields for carbon emissions. Additional funding in the Climate Bond is likely to support a continuation of the Rice Incentive Program.



**Figure 11.1.** A converted rice field that is flooded for bird habitat benefits from NBS02: Delta Rice Conversion program.

#### **NBS04: Staten Island Wetland Restoration**

The Staten Island Wetland Restoration Project will restore 423 acres on Staten Island, a deeply subsided island in San Joaquin County. The island is used as a sustainable, wildlife-friendly farm, and the wetlands will ensure long-term viability by complementing the farming operations through recirculated water and reversing subsidence. The project has completed final design and permitting. A construction contractor has been secured. Construction is expected to start this spring.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Delta Carbon Program refers to a collection of activities and projects that halt or reverse subsidence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from highly organic soils in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Projects in this program are currently supported through the Nature-Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration (NBS: WR) General Fund allocation. 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 NBS: WR.

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 table below highlights the allocations for NBS: WR (general funds), which has funds allocated for both administration and grants. The amount remaining to be allocated are funds available for new grants.

**Delta Carbon Program Funding Source**

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
NBS: WR	\$36.0	\$34.2	\$34.2	\$0	9/6/2022	6/30/2025	Carbon

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## Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team Update

### Staff Report

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This agenda item provides an update on the Conservancy's role in facilitating the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team, publishing of the Quick-Start Guide to Managing Invasive Aquatic Vegetation (IAV) in Tidal Wetland Habitats of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh, and the sixth biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium.

#### DESCRIPTION

The Conservancy continues to act as facilitator and co-leader of the DIISC Team. In 2025, the DIISC Team held four quarterly meetings featuring briefings on golden mussel response, state ballast water regulations, and the work of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

Since July 2024, a working group of DIISC Team members has been developing a [Quick-Start Guide to Managing Invasive Aquatic Vegetation \(IAV\) in Tidal Wetland Habitats of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh](#) (guide). The guide was published on the DIISC Team webpage in November 2025 and provides recommendations for developing a site-specific IAV management plan.

Since 2015, the DIISC Team has planned and facilitated the biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium (Symposium). The Symposium's target audience is Delta managers, researchers, and decision-makers. The Symposium is a forum for these groups to meet, share, and synthesize information, and communicate best practices and lessons learned. The 2025 Symposium focused on managing invasives for the future Delta while highlighting innovative tools and approaches, modeling and forecasting efforts, and methods for dealing with uncertainties.

The 2025 Symposium took place on December 4, 2025, as a hybrid event. It was a great success with nearly 300 participants affiliated with local, state, and federal governments, NGOs, local land management groups, consulting firms, academia, community groups, and Delta residents. Agenda, abstracts, and a recording of the Symposium are available on the [Conservancy's website](#).

#### BACKGROUND

The DIISC Team was formed in 2013 to provide a venue for the exchange of information, coordination of research and management, and collective leveraging of funding relevant to invasive species management and study relevant to the Delta. To this end, the team has met quarterly since 2013, hosted six research and management symposiums, and has formed various working groups. The Delta Conservancy was identified as the facilitator of the DIISC Team and co-leads the group with the Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Delta Stewardship Council.

**CONTACT**

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