



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

2026 Implementation Plan Mid-Year Update

July 2026

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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)

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 restoration site opportunities

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 June 30, 2026, 25 projects have been achieved, and 10 projects are in progress. For the rest of 2026, the Conservancy will increase the Delta ecosystem resilience and community capacity by investing Climate Bond funding (Proposition 4) into local entities and agencies. Climate Bond funding will prioritize multi-benefit projects that increase native biodiversity and climate change resilience; control and manage invasive species and salinity; and mitigate flood and drought impacts. Climate Bond funds are uniquely available to use for capacity building, feasibility projects, and planning projects; allowing the Conservancy to 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 and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
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	The strategic plan is being developed and the ERCA program will be assessed in coordination with the strategic plan findings.

Goals	Updates
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.)	The Conservancy has developed a robust evaluation criterion, developed a process and released a concept proposal in anticipation of the Prop 4 funds becoming available. The solicitation notice is being presented to the Conservancy Board in July 2026. The Conservancy has also conducted extensive outreach to engage with potential applicants to ensure the process is reflective of staff needs and to encourage applications.
Continue to monitor active and completed ERCA projects	As part of annual project management and post-project reporting, the Conservancy checks in with current and former Grantees. For active projects, the Conservancy conducts a site visit and meets with the Project team in-person.

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 and the first half of 2026, the DIISC Team built collaboration by holding quarterly meetings; convening a working group 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. In 2026, DIISC Team leaders plan to build on past initiatives, which include advancing the draft early detection and rapid response framework; updating research and management needs to complement 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 and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
Facilitate regular meetings to advance the objectives of the DIISC Team	Quarterly meetings were held on February 18 and May 14, 2026. Topics covered included: Winged Primrose (<i>Ludwigia decurrens</i>) movement toward the Delta, identification of native and non-native <i>Phragmites australis</i> , and updates on the California Department of Water Resources' SENTRI eDNA project and California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Nutria Eradication Program. The third quarter meeting will be held on August 19, 2026.
Focus on the draft early detection and rapid response (EDRR) framework highlighting research collaboration and next steps to make an impact	Because of short staffing, this objective has been postponed.
Coordinate with and participate in the Golden Mussel Task Force	Due to staffing shortages, this item has been put on hold.
Highlight the needs of the Delta to the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee and the Invasive Species Council of California	The Conservancy will participate in the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee's Delta Invasive Species Tour in summer 2026.

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 and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
Host regular subcommittee meetings to highlight critical issues in the Delta and Suisun Marsh focused on engaging members of the public	The DPIIC RSC last met on June 18, 2026, and hosted speakers who provided updates on various ecological restoration projects and programs across the Delta and Suisun Marsh. The Subcommittee meets about two times per year.
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	The fourth Delta Restoration Forum was held at Bogle Family Vineyards on June 18, 2026. The Forum, which was co-hosted by the Delta Stewardship Council and the Conservancy, was held in an open-house format featuring almost 20 restoration projects and programs across the Delta and Suisun Marsh. Over 100 people registered for the 2026 Forum.
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	Due to staffing shortages, this item has been deemed a lower priority and thus delayed.
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	Due to staffing shortages, this item is delayed.

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 and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
Assist the UC Davis research team in gathering data and creating a final water budget for all three years	Collaborations and data sharing will continue so the research team can create a final water budget.
Facilitate meetings with UC Davis and stakeholders to coordinate and inform policy	A meeting to discuss the results and final work products will be scheduled for the end of the year.
Complete the six remaining grant agreements supporting farmers	Project work will be completed on September 30, 2026. All administrative tasks will be completed by December 31, 2026.
Seek opportunities to continue the work	Collaborative meetings amongst the team have discussed new projects and 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. The Conservancy, 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 and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
Develop a project implementation framework to remove barriers to NBS projects in the Delta	The Conservancy submitted proposals in partnership with The Nature Conservancy to Allen Family Philanthropies but was not funded. Funding sustainability remains a focus of the Delta Carbon Team.
Continue working with grantees to ensure success of previously funded subsidence reversal projects	Two wetland restoration projects have started or will soon start construction in summer 2026, and rice conversion projects – as part of the larger rice program (5,000 acres) – are completing construction
Identify and apply for alternative funding sources to support subsidence and GHG reduction projects	The Conservancy applied for CDFA Healthy Soils Program and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program block grants; the status is pending. A solicitation for a continuation of the Rice Conversion Program was released using Climate Bond funding. The Carbon Team continues to coordinate and place a high priority on funding.

Goals	Updates
Partner with other agencies and organizations to improve data accessibility and tracking of carbon projects	Project to develop a carbon dashboard for EcoAtlas was developed and submitted for funding but not awarded. The Conservancy will continue looking for funding opportunities.

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 were 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. As of June 2026, Proposition 4 and the small grant program have been prioritized given the staff shortages.

Goals and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
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	Due to staffing shortages, this item has been deemed a lower priority and thus delayed.
Create a “Community Action Plan” pilot program to identify funding needs for Delta Legacy Communities, including identifying locations for listening sessions in 2027	Due to staffing shortages, this item has been deemed a lower priority and thus delayed.
Roll out the Climate Bond grant program in fall 2026 to fund community-based public access projects	The Conservancy has developed robust evaluation criteria, developed a process, and released a concept proposal in anticipation of Prop 4 funds becoming available. The solicitation notice is being presented to the Conservancy Board in July 2026. The Conservancy has also conducted extensive outreach to engage with potential applicants to ensure the process is reflective of staff needs and to encourage applications. The Conservancy is working with the Delta Protection Commission to coordinate National Heritage Area priorities into funding decisions.
Continue to monitor existing and completed Community Enhancement projects	Executed one agreement, closed two projects, and amended two projects.

Strategy 3.2: Delta Cleanups and Outreach Events

As part of the outreach strategy, the Conservancy organizes and participates 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 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. The Conservancy 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 and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
Hold at least two cleanups to spread awareness of and improve water quality in the Delta	The Conservancy co-hosted a spring cleanup on Sherman Island with the Rio Vista Windsports Association. Planning is underway for Coastal Cleanup Day in the fall.
Increase the number of volunteers at cleanups; track and quantify impact of cleanup events	More than two-dozen volunteers attended the spring cleanup on Sherman Island and collected 3,380 pounds of trash from a 1.5-mile stretch along the Sacramento River.
Work with partners at sister agencies to identify high-priority cleanup sites and potential partners to support cleanups	The Conservancy reached out to California State Parks, Delta Sector to inquire about collaboration opportunities.
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	To raise awareness of Delta needs, the Conservancy has participated in a variety of events this year, including a Nature Based Solutions Summit and an Outdoors for All convening held at the CNRA headquarters. The fourth Delta Restoration Forum – an open house-style event showcasing restoration projects in the Delta and Suisun Marsh – was held in Clarksburg on June 18. The forum was hosted by the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Subcommittee, which the Conservancy co-leads with the Delta Stewardship Council.
Develop an assessment to track, identify, and improve collaboration opportunities with communities and partner entities through joint projects and resource sharing	The Conservancy developed a workplan and supporting documents to plan and track communications-related activities for 2026. To support collaboration, the Conservancy attends regular interagency check-ins with communications leads.

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 its website and social media accounts, and track metrics for those platforms.

Goals and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
Maintain an informative, interactive, user-friendly website	To improve the design, functionality, and accessibility of the Conservancy's website, CNRA updated the California state web template running on the Conservancy's website on June 18. The new template includes a more user-friendly content editing system that will make it easier to maintain the site.

Goals	Updates
Create and disseminate engaging and informative social media content utilizing a content calendar to strategically publish content weekly	The Conservancy maintains a communications workplan that includes thematic priorities for the year and planned events. An accompanying content calendar tracks progress. Staff have posted social media content on a variety of topics, including nature-based climate solutions, clean boating practices, and invasive species awareness.
Build on last year's communication plan to create metrics and performance indicators as well as collaborate with other entities	The communications workplan for 2026 includes posting frequency targets, and a companion Key Performance Indicators spreadsheet tracks post metrics across the Conservancy's social media platforms. To highlight Conservancy-funded projects, the Conservancy worked with grantees to produce videos about the Asian American Heritage Park in Isleton and upgrades to the Pittsburg Central Harbor Park and Boat Launch Facility.
Compile key performance indicators for communications collateral and share best practices and success stories	The Conservancy compiles social media and website metrics monthly. High-performing content and best practices are shared with staff to encourage participation in creating communications collateral that highlights the work of the Conservancy.
Engage students with presentations and written material	In January, the Conservancy attended a career day at a middle school to talk about environmental careers. The Conservancy helped facilitate and participated in the annual Earth Day festivities at CNRA in April. The free event featured hands-on activities, including a Delta animal matching game created by the Conservancy. In May, the Conservancy attended a Soils Genesis class field trip to Staten Island where students learned about the carbon dynamics and unique sequestration opportunities in the Delta.

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. The Conservancy 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 and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
Attend the Sacramento, Redwood City, and Sausalito boat shows	The Conservancy attended the Sacramento Boat Show in March 2026 and spoke to approximately 70 people and distributed clean boating resources.
Conduct biannual monitoring of pumpout and dump stations across 13 northern California counties	In April, the Conservancy visited 65 marinas, surveying a total of 79 pumpout stations and seven dump stations.
Post on social media about clean boating practices	To date, the Conservancy has posted about how to properly use pumpout and dump stations and how people can order free clean boating supplies from the Conservancy. CVAP content will be a priority throughout the summer during peak boating season.
Attend the 2026 States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) conference in Boise, Idaho	The Conservancy will be represented at the SOBA conference.

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 and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
Continue to build partnerships that promote equity in Conservancy programs	The Conservancy engaged with local and statewide partners to incorporate more equity into our programs. These included hearing a presentation from Trust for Public Lands, participating in regular Tribal-Delta Agency meetings, hosting tours of project sites for tribes, and frequently engaging community-based organizations like Restore the Delta to discuss equity of our programs.
Implement the newly created assessment criteria that encourage equity and tribal engagement	The Climate Bond criteria include equity and tribal engagement measurements. They will be utilized when grants are received and assessed.

Goals	Updates
Create an assessment of the effectiveness of the equity goals in Climate Bond funding	The assessment will occur after the grants are selected.
Continue to participate in committees, community gatherings, and learning opportunities	The Conservancy regularly attends trainings and committee meetings to increase knowledge. This year, the Conservancy has participated in several events and trainings, including the annual three-day Tribal Training hosted by CNRA.
Work with the Delta Stewardship Council to implement joint actions from their equity plan	The Stewardship Council has prioritized several related items but has not yet begun to implement the specific objectives that the Conservancy intends to partner on.

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 and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
Create metrics to assess the outcomes of the Climate Bond process	The Climate Bond criteria include equity and tribal engagement measurements. They will be utilized when grants are received and assessed.
Increase tribal engagement by seeking opportunities to support tribal objectives in the Delta	The Conservancy has actively engaged with several tribally significant projects to encourage proposals for Climate Bond Funding. In addition, the Conservancy has been working with grantees and potential grantees to include tribal engagement as part of their projects.
Work with CNRA and the Legislature to change the Conservancy code to allow grants to tribes	The Conservancy worked to ensure that tribes can be eligible applicants for Climate Bond funding. Assembly Bill 2216, which would expand the Conservancy, also includes language to allow the Conservancy to give funding to tribes.
Build on previous work to build relationships with tribes and tribal entities	The Conservancy has worked with applicants to build relationships with tribes and attended a site visit specifically with tribal representatives.
Continue to participate in committees, community gatherings, and learning opportunities	The Conservancy regularly attends trainings and committee meetings to increase knowledge. This year, the Conservancy has participated in several events and trainings, including the annual three-day Tribal Training hosted by CNRA.
Continue outreach on tribal resource management in the Delta	The Conservancy continues to partner with DPC, DSC and other state agencies working in the Delta to provide synthesized outreach materials to Tribes. The Conservancy also continues to attend outreach events.

Strategy 5.3: Administration

The Conservancy will continue to complete required administrative and operational work. 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.

Goals and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
Develop a SharePoint page to provide centralized access to wellness information and available resources	Due to staffing changes, creating the wellness SharePoint site has been delayed. The Conservancy continues to regularly email staff with wellness resources available through the state.
Implement a Records Retention Plan, Workforce Violence Prevention Plan, an Injury and Illness Prevention Plan, and an Upward Mobility Plan	A Records Retention Plan was developed and is currently being implemented for physical records. The Workforce Violence Prevention Plan, Injury and Illness Prevention Plan, and Upward Mobility Plan efforts are underway with completion scheduled by year end.
Maintain a sound organization by updating policies, procedures, and processes, and creating division manuals	The Conservancy continues to update policies, procedures, and processes as needed.
Encourage professional development and provide cross-training opportunities	The Conservancy regularly provides opportunities for professional development through state-offered trainings. Cross-training is ongoing based on opportunity and Conservancy need.
Comply with State requirements by submitting administrative and operational reports, plans, and proposals	Required reports were submitted.
Stay up to date on requirements and policy changes by participating in meetings and trainings with other state agencies	The Conservancy continues to regularly attend meetings and trainings offered by CNRA, DGS, CalHR, and DOF.

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, the Conservancy 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 and updates for 2026 are:

Goals	Updates
Create a comprehensive funding plan that seeks potential funding sources	Submitted four grants to bring additional funding into the Conservancy. The plan will occur next year due to staff capacity.
Submit applications for federal, state, and private funding as it becomes available	The Conservancy has submitted a federal and two state grant proposals.
Amplify the impact of Conservancy funds by partnering with other organizations on funding opportunities	The Conservancy has partnered with other organizations to develop proposed projects for funding and is also exploring ways to help support it.

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 26/27 Proposed Allocation	Project Funding Remaining	Programs Supported
General Fund	\$1,511,000	\$1,511,000	N/A	All programs
Climate, Access, and Resource Funding	\$11,400,000	\$0	\$17,000	Community Enhancement Program and Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program
Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Funding	\$36,000,000	\$0	\$9,000	Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program
Environmental License Plate Fund	\$130,000	\$130,000	N/A	All programs
Reimbursements Agreements	\$672,000	\$292,000	\$292,000	Community Enhancement Program
Delta Drought Response Pilot Program	\$19,000,000	\$70,000	\$0	Community Enhancement Program
Proposition 1	\$50,000,000	\$459,000	\$657,000	Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program
Proposition 4	\$29,000,000	\$15,350,000	\$25,752,000	Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program
Proposition 68	\$12,000,000	\$277,000	\$180,000	Community Enhancement Program

Next Step

The Conservancy will work with Metamorphic Consulting to prepare a 2027 Implementation Plan after the 2027-2032 Strategic Plan has been completed.