



## Executive Officer's Report

March 25, 2026

### PROGRAM UPDATE

#### STAFFING UPDATE

Recruitment is underway to backfill the Administration Manager and Senior Environmental Scientist positions.

#### 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).

#### INTRODUCED LEGISLATION

Please note that the Conservancy does not have a position on the following legislation. It is presented for informational purposes.

Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry introduced [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 2216](#) would expand the Delta Conservancy boundary to include the areas of San Joaquin, Sacramento, Yolo, and Solano counties that are not currently covered by the Legal Delta and Suisun Marsh boundaries. The bill would allow the Conservancy to support more of the upper watershed with future funding sources.

Senator McNerney introduced [Senate Bill \(SB\) 872](#), which would allocate \$150 million per year for 20 years from the Greenhouse Gass Reduction Fund to the Delta Conservancy to improve existing levees, and improve instream, riparian, floodplain, and wetland habitat.

#### CLIMATE BOND SOLICIATION (PROPOSITION 4)

AB 107 authorizes the Conservancy to proceed with the Climate Bond funds allocated for the 2025–26 funding cycle, consistent with legislative earmarks and the existing General Grant Guidelines. In Agenda Item 9, the Conservancy Board will consider approving a solicitation for the Rice Incentive Program in the amount of \$3.5 million. In addition, \$500,000 from the 2025-26 funding appropriation

will be provided to the John Muir Land Trust for the restoration of Bethel Island, consistent with direction from the Legislature.

In preparation for the 2026–27 funding cycle, the Conservancy Board will also consider modifications to the General Grant Guidelines in Agenda Item 10. If approved, the proposed revisions will be released for public comment and subsequently brought back to the Conservancy Board for final approval at the May Board meeting. The revised guidelines would apply to future funding cycles, which are anticipated to be allocated by the Legislature as part of their ongoing budget process.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

The Conservancy successfully completed a three-year audit conducted by the California State Personnel Board, achieving full compliance with no findings. In February, our Records Retention Schedule was approved by the Secretary of State's Records Management and Appraisal unit. A records destruction log will be created, which along with the Schedule, allows for proper, legal disposition of records that have met retention. Work is ongoing on the lease renewal process with the Department of General Services. Recruitment efforts continue for the Senior Environmental Scientist and Supervisor II positions. As of March 2026, the Conservancy has executed five grant and contract amendments, closed four agreements, and processed 61 invoices this year.

### **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) until the end of the water year in September 2026. The Conservancy organized the Delta Evapotranspiration Methods Workshop on January 20, 2026, to bring the project participants and collaborators together to review the micrometeorological results. The participants included UC Davis, Office of the Delta Watermaster, OpenET, Department of Water Resources, and the Delta Stewardship Council.

### **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. The DPIIC RSC plans to host the fourth Delta Restoration Forum on May 1, 2026.

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

The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team, facilitated by Conservancy staff and co-led by staff from the Delta Stewardship Council, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), had its first quarterly meeting of the year on February 18, 2026. In addition to the customary updates from all attending organizations, the Team heard an update from DWR on the Surveillance of eDNA for Notification of Target Invasives (SENTRI) project. Additionally, there was an informational presentation from the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity on identifying the differences between native and non-native *Phragmites australis*, using both genetic and morphometric traits. The Team will meet for its second quarter meeting in mid-May.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

### Nature Based Solutions Summit

The Conservancy participated in California's first Nature Based Solutions Summit on January 29 at the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) headquarters in Sacramento. The event offered a valuable space to share ideas, learn from partners, and build connections in service of healthier, more resilient landscapes. Conservancy staff provided information about the Conservancy's Nature Based Solutions projects and Executive Officer Campbell Ingram moderated a panel of diverse State agency leaders who shared examples of nature-based solutions achievements across California.

### Outdoors for All Convening

On February 3, the Conservancy attended CNRA's Outdoors for All convening, which focused on exchanging ideas and sharing progress to expand equitable access to the outdoors in California. Deputy Executive Officer Karen Buhr participated in a panel in which attendees heard from leaders championing the Outdoors for All initiative, the progress being made, and how collective leadership is helping create a more inclusive future. Executive Officer Campbell Ingram facilitated a breakout session about advancing shared priorities and aligning funding to support Outdoors for All.

## MEDIA MENTIONS

- [Lodi News](#), the [Vallejo Times-Herald](#), the [Turlock Journal](#), and the [Vacaville Reporter](#) published articles about SB 872, introduced by Senator McNerney.
- [CalMatters](#) posted information about AB 2216, introduced by Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry.

## BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Email California Natural Resources Agency's [Prop 4 Climate Bond webpage](#) to Board members. Board Member Sandoval mentioned the link during the Executive Officer Report, and Board Members requested that it be shared. The link was shared in the meeting chat, and the Conservancy emailed it to Board Members on February 5.

## DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 5.2: Budget and Expenditure Report

## CORRESPONDENCE

- None.

## CONTACT

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