



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

*A California State Agency*

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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**May 27, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Marina Community Center**

**340 Marina Blvd, Pittsburg, CA 94565**

This meeting will be conducted off-site, in a hybrid format, and will include a site visit. After the business meeting concludes at approximately 11:00 a.m., there will then be an in-person-only opportunity to visit a Delta Conservancy-funded project. Site tour information, including a map and directions, is included below. 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.

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

- 44 N. San Joaquin Street, Suite 627, Stockton, CA 95202

### Join via Microsoft Teams

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 256 212 392 921 399

Passcode: yw7r6oG7

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

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 916-573-2034,,288951294#](#) United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 288 951 294#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

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 March 25, 2026 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items (Attachment)
5. **Executive Officer's Report**, Campbell Ingram
  - Program Update (Attachment)
  - Budget and Expenditure Report (Attachment)
6. **Community Enhancement Program Update**, Maya Garrett (Attachment)
7. **Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program and Delta Carbon Program Updates**, Lauren Damon (Attachment)

8. **Consideration of Amendment to Scope of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Program Agreement for Wetland Restoration on Staten Island Project**, Lauren Damon (Attachment) (Action Item)
9. **Consideration of Updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines**, Karen Buhr (Attachments) (Action Item)
10. **California Department of Water Resources Multibenefit Restoration Program Update**, Charlotte Biggs
11. **Delta Stewardship Council Update**, Dr. Rachel Wigginton
12. **Delta Protection Commission Update**, Amanda Bohl
13. **Delta Conveyance Update**, Janet Barbieri
14. **Public Comment**
15. **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.

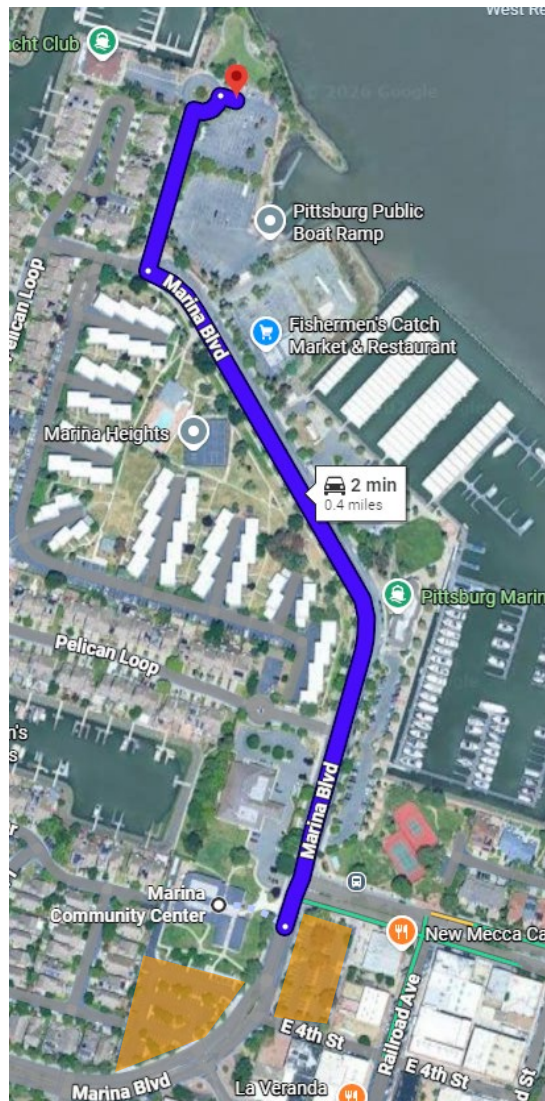
## Directions and Site Tour Information

For the post-meeting site visit, please prepare for being outdoors, including wearing layers, comfortable shoes, and sun protection, and bringing water. Please note lunch will not be provided.

The site visit will include a tour and presentation of the City of Pittsburg Central Harbor Park and Boat Launch Facility Upgrade planning and implementation projects. Both projects were funded through the Delta Conservancy's Community Enhancement Program.

### Directions from the Marina Community Center (340 Marina Blvd, Pittsburg, CA 94565) to Central Harbor Park:

1. Exit the Marina Community Center parking lot by turning north onto Marina Boulevard, towards East 3rd Street.
2. Drive north on Marina Boulevard for 0.3 miles.
3. Turn right onto Cutter Ave. Continue 0.1 miles.
4. Turn right into Central Harbor Park parking lot via the traffic circle entrance.



**Figure 1. Map from Marina Community Center to Central Harbor Park.** Orange shapes show the two parking lots available for Board Meeting parking. Follow the blue route to the red map pin for the site visit parking.



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

A California State Agency

**March 25, 2026 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: [March 25, 2026 Board Meeting Recording](#)

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Hume.

**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
- Vice Chair Sheila Allen
- Ken Carlson
- Sonny Dhaliwal – teleconference, left before Agenda Item 10 vote
- Michele Perrault
- Gloria Sandoval – arrived after Consent Calendar vote
- Wanda Williams – teleconference
- Leo Winternitz
- Lilliana Udang

**Ex-Officio Members Present:**

- Nicole Cuellar-Nelson – Senator Cabaldon Representative

**Liaison Advisors and Counsel Present:**

- Amanda Bohl
- Marge Kolar
- Todd Plain
- Jessica Bonitz (Counsel)

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment**

- None

**Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar**

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

- Approval of January 28, 2026 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

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

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

The Executive Officer highlighted several items in the staff report. Two items from the report were updated after publication: On March 5, the Executive Officer provided closing remarks at the Accounting for Blue Carbon in the Bay-Delta: Science Policy and Practice which was hosted by the UC Davis Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute, and the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Subcommittee meeting and the Delta Restoration Forum dates in the report were in the process of being moved to June.

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

As of March 2026, there are 11 active projects and 24 closed projects. Conservancy staff highlighted significant project milestones from the staff report for the Delta Working Waterways Habitat Restoration and the Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta-Carbona projects. Several change requests were approved internally, and details are in the project table linked in the staff report.

**Agenda Item 7 – Community Enhancement Program Update**

As of March 2026, there are 12 active projects, two approved projects, and four closed projects. Conservancy staff highlighted significant project milestones from the staff report for the Discover the Delta Education Center planning and the Asian American Heritage Park implementation projects. Several change requests were approved internally, and details are in the project table linked in the staff report.

**Agenda Item 8 – Delta Carbon Program Update**

As of March 2026, there are three active projects and one closed project. Conservancy staff highlighted significant project milestones from the staff report for the Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project, Delta Rice Incentive Program, and the Staten Island Wetland Restoration Project. Since the publishing of the staff report, an additional farmer has been enrolled in the Delta Rice Incentive Program to bring the enrollment to 12 farmers and 5,400 acres. Details are in the project table linked in the staff report.

**Agenda Item 9 – Consideration of Draft Solicitation Notice for Climate Bond (Proposition 4) and Nature Based Solutions Funding of the Rice Incentive Program**

Conservancy staff presented the draft Solicitation Notice for Climate Bond (Proposition 4) and Nature Based Solutions Funding of the Rice Incentive Program for Board consideration.

**Motion:** Board Member Udang moved, seconded by Board Member Winternitz, that the Board approve the draft Solicitation Notice for Climate Bond (Proposition 4) and Nature Based Solutions Funding for the Rice Incentive Program.

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

**Agenda Item 10 – Consideration of Updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines**

Conservancy staff presented updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines for Board consideration. The revised version retains the funding priorities, grant

information, proposal and award process, and proposal requirements, but scaled back detailed information on specific requirements that will be included in solicitation notices for specific funding opportunities. The Conservancy requested that the Board consider approving the General Grant Guidelines for public comment.

**Motion:** Vice Chair Allen moved, seconded by Board Member Udang, that the Board approve the updates to Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines for use in awarding funds.

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

**Agenda Item 11 – Update on Nutria Control Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh**

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

**Agenda Item 12 – 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 13 – Delta Stewardship Council Update**

Dr. Rachel Wigginton, Special Assistant for Planning and Science of the Delta Stewardship Council, presented an update.

**Agenda Item 14 – Delta Protection Commission Update**

Amanda Bohl, Executive Officer of the Delta Protection Commission, presented a slide deck titled “National Heritage Area Progress and Recent Activities” and shared an update on the Commission’s ongoing work.

**Agenda Item 15 – Delta Conveyance Update**

Janet Barbieri, consultant to the California Department of Water Resources and the Communications and Public Outreach Manager for the Delta Conveyance Project, presented an update.

**Agenda Item 16 – Public Comment**

- None

**Agenda Item 17 – ADJOURN**

**BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

- Email Board Members and Liaison Advisors the events mentioned in Delta Stewardship Council’s update and newsletter signups for the Delta Protection Commission and Delta Stewardship Council. The Conservancy emailed the information on April 9.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** at 10:47 a.m. by Chair Hume.

**Meeting Date: May 27, 2026**

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**Agenda Item: 4**

**Attachment: 1**

**CONTACT**

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**Executive Officer's Report**  
**May 27, 2026**

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**PROGRAM UPDATE**

**STAFFING UPDATE**

Please welcome Anna Coats as the new Administration Manager, having transferred from California State Teachers' Retirement System in April. Recruitment is underway to backfill the Senior Environmental Scientist position.

**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](#), which 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 as amended, would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund in the State Treasury and, upon appropriation, would make the moneys in the fund available to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for expenditure. The bill would also require the Conservancy, in conjunction with the Delta Stewardship Council and the Department of Water Resources, to develop one-year and five-year spending plans to improve existing levees in the Delta and would require the Conservancy to publish the plans on its website.

**CLIMATE BOND SOLICITATION (PROPOSITION 4)**

Under Agenda Item 9, the Board will consider updates to the Conservancy's General Grant Guidelines. If approved, and upon appropriation of fiscal year 2026/2027 Climate Bond funding, the Conservancy will prepare a Solicitation Notice for Board consideration at the July meeting and anticipates opening the grant solicitation this summer.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

The State Agency Waste Management Annual Report (SARC) has been submitted. In March, all staff completed and submitted their annual Form 700 statements by the required deadline. Our building is transitioning to new ownership that does not intend to retain existing tenants, and we are currently working with the Department of General Services to identify and secure new office space. Recruitment efforts for the Senior Environmental Scientist position remain ongoing. As of May 2026, the Conservancy has executed five grant and contract amendments, four agreements have been successfully achieved, and 134 invoices have been processed.

## **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

On April 13, Conservancy staff applied for a Wetland Program Development Grant from EPA Region 9 with collaborators that include the San Francisco Estuary Institute, Delta Stewardship Council, and Department of Water Resources. The proposed project is to develop a Delta Dashboard to centralize the tracking and visualization of wetland restoration. The grant program is highly competitive, and staff anticipate funding decisions to be made by June 2026.

### **California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)**

On May 15, Conservancy staff submitted a concept proposal for a block grant from the CDFA Healthy Soils Program (HSP). The project goal is to support adoption of climate-smart farming systems including rice conversion that rebuild soil elevation, reduce long-term flood risk, and improve farm resilience. If awarded, the Conservancy would run a solicitation for projects under the block grant. Staff anticipate decisions on the concept proposals in June.

### **California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)**

On May 15, Conservancy staff submitted a concept proposal for a block grant from the CDFA State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). The project goal is to lower energy demand by reducing energy use and operating costs for Delta farmers through energy-efficient irrigation and expanded solar adoption. If awarded, the Conservancy would run a solicitation for projects under the block grant. Staff anticipate decisions on the concept proposals in June.

## **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 continues to collaborate with partners from UC Davis, Office of the Delta Watermaster, OpenET, Department of Water Resources, and the Delta Stewardship Council to evaluate irrigation practices from the information collected through this program.

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

A contract with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) was executed in October 2025 to conduct a Cost Feasibility Analysis for the Restoration of Franks Tract Project. This contract is for one year, and the goals are to engage in a collaborative, structured decision-making process to refine the Franks Tract Futures Project and conduct value engineering to refine and prepare new cost estimates for the

Project. ESA has reconvened both the Steering and Advisory Committees, and the Steering Committee met on May 7 to discuss public agency interest and involvement in the project.

## **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 is hosting the fourth Delta Restoration Forum at the Bogle Family Vineyards on June 18, 2026. This back-to-back event features the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee meeting in the morning, followed by the fourth Delta Restoration Forum in the afternoon. The Subcommittee meeting will feature several presentations highlighting diverse ecosystem restoration projects and related programs. The afternoon Forum will be an open-house format featuring restoration projects across California's Delta and Suisun Marsh.

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

The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team is 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). The last quarterly meeting was held on May 20, 2026.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH**

### **Earth Day at California Natural Resources Agency**

The Conservancy, along with staff from the Delta Stewardship Council and Delta Protection Commission, participated in the annual Earth Day festivities at the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) headquarters on April 22. The free event featured hands-on activities for all ages and offered attendees an opportunity to connect with the different teams at CNRA.

### **Spring Cleanup on Sherman Island**

As part of Earth Month, the Conservancy partnered with the Rio Vista Windsports Association to hold a waterway cleanup event on Sherman Island on April 25. More than two-dozen volunteers attended the cleanup and collected 3,380 pounds of trash along a 1.5-mile stretch, preventing the debris from entering the Sacramento River.

## **MEDIA MENTIONS**

- The [Manteca Bulletin](#) published an opinion piece about Senate Bill 872.
- [CBS Sacramento](#) produced a story about the ongoing restoration work of the USS Lucid, a rare wooden minesweeper that will be a focal point at the Stockton Maritime Museum. The Conservancy has provided \$950,000 in grant funding to support the museum.
- A reporter for [Soundings Journal](#) attended the Sherman Island spring cleanup event and produced a video highlighting the work of the volunteers.
- The [Public Policy Institute of California](#) interviewed Executive Officer Campbell Ingram for a blog post about key issues and funding needs in the Delta.

**BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

1. Email Board Members and Liaison Advisors the events mentioned in Delta Stewardship Council's update and newsletter signups for the Delta Protection Commission and Delta Stewardship Council. The Conservancy emailed the information on April 9.

**DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE**

Agenda Item 5.2: Budget and Expenditure Report

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- The Conservancy received a Public Records Act request from sunlightaccess.com for documents detailing payments to vendors issued by the Conservancy between December 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026.

**CONTACT**

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## SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE REPORT July 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Personnel Services (PS)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
1	Salaries & Wages	\$1,378,178	\$1,023,986	\$354,192	74%
2	Temporary Help			\$0	0%
3	Benefits	\$772,180	\$575,994	\$196,186	75%
4	<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,150,358</b>	<b>\$1,599,980</b>	<b>\$550,378</b>	<b>74%</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	\$49,400	\$12,374	\$37,026	25%
6	Printing	\$1,900	\$1,168	\$732	61%
7	Communications	\$11,230	\$6,173	\$5,057	55%
8	Postage	\$50	\$23	\$27	46%
9	Travel-In State	\$31,751	\$8,350	\$23,401	26%
10	Training	\$8,800	\$2,384	\$6,416	27%
11	Facilities Operation	\$116,802	\$87,099	\$29,703	75%
12	Contracts & Professional Services-External	\$180,247	\$12,743	\$167,504	7%
13	Contracts & Professional Services-Interdepartmental	\$119,449	\$45,301	\$74,148	38%
14	Information Technology	\$53,600	\$49,164	\$4,436	92%
15	Non-Capital Asset Purchases	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
16	Indirect Cost Recovery	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
17	Unallocated Operating Expense & Equipment	\$104,553	\$0	\$104,553	0%
18	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$677,782</b>	<b>\$224,779</b>	<b>\$453,003</b>	<b>33%</b>
Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Multi-Year Appropriations	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
19	Proposition 1 Program Support	\$203,927		\$203,927	
20	Proposition 4 Program Support	\$208,697		\$208,697	
21	Proposition 68 Program Support	\$95,842		\$95,842	
22	Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Support	\$76,156		\$76,156	
23	Nature Based Solutions and CAR	\$1,059,305		\$1,059,305	
24	Grants and Subventions	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	
25	<b>TOTAL MULTI-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$5,643,927</b>		<b>\$5,643,927</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>\$8,472,067</b>	<b>\$1,824,759</b>	<b>\$6,647,308</b>	<b>22%</b>
27	REIMBURSEMENT	(\$359,267)	(\$65,807)	(\$293,460)	18%
28	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,112,800</b>	<b>\$1,758,952</b>	<b>\$6,353,848</b>	<b>22%</b>



## Community Enhancement Program Update

### Staff Report

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#### PROGRAM UPDATE

As of May 2026, there are 10 active projects, two approved projects, and six completed 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

##### **CAR06: Central Harbor Park and Boat Launch Facility Upgrade Implementation Project (Implementation)**

Final project elements are being finished, and the Project is expected to be complete in August 2026. The new fish cleaning station is already being used by the community. There will be a site visit to the Project at the conclusion of the May Board meeting. The purpose of the Project is to upgrade the Central Harbor Park and Boat Launch Facility, as well as to provide strategic enhancements to maintain the area's alignment with the Delta's unique character. Project activities include improved American with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible paths, restroom replacements, parking lot striping and sealing, crime deterrents including parking lot kiosk and public safety, a fish cleaning station, upgraded shade structure, public fire pits, and picnic tables. The Grantee was awarded \$3,544,395 of the Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR) funds in 2023. They received a budget line fund shift in 2024.



**Figure 6.1.** Fish cleaning station at Central Harbor Park in Pittsburg, CA.

**P6818: Stockton Maritime Museum Planning Project (Planning)**

The Grantee has completed community outreach, hired a design contractor, and has begun preliminary California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) work. The purpose of this Project is to fund the preconstruction planning activities for construction of the Stockton Maritime Museum. The plans will include three structures replicating old shipyard buildings using material salvaged from the historic Colberg Boat Works building. The three structures include a guard shack/maintenance building, a two-story ship access building to provide ADA access to the Museum ship, and a classroom building. This Project was awarded \$950,000 of Proposition 68 funds in 2024.



**Figure 6.2.** Future site of the Stockton Maritime Museum in Stockton, CA.

**Clean Vessel Act Program**

In December 2025, the Delta Conservancy entered into a contract with the California Department of Parks and Recreation’s Division of Boating and Waterways to administer the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program for 2026. Work started on January 1, 2026. Between April 1 and May 1, Conservancy staff visited 65 marinas, surveying a total of 79 pumpout stations and nine dump stations. Additionally, Conservancy staff attended the Sacramento Boat Show in March and engaged with a design team to update the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta Pumpout Guide and Map for Boaters.



**Figure 6.3.** Conservancy staff on a pumpout monitoring site visit in Richmond, 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 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 7.1). Amounts listed in millions of dollars.**

Funding Source	Total Allocation	Minimum Amount Available for Grants	Total Amount Allocated for Grants	Amount Remaining to be Allocated	Allocation Date	Encumbrance Date	Program(s) Supported by Funding Source
Proposition 68	\$12.0	\$8.7	\$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**

Maya Garrett, Ecological and Community Program Analyst

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

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**Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program and Delta Carbon Program Updates**  
**Staff Report**

**ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION (ERCA) PROGRAM UPDATE**

As of May 2026, there are 11 active projects and 24 completed projects.

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

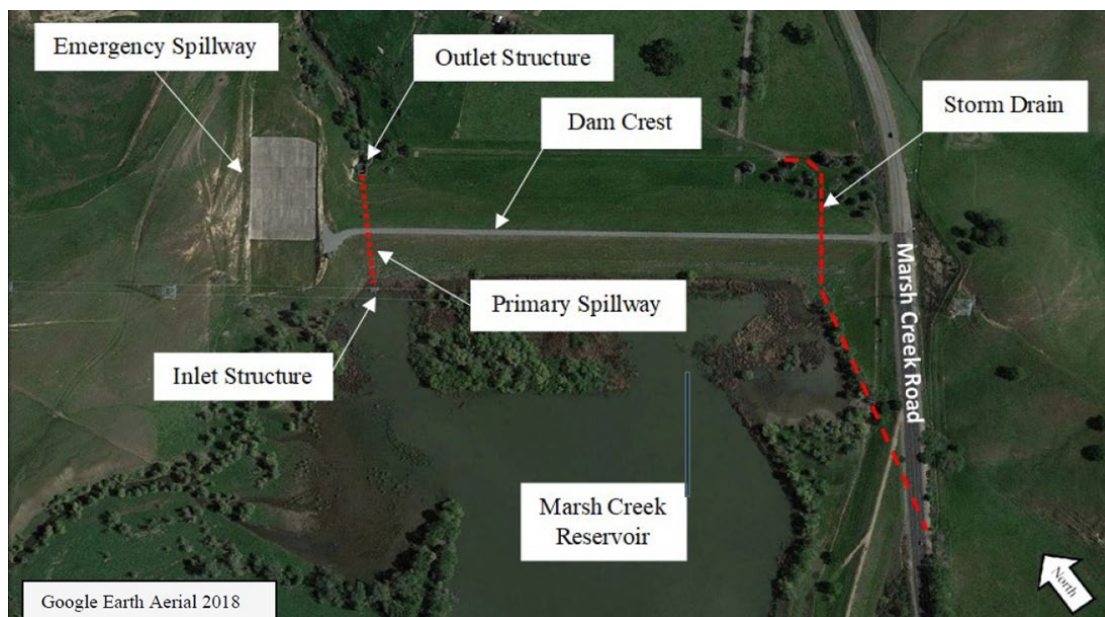
For an interactive map of program projects, please visit: [Delta Conservancy Project Maps page](#).

**ERCA PROGRAM SIGNIFICANT PROJECT MILESTONES**

**P1-2211: Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction Planning Project**

The project team has consulted with the Wilton Rancheria and the Confederated Villages of Lisjan and has completed technical studies and 90 Percent Design Plans. To date, the Grantee has exhausted their awarded grant funds and is operating using project cost share to complete 100 Percent Design Plans and finalize environmental compliance. Thus far, the Grantee has exceeded the cash and in-kind cost share as required by the grant agreement by over \$130,000, which will continue through the end of the grant term in December 2026.

This Project was awarded funding for planning efforts to restore Marsh Creek Reservoir (Reservoir; Figure 7.1). The water quality is degraded in the Reservoir due to sediment accumulation and mercury contamination from an upstream abandoned mercury mine. This planning project will allow Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to conduct outreach, complete permitting and 100 Percent Design Plans, that will detail habitat improvements and public use opportunities at the site.



**Figure 7.1.** Satellite photograph of Marsh Creek Reservoir.

**ERCA PROGRAM 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 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 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

**CARBON PROGRAM UPDATE**

As of March 2026, there are three active projects and one completed 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 Delta Carbon Team**

The Delta Carbon Team, facilitated by the Conservancy and co-led by The Nature Conservancy, meets quarterly to discuss Delta carbon issues with a vision to reverse subsidence and reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining economic viability and improving climate resilience in the Delta. The Carbon Team met on April 7, 2026, to discuss lateral carbon research happening in the Delta and carbon crediting and offset evaluation research. The next quarterly meeting is July 7, 2026. Meeting information is available on the [Delta Carbon Program webpage](#).

**Rice Incentive Program**

The Rice Incentive Program pays farmers to convert to rice to stop subsidence and reduce emissions. The Conservancy is seeking eligible entities to administer the Program. A [solicitation](#) was posted to the Conservancy website in March. Concept proposals are due on June 15, 2026. Projects are expected to start in summer 2027.

**CARBON PROGRAM 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 amounts 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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**Consideration of Amendment to Scope of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Program Agreement for Wetland Restoration on Staten Island Project**

**Staff Report**

<b>Grantee</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>Project ID</b>	NBS04
<b>Award Year</b>	2023
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin
<b>Category</b>	Implementation
<b>Original Award Amount</b>	\$6,753,396
<b>Request</b>	Scope

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board approve a reduction to the scope of work that will result in the completion of three of the six proposed wetland units and additional completed critical infrastructure and wetland features, as shown in Figure 8.1.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Grantee is requesting to reduce the scope of the Project’s construction task due to a \$2.4 million budget shortfall due to the increased construction costs since the budget was created. This scope reduction will allow construction to start this year and be completed in a phased, multi-year approach, with Conservancy funds being used in the first year, and cost share being used to complete construction after the first year. The Grantee is currently applying for cost share, but it has not yet been secured. The Grantee has worked with engineers, contractors, and their design team to reduce costs while maintaining ecosystem function and supporting long-term manageability of the Project.

This Project was originally awarded funds to complete planning and construct 426 acres of wetlands that included six wetland units. The wetland units can be managed independently and adaptively. This request will reduce the total completed number of units from six to three, resulting in 166 completed wetland acres. However, the Grantee will also still complete most of the critical infrastructure and wetland features of all six units. This infrastructure includes haul roads, ditches, pipelines, and berms. The original Project funded with Conservancy funds is shown in Figure 8.1. Green items are recommended for removal from the scope as part of this request. The work still to be completed as part of the Project and Conservancy funding is shown in blue in Figure 8.1. The completed three wetland units are the most complex and costly to construct and must be completed first. This is because they will supply necessary fill to the remaining three units, which are at a lower elevation. The completed units are also adjacent to the levee, thus providing seepage control for the full project.

The amendment is due to the increased construction costs since the budget was created. If the Conservancy does not approve this amendment, the Project will be delayed until cost share can be secured.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

This implementation project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP; PRC § 21080.56). The Delta Conservancy, as CEQA Lead Agency, completed environmental review and received a signed [SERP Concurrence](#) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on October 20, 2023.

On October 25, 2023, the Conservancy Board voted to approve Resolution 2023-03, finding the Wetland Restoration Project on Staten Island Project exempt and staff filed the corresponding [Notice of Exemption](#).

Conservancy staff reviewed the modifications associated with this scope change request. The modifications include rebalancing earthwork, simplifying berm and ditch work, and reducing pump station depth. The modifications do not result in any substantive changes to the Project that would have an environmental impact. Therefore, the Project is still exempt and no further CEQA action is needed.

### **BACKGROUND**

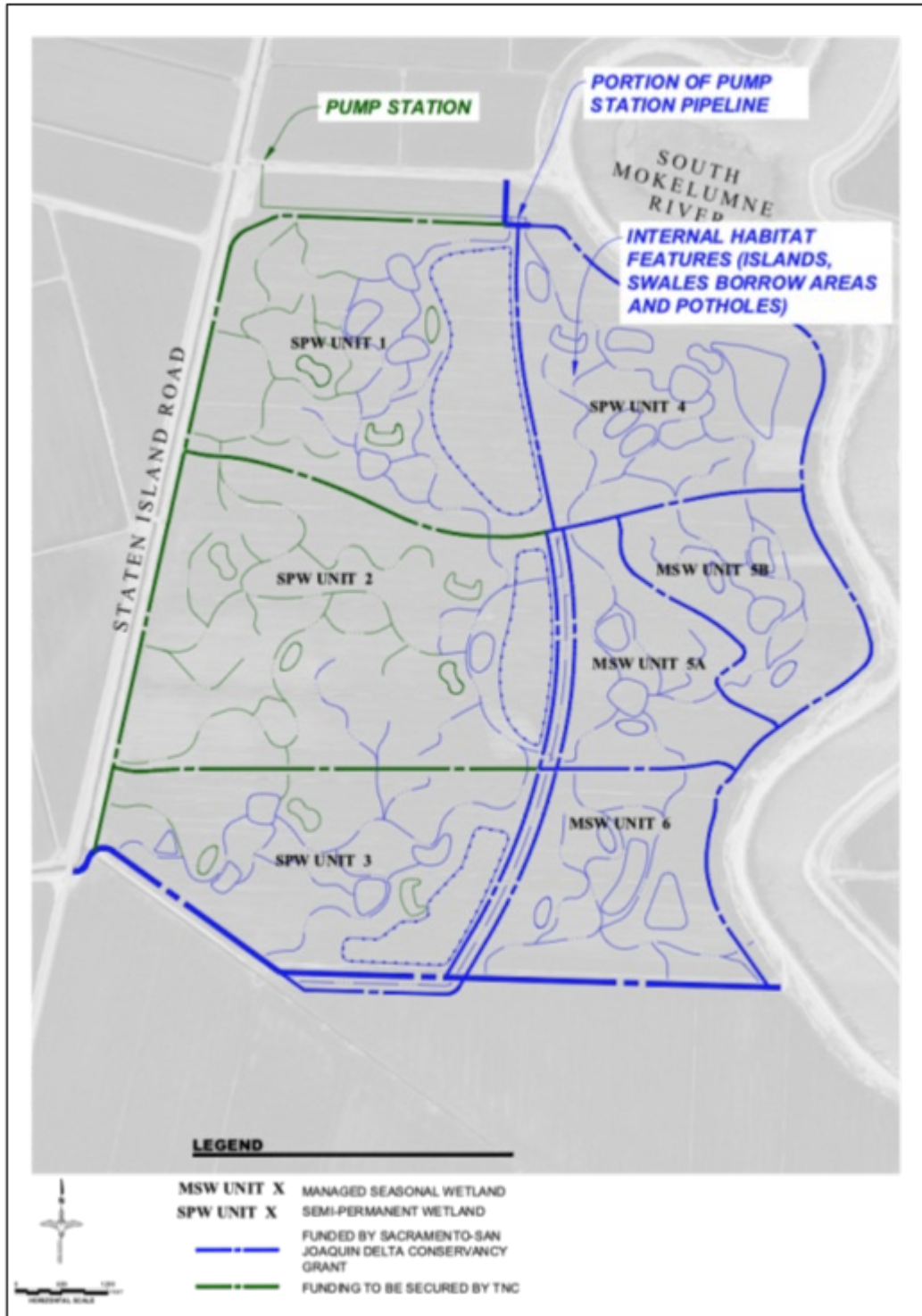
Wetland Restoration on Staten Island Project (Project ID NBS04) is an implementation project to construct managed permanent and semi-permanent wetlands that will provide fish and wildlife habitat, reverse subsidence, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This project was awarded \$6,753,396 of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration general funds to the Grantee in 2023. This is the Grantee's first amendment request requiring Board consideration. Conservancy staff have reviewed and approved two prior modification requests to extend deliverable due dates and add clarity to the scope of work. The Agreement for this work is active through March 31, 2029. This request will have no impact on the availability of current funds as they are not set to expire until June 30, 2029.

### **SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Move that the Board approve a reduction in the scope of work that will result in the completion of three wetland units and additional infrastructure and wetland features for the other three units, as illustrated in Figure 8.1.

### **CONTACT**

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**Figure 8.1.** Schematic of wetland design for Wetland Restoration on Staten Island Project. Thick lines are berms and water control structures and thin lines are wetland features. Items in blue are proposed to be completed with Conservancy funds in first year. Items in green are recommended to be removed from scope of work and completed later with cost share.



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

### Staff Report

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This agenda item requests Board approval of updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines.

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### DESCRIPTION

The General Grant Guidelines were released for a 30-day public comment period following the March 25, 2026, Board meeting. One comment letter was received from the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC), and the following revisions were made to the General Grant Guidelines based on these comments:

- Added an additional funding priority for research projects.
- Enhanced the description of the Research, Analysis, or Support grant category and added references to state, federal, and regional plans and policies that are relevant.
- Added or updated text regarding proposal requirements that include description of the project, creation of a project page on the Delta Science Tracker (if relevant), additional exception for Tribal or proprietary knowledge in the expectations of data accessibility, and made organizational changes to the best practices section.

Additionally, the Conservancy staff accepted the DSC's offer of assistance during the review process to provide input on the relevance of proposals to priorities identified in the Science Action Agenda. There were a few comments that requested language changes that would decrease the flexibility for approving and funding projects. Conservancy staff and management recommend the original language to accomplish the goal of balancing clarity and flexibility. The remaining comments from the DSC were determined to be appropriate for inclusion in the Solicitation Notices that contain the detailed requirements for a specific program and funding source.

#### BACKGROUND

The General Grant Guidelines were updated to maintain consistency with the approach used by other California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) entities. The revisions aim to balance clarity and flexibility. They also provide sufficient direction while avoiding unnecessary specificity that would require frequent updates for every funding source. This approach simplifies the grant application process while maintaining transparency. It also targets a wide audience of community members, NGOs, government agencies, Native American Tribes, and the science community. The Board approved the revised version at the March 25, 2026, Board meeting. The update retained the funding priorities, grant information, proposal and award process, and proposal requirements. However, it scaled back detailed information that is specific to each funding source, which will now be included in the Solicitation Notice(s).

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:**

Move that the Board approve the updates to Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines for use in granting funds.

**CONTACT**

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

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**DELTA** CONSERVANCY

*A California State Agency*

## GENERAL GRANT GUIDELINES

May~~rch~~ 2026

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## **A. Introduction**

### **A1. Background**

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) is a primary state agency in the implementation of ecosystem restoration in the Delta and supports efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. The Conservancy works collaboratively and in coordination with local communities, leading efforts to protect, enhance, and restore the Delta’s economy, agriculture and working landscapes, and environment, for the benefit of the Delta region, its local communities, and the citizens of California.

### **A2. Purpose of Grant Guidelines**

These General Grant Guidelines (General Guidelines) establish the process and criteria that the Conservancy will use to solicit and select grants. Each grant funding opportunity will be based on these General Guidelines and be further defined by a specific grant solicitation. The General Guidelines supersede all previous grant guidelines. Individual funding sources may also establish additional limitations or require additional guidance as mandated per statute which will be included in the specific grant solicitation notice. More information can be found at: <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/grant-program/>.

### **A3. Contact Information**

More information is available on the Conservancy’s website at [www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov). For questions or assistance, please contact the Delta Conservancy at (916) 375-2084 or [grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov).

## **B. Funding Priorities**

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) is a primary state agency in the implementation of ecosystem restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and Suisun Marsh and supports efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. The Conservancy’s mission is “working collaboratively and in coordination with local communities, leading efforts to protect, enhance, and restore the Delta’s economy, agriculture and working landscapes, and environment, for the benefit of the Delta region, its local communities, and the citizens of California.” All funded projects will support the Conservancy’s mission.

The Conservancy has three focus areas: Nature Based Solutions (NBS), community enhancement and access, and ecosystem restoration. NBS goals are to support restoration, conservation, and

climate projects that will stop or reverse ongoing subsidence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions occurring on highly organic soils. NBS projects provide technical assistance and financial support for crop conversion, restoration of managed wetland, research, education and outreach on related topics, land acquisition or easement, and technical assistance to access the Voluntary Carbon Market. Community enhancement and access projects will benefit Delta communities through public access, recreation and tourism, historic and cultural preservation, environmental education, and community engagement or education. Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation projects will restore and conserve the Delta and Suisun Marsh's natural resources, environment, and biodiversity. Current projects restore, research, plan or educate about landscape health or reduce the risks of climate change impacts upon natural resources, fish, and wildlife.

Priorities within these programs include:

1. Protecting and enhancing habitat and habitat restoration.
2. Protecting and preserving Delta agriculture and working landscapes.
3. Providing increased opportunities for tourism and recreation in the Delta.
4. Promoting Delta legacy communities, historical preservation and economic vitality in the Delta.
5. Mitigating the impacts of climate change and increasing climate change resilience.
6. Increasing the resilience of the Delta to the effects of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission.
7. Protecting and improving water quality.
8. Protecting, conserving, and restoring the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical, and living resources.
9. Promoting environmental education.
10. Other projects that show a significant benefit to the environment, economy, culture or agriculture in the Delta.
11. Projects that plan for or provide capacity for any of the priorities in this list.
12. [Research projects that provide a scientific foundation or inform the priorities listed above.](#)

The Conservancy will not fund activities associated with regulatory compliance or mitigation responsibilities.

## C. Funding Considerations

The Conservancy evaluates proposals based on how well they align with its mission, strategic plan, and the objectives of the specific funding source, as well as broader state, federal, and regional policies. Proposals are expected to use state resources effectively and responsibly,

supported by clear budgets, feasible project designs, capable teams, and an approach that addresses the needs of historically underserved communities.

Projects should also demonstrate readiness to begin and include planning that ensures long-term resilience and sustainability of benefits. Strong, meaningful community engagement is essential, including early collaboration, culturally responsive practices, and accessible participation. In addition, proposals are expected to meaningfully involve tribal leadership and perspectives, respect tribal sovereignty, and integrate traditional ecological knowledge where appropriate.

Finally, projects should offer clear value and multiple meaningful benefits to natural, agricultural, recreational, or cultural resources. They should be grounded in the best available science or traditional ecological knowledge and present achievable, well-supported outcomes.

## **D. Grant Information**

This section provides basic information on the types of grants, eligible applicants, and projects.

### **D1. Grant Categories**

Depending upon the limitations and allowances of a particular grant program, the Conservancy may grant funds for the types of activities in the following categories:

#### **Capacity Building**

Capacity building is the process of strengthening an organization's skills, systems, resources, and partnerships so it can successfully plan, design, fund, and implement projects. Capacity building must be tied to the mission of the Conservancy and will be prioritized for [disadvantaged communities](#) (DACs) and [severely disadvantaged communities](#) (SDACs) seeking technical assistance and projects for vulnerable populations that include workforce education, training, contractor, and job opportunities.

#### **Feasibility Studies**

Feasibility studies are pre-planning activities that assess alternatives, funding sources, laws and regulations, benefits, desirability, location, and scope of potential projects. They result in conceptual plans, cost/benefit analyses, and information on the practicality of a project with low investment of resources. The purpose of feasibility projects is to provide information to project proponents, potential funders, and the community on whether a project would realistically move past the planning phase into implementation.

## **Planning**

Planning projects advance design, permitting, environmental review including California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), community support, and interested party partnership of proposed implementation projects. These activities include design plans (up to 65 Percent Design Plans), resource assessments, public workshops, baseline monitoring, agency outreach, and community and tribal engagement. Planning does not include any construction or implementation of projects. It is recommended that community outreach, engagement, and some level of feasibility assessment have been completed prior to formal planning.

## **Pilot Projects**

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

## **Implementation**

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

CEQA and NEPA review must be completed prior to grant award. CEQA and NEPA-related activities are not eligible for implementation funding, except in rare instances (e.g., new information requires subsequent analysis).

## **Land Acquisition or Easement**

Land acquisition is the purchase of real property. An easement is a real estate ownership right (and encumbrance on the title) granted to an individual or entity to make limited, but typically indefinite, use of the land of another. Activities that the Conservancy may choose to fund

include, but are not limited to, purchase, appraisals (including water rights appraisals), negotiation, due diligence, surveys, escrow fees, title insurance, and closing costs.

### **Research, Analysis, or Support**

Research, analysis, and technical support ~~activities~~ projects provide information, data, or technical or capacity assistance. Research, analysis, and support projects that ~~contributes~~ to the Conservancy's mission, adaptive management, contributes to ~~problem solving,~~ solution-based scenario analysis to inform restoration or management, or decisions or advances best available science to enable advancement of high priority initiatives and projects. Research, analysis, and support projects should advance the stated aims of key state, federal, or regional plans and policies that are relevant to the project such as the Delta Stewardship Council's Science Action Agenda, the Delta Plan, CA's Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets, Pathways to 30X30, CA Outdoors for All, Delta Adapts Climate Adaptation Strategy, CA Water Resilience Portfolio, Delta Adapts, Suisun Marsh Habitat Preservation Plan, National Heritage Area Management Plan, and Delta Protection Commission Land Use and Resource Management Plan.

## **D2. Eligibility Requirements**

### **Eligible Geography**

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

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

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

### **Eligible Grant Recipients**

Grants may be awarded to:

- Federal, State and local public agencies including special districts and joint powers authorities (when authorized by specific funding sources)
- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status

- Native American Tribes, tribal entities and organizations (when authorized by specific funding sources)

### **Ineligible Activities and Projects**

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

- Design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of water conveyance facilities
- Activities dictated by a legal settlement or mandated to address a violation of, or an order (citation) to comply with, a law or regulation
- Activities that subsidize or decrease the pre-existing mitigation obligations of any party
- Monetary donations
- Endowments
- Food or refreshments (meals included as part of reimbursable travel expenses are eligible)
- Fees or expenses related to tours
- Activities related to eminent domain processes
- Any other activities or expenses that the Conservancy deems an inappropriate use of grant funding

### **D3. Eligible Expenses**

To be eligible for grant funding, activities must be conducted, and expenses must be incurred during the Grant Funding Term. Other than land acquisition costs, grant funding will be paid in arrears on a reimbursement basis.

#### **Direct Costs**

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

#### **Indirect Costs**

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

## E. Grant Proposal and Determination Process

A grant solicitation, instructions, application forms, announcement of public workshops or templates specific to each opportunity will be available through the Conservancy's website.

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

The Conservancy may use a two-step process which consists of a concept proposal and a full proposal.

### E1. Concept Proposal

#### **Step 1 Concept Proposal Submittal**

The applicant submits a concise proposal that describes at a high level the proposed activities and budget that will form the basis for a full proposal. Applicants should use the [Concept Proposal Application and Instructions](#) (available on the Conservancy website) and submit by email to [grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov). Applicants may, and are encouraged to, consult with the Conservancy during the drafting of their concept proposal.

#### **Step 2 Concept Proposal Review**

Concept proposals will be assessed based on the criteria in the specific funding solicitation. While reviewing the concept proposals, the Conservancy may confer with the applicant to discuss the project or request additional information. An in-person meeting or a site visit may also be deemed necessary. The Conservancy will review proposals and will invite the proposals deemed to be the most competitive to submit a full proposal. The total of all applications invited back for a full proposal may exceed the total funding available. Applicants invited for a full proposal may be provided with feedback regarding their concept proposals and may be requested to meet with Conservancy staff to discuss feedback if it is relevant to staff review.

### E2. Full Proposal

#### **Step 1 Full Proposal Submission**

The applicant submits a proposal that comprehensively describes the proposed activities, timeline, budget, and implementation team.

## **Step 2 Administrative Review**

The Conservancy will conduct an administrative review of all full proposals to check for eligibility, consistency with grant requirements, and completeness. Proposals that fail to meet the administrative review requirements may not receive further consideration.

## **Step 3 Site Visits**

At its discretion, the Conservancy may conduct site visits. Applicants may be required to accompany Conservancy staff on site visits.

## **Step 4 Full Proposal Evaluation**

Full proposals will be evaluated using evaluation criteria that will be specified in the solicitation of each funding opportunity and based on the information provided in Sections B and C above. The Conservancy may specify a minimum score that must be obtained for staff to consider recommending the Board fund the proposal. Achieving the minimum score does not guarantee that the proposal will be recommended for funding, that a grant award will be made, or that an applicant will receive the requested funding. The Conservancy may specify key evaluation criteria, each of which must be deemed adequate by reviewers, regardless of the adequacy of other components of the proposal, to be considered for funding.

The Conservancy may utilize independent reviewers with technical or subject matter expertise.

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

## **E3. Board Consideration**

All final determinations regarding grant funding will be made by the Conservancy Board at a public meeting. The Delta Conservancy Executive Officer, with coordination of the Conservancy Board Chair or Vice Chair, may award grant funding for projects within the Board's delegation of authority to the Executive Officer. Staff recommendations regarding grant funding will be included in the publicly accessible Board Meeting materials. All applicants and members of the public will have the opportunity to appear before the Board at the public meeting.

The Conservancy may choose to award partial funding to one or more proposals. If the Conservancy receives additional funding, the Board may choose to revisit the submitted applications later without reopening a solicitation or may open a new solicitation. The Conservancy reserves the right to not fund activities that are controversial or to require that any conflict is satisfactorily resolved before awarding funding. The Board may, within its discretion, approve a conditional award of funds.

## E4. Grant Agreement

If funding for a grant proposal is approved, Conservancy staff will coordinate with the applicant to complete a grant agreement that specifies the scope of work, reporting requirements, specific performance measures, invoicing protocols, funding disbursement, and other terms and conditions of the grant. The specific funding amount, deliverables, or other aspects of the project may be negotiated at this time either by direction of the Board or with minor changes within a scope that would not have affected the competitiveness of the grant if they were included in the original application.

## F. Proposal Requirements

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

- Financial Management System Questionnaire and Cost Allocation Plan
- [Description of](#) project, schedule, and list of deliverables
- Line-Item budget by task
- Justification of expenses and how determined to be fair and reasonable
- Funding by source
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan

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

- California Conservation Corps consultation
- Acquisition table
- Performance measures table

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

- Authorization or resolution to apply
- Organizational documents
- Acquisition information (see F12. Land Acquisition for more information)
- Maps and site plans
- Letter from landowner/water rights holder (if not the applicant)
- Final environmental review documents
- Covered action checklist
- Letters of support and cost share commitment letters
- Resolutions of support from applicable local government agencies

## F1. Conflict of Interest

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

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

## F2. Privacy Rights

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

## F3. California Conservation Corps

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

## F4. Environmental Compliance

Grant-funded activities must comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including CEQA, NEPA, the Delta Plan, and other environmental permitting requirements. While Conservancy staff may assist, applicants are responsible for demonstrating compliance and providing all necessary documentation. If no other agency can act, the Conservancy may serve as the CEQA lead agency, and early coordination is required.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has established the Cutting the Green Tape Program that provides a suite of tools to reduce unnecessary barriers for conservation projects. This includes the CEQA Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) that can save significant time and cost for restoration projects. Note that SERP concurrence for Delta restoration projects will require a letter of support from the Delta Counties Coalition. For additional information on the tools available within the Cutting the Green Tape Program, applicants can visit the [Cutting the Green Tape webpage](#).

For proposed activities that include an action that is likely to be deemed a covered action pursuant to the California Water Code section 85057.5, applicants must ensure Delta Plan consistency, consult with the Delta Stewardship Council as needed, and submit a covered action checklist with their full proposal. Activities requiring certification must describe how consistency will be achieved, including any needed adaptive management tasks, and must be certified before funds can be released for construction or implementation.

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 requires the involvement of California Native American Tribes in the CEQA environmental review and decision-making process. It mandates early project notification and, if requested, Tribal consultation to evaluate potential impacts on tribal cultural resources. Applicants are responsible for meeting all AB 52 requirements and ensuring that tribal input is appropriately incorporated into the CEQA process. For additional information on AB 52, applicants can visit the [Native American Heritage Commission website](#).

## F5. Water Rights

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

## F6. Best Available Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) or Traditional Knowledge (TK)

All proposals with a scientific component will be evaluated on the scientific basis of the proposed activities, including TK and TEK when applicable. Applicants must provide a description of the scientific foundation of their activities, including scientific literature, studies, or expert opinion that they have consulted. Applicants must use the best available science

when planning and implementing their proposed activities. A more complete review of best available science can be found in [Appendix 1A of the Delta Plan](#).

The Delta holds deep cultural significance for Native American Tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the region. As partners in restoration efforts, Native American Tribes can offer Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and/or Traditional Knowledge (TK) that enhances ecological outcomes while honoring cultural values and properties. To ensure meaningful integration, tribal input should be sought early and maintained throughout project planning and implementation, ideally through a coordinated and collaborative approach that embeds tribal perspectives in core design decisions.

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

Grantees must add projects into [EcoAtlas Project Tracker](#) as relevant and provide periodic updates. [For research projects, a project page on the Delta Science Tracker should be created if relevant.](#)

Environmental data and information collected through Conservancy grants must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users in a timely manner, except where limited by law, regulation, policy, or security requirements, [or where not appropriate such as tribal or proprietary knowledge](#). All data collected and created is required to be a deliverable.

## F10. Long-Term Management

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

## F11. Land Tenure

For activities conducted on land that is not owned by the grantee, the grantee may be required to demonstrate that they have adequate site control prior to the disbursement of grant funds.

## F12. Land Acquisition

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

- Property must be acquired from a willing seller and in compliance with current laws governing acquisition of real property by public agencies in an amount not to exceed fair market value as approved by the state.
- Once a proposal is submitted, another property cannot be substituted for the property specified in the application. Therefore, it is imperative that the applicant demonstrate that the seller is negotiating in good faith, and that discussions have proceeded to a point of confidence.
- The Department of General Services (DGS) must review and approve all appraisals of real property. Appraisals must comply with section 5096.510 of the Public Resources Code. The Conservancy will not directly pay the Department of General Services to review and approve the required appraisal; the grantee must pay DGS directly for this expense and seek reimbursement from the Conservancy.

## F16. Demonstration of Local Support

Applicants are expected to demonstrate local support by describing both public and institutional support for the activities, including how the community and Tribes are engaged in the activities. Letters of support may also be included. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact, seek support from, and coordinate with applicable state agencies, cities, counties, local districts, Native American Tribes, other public and private community members and organizations, and surrounding landowners. If an applicant has a specific resolution of support from the affected city, county, tribe or local district, or Native American Tribe, it should be included with the full proposal to facilitate the overall assessment process. A resolution of

support from the Board of Supervisors from the county in which the activities are proposed to be conducted may be required as part of the full proposal.

### F17. Local Notifications

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

### F18. Consultation and Cooperation with State and Local Agencies

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

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

### F19. Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities and Vulnerable Populations

Many communities in the Legal Delta and Suisun Marsh are considered disadvantaged communities (DAC) or severely disadvantaged communities (SDAC) or vulnerable populations. A DAC is a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide

average (based on the U.S. Census). Applicants must identify any disadvantaged communities that overlap with the footprint of the proposed activities or would be served by the proposed activities. A vulnerable population is a subgroup within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts.

Mapping resources available for the purpose of identifying SDACs and DACs by census tract or block group are available on the Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities [Mapping Tool](#). The Conservancy may consider other means of identifying SDACs, DACs, and vulnerable populations and the specific funding sources may specify alternative definitions or specify methods for identification which will be included in the solicitation notice.

## F20. Coordination with Native American Tribes, Communities of Color, and other Underrepresented Groups

Applicants are strongly recommended to engage in early, often, and meaningful, ~~and often~~ coordination with Native American Tribes and tribal communities and when possible, ~~communities of color, SDACs and DACs and other underrepresented groups as well as~~ involve leadership from ~~these groups~~ the Tribes in the planning, design, leadership, and execution of projects. ~~If the proposal is citing benefit to one or more community, the applicant must demonstrate how they are working with that community to ensure community support. It is strongly recommended that the community is engaged in the design and leadership of the project.~~ Extra consideration will be given for projects that demonstrate inclusion of Native American Tribes.

## F21. Coordination with Communities of Color and Other Historically Underrepresented Groups

Applicants are strongly recommended to engage in early, often, and meaningful coordination with communities of color, SDACs, DACs, and other underrepresented groups and when possible, to involve leadership from these groups in the planning, design, leadership, and execution of projects. If the proposal is citing a benefit to one or more community, the applicant must demonstrate how they are working with that community to ensure community support. It is strongly recommended that the community is engaged in the design and leadership of the project. Extra consideration will be given for projects that demonstrate inclusion of historically underrepresented groups, DACs, and SDACs.