



Delta Carbon Program Update

Staff Report

CARBON PROGRAM UPDATE

As of July 2, 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 July 7, 2026, to discuss the team's charter and work plan. A planning committee comprising Conservancy Staff (Lauren Damon), a Delta Stewardship Council Sea Grant Fellow (Alyssa Burns), and J.A. Spezia Consulting (Julie Spezia) have conducted individual interviews of select members of the Delta Carbon Team to inform the development of the charter and workplan. The Delta Carbon Team has several subteams that are working on tasks to advance carbon projects in the Delta. The next quarterly meeting is in October 2026. Meeting information is available on the [Delta Carbon Program webpage](#).

Rice Incentive Program

The Rice Incentive Program pays farmers to convert to rice cultivation to stop subsidence and reduce emissions. The Conservancy released a concept proposal [solicitation](#) in March. Four concept proposals were received by the deadline and are currently being reviewed for viability. Staff will be reaching out to applicants to provide feedback on concept proposals and full proposals will be due on October 30, 2026. Projects are expected to start in summer 2027.

Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project

The Rice Conversion Project is still pending after several significant delays, including maintenance and repairs to the ferry that restricted access to Webb Tract. Final permits have been received for the Wetland Restoration Project, and the Grantee continues to work with a tribal working group to maximize opportunities for ongoing partnerships and tribal access to the island. The Grantee owns three other islands in the Delta in addition to Webb Tract, and their Board has directed staff to prepare a market study to explore ownership options for the islands.

Wetland Restoration on Staten Island Project

Construction started following the approved change request in May. Construction will continue through October and will include monitoring.



Figure 10.1. Heavy equipment staging and site prep for wetland construction on Staten Island. Photos taken by J. Dixon on July 7, 2026.

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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