



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

July 22, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Delta Conservancy Conference Room

1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento, CA 95691

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. To maximize transparency and public access, members of the public can choose to participate either via Microsoft Teams or in person at the location listed above.

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

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Questions and public comment can be addressed to 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. Board Elections (Action Item)**
- 5. Consent Calendar (Action Item)**
 - Approval of May 27, 2026 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items (Attachment)
- 6. Executive Officer's Report, Campbell Ingram**
 - Program Update (Attachment)
 - Budget and Expenditure Report (Attachment)
- 7. Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Update, Anji Shakya (Attachment)**
- 8. Community Enhancement Program Update, Maya Garrett (Attachment)**
- 9. Consideration of Amendment to Scope and Term of the Suisun City Public Dock Planning Project, Maya Garrett (Attachment) (Action Item)**
- 10. Delta Carbon Program Update, Lauren Damon (Attachment)**

- 11. Consideration to Authorize Phase II Funding and of Amendment to Scope of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Program Agreement for Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project, Lauren Damon (Attachment) (Action Item)**
- 12. Consideration of Updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines, Dr. Meredith Howard (Attachment) (Action Item)**
- 13. Consideration of Grant Solicitations for the Delta Community, Environment and Climate Grant Program and Delta Conservancy Small Grant Program, Dr. Meredith Howard (Attachment) (Action Item)**
- 14. Delta Conservancy 2026 Implementation Plan Status Update, Campbell Ingram (Attachment)**
- 15. Delta Conservancy 2027-2032 Strategic Plan Listening Session, Anna Coats (Attachment)**
- 16. Public Comment**
- 17. ADJOURN**

- To view the members of the Delta Conservancy Board, please visit <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/delta-conservancy-board>.
- Attachments and additional information are on the Delta Conservancy's website at: <http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>.
- If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, or require printed copies of meeting materials, please contact us at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date at (916) 375-2084 or contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov. This contact information may also be used for questions.
- Public comments are generally limited to three (3) minutes but may be more 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.



May 27, 2026 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items
Marina Community Center, 340 Marina Blvd, Pittsburg, CA 94565

Video and audio of the meeting are available here: [May 27, 2026 Board Meeting Recording](#)

AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:08 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
- Stephen Benson
- Ken Carlson
- Sandi Matsumoto
- Gloria Sandoval

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Nicole Cuellar-Nelson – Senator Cabaldon Representative

Liaison Advisors and Counsel Present:

- Amanda Bohl
- Marge Kolar
- Todd Plain
- Nicole Rinke (Counsel) – teleconference

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

- None

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar

Motion: Supervisor Carlson moved, seconded by Vice Chair Allen, that the Board approve the following:

- Approval of March 25, 2026 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

A voice vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer highlighted several items in the staff report. Two items from the Executive Officer were updated after publication: Assembly Bill 2216 passed out of the Assembly and will be referred to the Senate, and Senate Bill 872 was referred to the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee in the Assembly for discussion.

Agenda Item 6 – Community Enhancement Program Update

As of May 2026, there are 10 active projects, two approved projects, and six completed projects. Conservancy staff highlighted significant project milestones from the staff report for the Central Harbor Park and Boat Launch Facility Upgrade Implementation Project and the Stockton Maritime Museum Planning Project.

Agenda Item 7 – Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaption Program and Delta Carbon Program Updates

For the Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program, as of May 2026, there are 11 active projects and 24 completed projects. Conservancy staff highlighted significant project milestones from the staff report for the Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction Planning Project. For the Delta Carbon Program, as of May 2026, there are three active projects and one completed project. Conservancy staff highlighted the solicitation for the Rice Incentive Program. Staff added that the Wetland Restoration Project on Webb Tract project with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California held their solicitation for construction bids. The winning bid is set to be presented to the Metropolitan Board in early July, and if it is awarded, a request for the Conservancy Board’s consideration to move the project from the planning to implementation phase will be presented at the next Board meeting.

The following agenda items were taken out of order.

Agenda Item 11 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

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

Agenda Item 12 – Delta Protection Commission Update

Amanda Bohl, Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission, presented an update.

Agenda Item 13 – 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 8 – Consideration of Amendment to Scope of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Program Agreement for Wetland Restoration on Staten Island Project

Conservancy staff presented for consideration a scope change to the Wetland Restoration on Staten Island Project to reduce the scope of work to complete three of the six proposed wetland units and additional completed critical infrastructure and wetland features.

Member Matsumoto recused herself from this vote, so there was not a quorum present. The Conservancy’s Grant Amendment Process allows the Board Chair and/or Vice Chair to approve changes

that are in response to time-sensitive situations. To the extent this item is now time sensitive, the Executive Officer will work with the Chair and the Vice Chair on this Action Item.

Agenda Item 9 – Consideration of Updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines

Member Matsumoto recused herself from this vote, so there was not a quorum present. This item was deferred to the July Board meeting.

Agenda Item 10 – 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 14 – Public Comment

- None

Agenda Item 15 – ADJOURN

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Supervisor Allen requested that the Delta Restoration Forum invitation be sent to Yolo County Supervisor Oscar Villegas. Confirmed that he received event information on May 7 and an invite follow-up the week of the event.
- Supervisor Hume requested to review the Conservancy distribution list to identify potential gaps. Completed June 3.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:13 a.m. by Chair Hume. Immediately following the meeting, a group of attendees participated in a site visit to the Central Harbor Park and Boat Launch Facility Upgrade project.

CONTACT

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Executive Officer's Report

July 22, 2026

PROGRAM UPDATE

STAFFING UPDATE

Brenda Lusk has returned as the Administration Manager. Chelsea Martinez, our board liaison and contracts analyst, had her last day with the Conservancy on July 5. She had been with the Conservancy since March 2022 and moved to the Department of Justice to be part of a newly formed grant team. Karen Buhr, our Deputy Executive Officer, had her last official day with the Conservancy on July 13. She had been with the Conservancy since August 2022 and left to run the watershed program at Resources Legacy Fund, a philanthropic foundation. Thank you, Chelsea and Karen, for your contributions to the Conservancy over the past four years. Recruitments to backfill both positions have begun. 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 was amended in June to include Lake County and was passed out of the Assembly and was subsequently passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Subcommittee. The bill would allow the Conservancy to support more of the upper watershed with future funding sources.

Senator McNerney introduced [Senate Bill \(SB\) 872](#), as amended in April 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. As amended in early July, the bill now directs the Conservancy to work with local interests to develop a list of priority projects that would be funded by 15% of future appropriations for Delta levee maintenance and special projects. The bill passed out of the Senate and subsequently passed out of the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Subcommittee.

CLIMATE BOND SOLICITATION (PROPOSITION 4)

Under Agenda Item 12, the Board will consider updates to the Conservancy's General Grant Guidelines. Agenda Item 13 contains two Solicitation Notices for the Board's consideration: the Delta Community, Environment, and Climate Grant Program and the Delta Conservancy Small Grant Program.

The Solicitation Notices will be publicly released once an exemption to the Administrative Procedures Act is approved through Assembly Bill 35 and upon appropriation of fiscal year 2026/2027 Climate Bond funding. Conservancy staff anticipate these requirements happening to allow the public release in August or September 2026.

The Rice Program, funded by the Proposition 4 Climate Bond, is currently underway and staff are reviewing concept proposals. The full proposals are due on October 30, 2026, and staff anticipate seeking the Board's approval on funding projects at the March Board Meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

The Conservancy worked together to meet all fiscal year-end due dates for budgeting and invoice processing, which were throughout the month of June. The State Agency Annual Report (SARC) was submitted in April. As of June 2026, for fiscal year 2025-2026, the Conservancy has executed 16 grant and contract amendments, nine agreements have been successfully completed, and 293 invoices have been processed. Ten new computers were procured to replace outdated hardware. We are continuing to work with the Department of General Services to identify and secure new office space. Our lease expires in September 2027.

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 and greenhouse gas emissions. The grant program is highly competitive, and the proposal was not funded. Staff and the project team will seek additional funding sources for the Project.

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 rebuilds soil elevation, reduces long-term flood risk, and improves farm resilience. The Conservancy was not invited to submit a full proposal due to existing Climate Bond investments in the Delta and statewide requests that exceed available funding.

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. The Conservancy was not invited to submit a full proposal due to existing Climate Bond investments in the Delta and statewide requests that exceed available funding.

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. There was strong interest in developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Conservancy amended the contact with ESA to add MOU development support.

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 hosted the fourth Delta Restoration Forum at the Bogle Family Vineyards on June 18, 2026. This back-to-back event featured the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee meeting in the morning, followed by the Delta Restoration Forum in the afternoon. The Subcommittee meeting featured several presentations highlighting diverse ecosystem restoration projects and related programs, and the afternoon Forum was 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 (CDFW), and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The last quarterly meeting was held on May 14, 2026, with updates on winged primrose (*Ludwigia decurrens*) movement toward the Delta, and CDFW's Nutria Eradication Program. The next quarterly meeting will be held on August 19, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Staten Island Soils Class Field Trip

On May 26, the Conservancy attended a Soils Genesis class field trip to Staten Island and provided information to UC Davis students learning about the carbon dynamics and unique sequestration opportunities in the Delta.

MEDIA MENTIONS

- A recent interview of the Conservancy's Executive Officer on Delta funding needs was quoted in a June 13 [SJV Water](#) story about Mormon Slough. Restore the Delta is leading a community-driven effort to restore and revitalize the Stockton waterway.
- In a July 8 article, [Maven's Notebook](#) covered the Delta Independent Science Board's May meeting, which included an examination of nature-based solutions projects in the region. The Executive Officer joined other state leaders for a panel discussion and talked about the Conservancy's nature based solutions projects in deeply subsided areas of the Delta.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

1. Supervisor Allen requested that the Delta Restoration Forum invitation be sent to Yolo County Supervisor Oscar Villegas.
 - Supervisor Villegas received event information on May 7 and an invitation follow-up the week of the event.
2. Supervisor Hume requested to review our distribution list to identify potential gaps.
 - This request was completed June 3.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 6.2: Budget and Expenditure Report

CORRESPONDENCE

- None.

CONTACT

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

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Personnel Services (PS)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
1	Salaries & Wages	\$1,369,282	\$1,245,620	\$123,662	91%
2	Temporary Help	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
3	Benefits	\$768,940	\$700,480	\$68,460	91%
4	TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$2,138,222	\$1,946,100	\$192,122	91%
Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Operating Expenditures and Equipment (OE & E)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
5	General Expense	\$58,863	\$32,098	\$26,765	55%
6	Printing	\$1,900	\$1,459	\$441	77%
7	Communications	\$11,230	\$7,927	\$3,303	71%
8	Postage	\$50	\$24	\$26	48%
9	Travel-In State	\$21,751	\$10,520	\$11,231	48%
10	Training	\$8,800	\$3,828	\$4,972	44%
11	Facilities Operation	\$116,871	\$106,700	\$10,171	91%
12	Contracts & Professional Services-External	\$234,880	\$15,194	\$219,686	6%
13	Contracts & Professional Services-Interdepartmental	\$121,712	\$70,024	\$51,688	58%
14	Information Technology	\$53,600	\$49,262	\$4,338	92%
15	Non-Capital Asset Purchases	\$22,495	\$0	\$22,495	0%
16	Indirect Cost Recovery	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
17	Unallocated Operating Expense & Equipment	\$32,959	\$0	\$32,959	0%
18	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES & EQUIPMENT	\$685,111	\$297,036	\$388,075	43%
Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Multi-Year Appropriations	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
19	Proposition 1 Program Support	\$208,360	\$0	\$208,360	
20	Proposition 4 Program Support	\$194,420	\$0	\$194,420	
21	Proposition 68 Program Support	\$118,885	\$0	\$118,885	
22	Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Support	\$71,984	\$0	\$71,984	
23	Nature Based Solutions and CAR	\$1,065,085	\$0	\$1,065,085	
24	Grants and Subventions	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$4,000,000	
25	TOTAL MULTI-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS	\$5,658,734	\$0	\$5,658,734	
Line Number	TOTALS	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
26	TOTAL PS, OE & E, MULTI-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS	\$8,482,067	\$2,243,136	\$6,238,931	26%
27	REIMBURSEMENT	(\$369,267)	(\$329,065)	(\$40,202)	89%
28	GRAND TOTAL	\$8,112,800	\$1,914,071	\$6,198,729	24%



Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Update

Staff Report

PROGRAM UPDATE

As of July 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](#).

SIGNIFICANT PROJECT MILESTONES

P1-2207: Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase II

Following Board approval of project modifications in January, Ducks Unlimited has put project construction work out to bid. The project team is awaiting amended permits for the remaining aspects of the project and anticipate completing grant funded work in the 2026 construction season, with monitoring to take place winter and spring of 2027.

The purpose of this project is to implement improvements to existing drainage and water supply systems in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Improvements will address drainage and supply issues that impact agricultural production, wetland management, vector control, and public access. The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area provides habitat and resources for migrating waterfowl on managed seasonal and managed semi-permanent wetlands.

NUTRIA ERADICATION PROGRAM UPDATE (JULY 10, 2026)

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

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

- Completed full and/or rapid assessments on over 1.9 M acres
- Executed entry permits with over 5,300 landowners for 14,000 parcels in 20 counties
- Set up 15,163 camera stations (1,176 currently active) and conducted >124,000 camera checks
- Detected nutria in 1,540 sites (40-acre cells)
- Deployed 22,766 trap sets (638 currently active) for >246,000 trap nights
- Taken or accounted for the take of 8,968 nutria (since Mar 2017)
 - Merced - 3,414
 - Fresno - 2,642
 - Solano - 1,358
 - Stanislaus - 1,005
 - Madera - 285
 - San Joaquin - 110
 - Sacramento - 61
 - Contra Costa - 47
 - Mariposa - 26

- Kings - 16
- Sonoma - 4
- See Figure 7.2 for distribution of take by county, by year. See www.wildlife.ca.gov/nutria for an interactive map showing locations and densities of nutria taken over time.

Of 8,900+ necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.2 sex ratio (M:F)
- >11,500 fetal nutria have been removed from the population
- Litter size ranged from 1-14, with an average of 6.1
 - 22% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 68% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 71% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
 - Average litter size for adult females (> 14 mos.) in California is 6.6

Table 7.1. The total number of cells with nutria taken, total number of nutria taken, and average number of nutria taken per cell, by year from March 2017 to July 10, 2026.

Year	Total (unique) cells with nutria taken	Total # nutria taken	Average # nutria taken per cell
2017	7	20	2.9
2018	57	348	6.1
2019	73	492	6.7
2020	157	1,239	7.9
2021	145	701	4.8
2022	112	580	5.2
2023	120	677	5.6
2024	214	1,353	6.3
2025	244	2,076	8.5
2026	199	1,481	7.5
Total Across Years	846	8,968	10.6

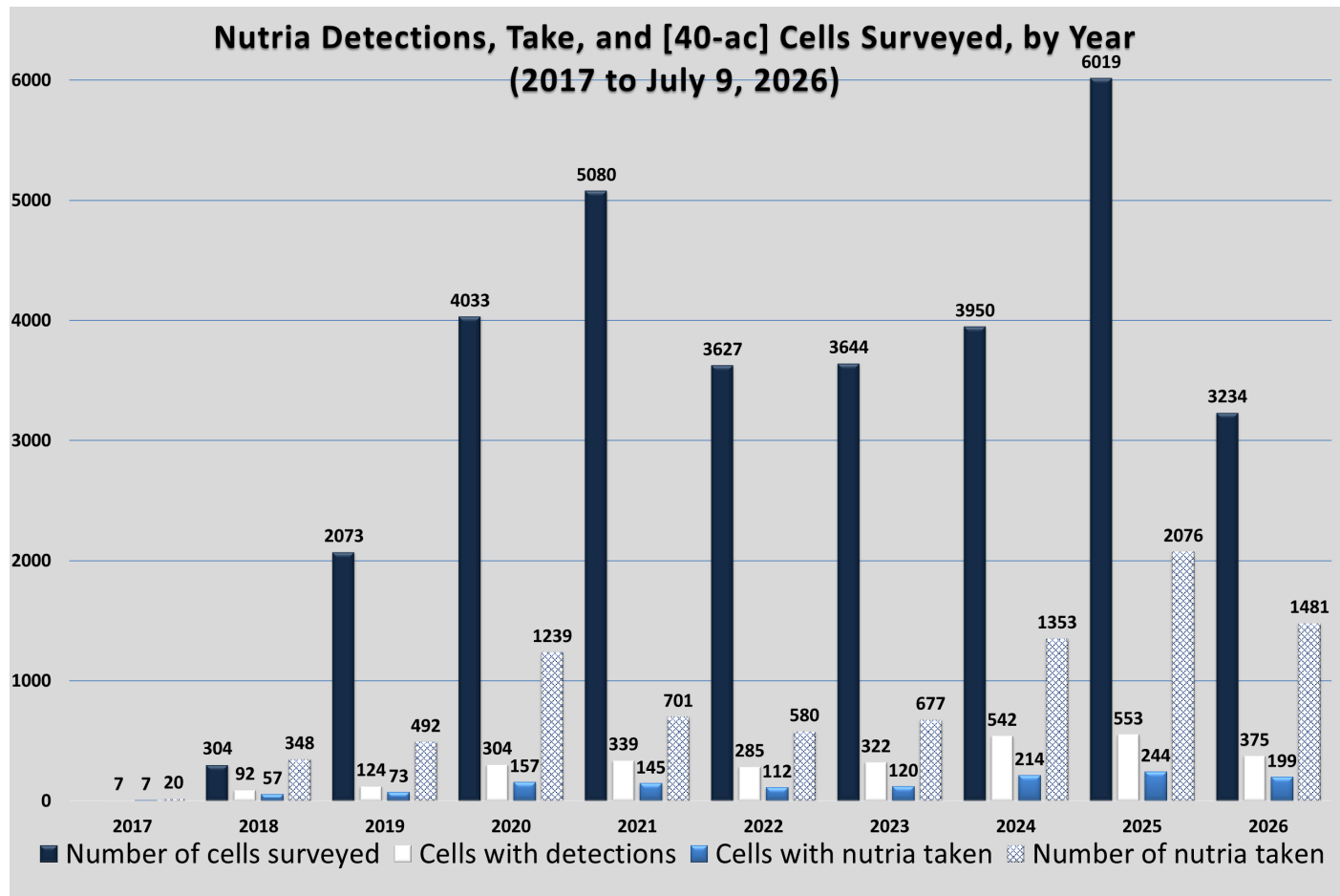


Figure 7.1. The total number of 40-acre cells (sites) surveyed, number of cells with nutria detections, number of cells with nutria taken, and total number of nutria taken, by year from March 2017 to July 9, 2026.

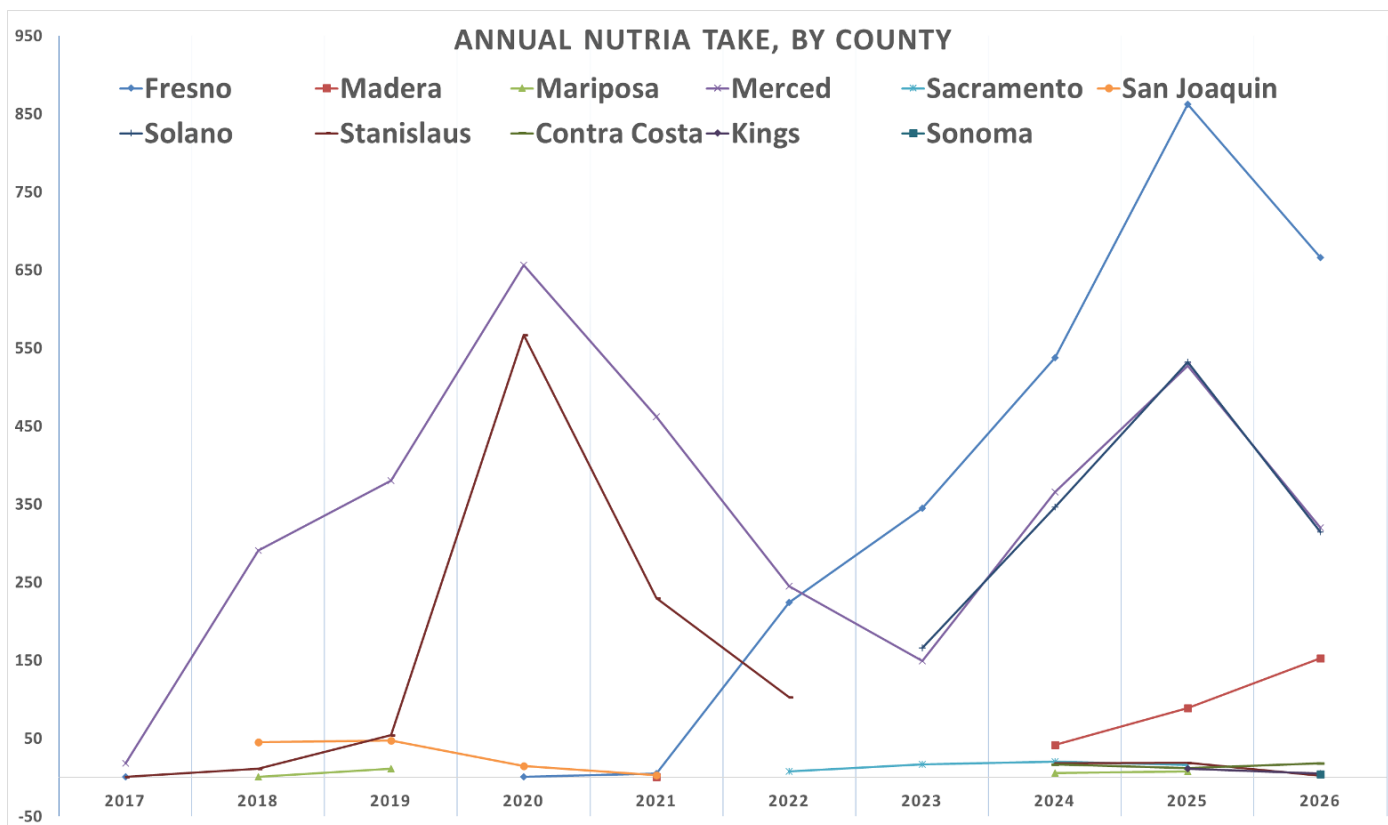


Figure 7.2. The distribution of nutria taken by county, by year, in California from 2017 through July 10, 2026.

Please visit the new [Nutria Program Data Dashboard \(Public\)](#) for regular updates and geographic information on survey efforts, detections, and nutria taken.

BACKGROUND

The Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (ERCA) Program refers to a collection of projects that support multi-benefit ecosystem restoration, watershed protection, and climate adaptation projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh. Projects in this program are currently supported through several funding sources: Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act and Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR). The Proposition 1 Grant Program is designed to support multi-benefit ecosystem, watershed protection, and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities. The CAR is a General Fund allocation and promotes multi-benefit projects within the areas of climate resilience, community access, and natural resources protection.

The Grant Program requires both a concept proposal and a full proposal. Full proposals are subject to a rigorous review and evaluation process by staff and external professional reviewers (when applicable) and are recommended for funding based upon review, evaluation, and funding availability.

The table below highlights the allocations for Proposition 1 (bond funds) and CAR (general funds). Each funding source has funds allocated for both administration and grants. The amounts remaining to be allocated are funds available for new grants.

Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Funding Sources. CEP refers to the Community Enhancement Program (Agenda Item 8.1). Amounts listed in millions of dollars.

Funding Source	Total Allocation	Minimum Amount Available for Grants	Total Amount Allocated for Grants	Amount Remaining to be Allocated	Allocation Date	Encumbrance Date	Program(s) Supported by Funding Source
Proposition 1	\$50.0	\$42.5	\$42.4	\$0.1	8/13/2014	Variable	ERCA
CAR	\$5.25	\$4.99	\$4.99	\$0	9/23/2021	6/30/2024	ERCA and CEP
CAR	\$6.125	\$5.82	\$5.35	\$0.02	9/6/2022	6/30/2025	ERCA and CEP

CONTACT

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Community Enhancement Program Update

Staff Report

PROGRAM UPDATE

As of July 2026, there are 11 active projects, one approved project, 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

P6819: Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project (Planning)

The Grantee has completed 35% Design Plans, and the project is on track to be under budget. An amendment request to expand the project's scope will be presented during Agenda Item 9. The purpose of this project is to complete planning for the construction of a 12-foot by 100-foot public fishing dock in the Suisun Slough, located within Suisun City. The Project includes permitting, preparation of a site Master Plan, 65 Percent Design Plans, and community outreach. This fishing dock will serve as a recreational and educational hub, promoting tourism and environmental education in the region. The dock will be ADA accessible and feature benches, shade, fishing pole holders, and an educational kiosk. The Grantee was awarded \$715,180 in Proposition 68 funds in 2024. They are requesting an increase in project scope and a term extension.



Figure 8.1. Rendering of the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock in Suisun City, 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. Conservancy staff are currently working with design firm Lunar Branding to update the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta Pumpout Guide & Map for Boaters.

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 Climate, Access, and Resource (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 CEP 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). Amounts listed in millions of dollars.

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

CONTACT

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Consideration of Amendment to Scope and Term of the Suisun City Public Dock Planning Project
Staff Report

Grantee	City of Suisun City
Project ID	P6819
Award Year	2024
County	Solano
Category	Planning
Original Award Amount	\$715,180
Request	Scope and Term

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board approve a one-year term extension and an increase to the scope of work that will result in the completion of full bid documents and plan checks for the Suisun City public fishing dock.

DESCRIPTION

The Grantee is requesting an increase to the project scope and a one-year term extension from March 15, 2027, to March 15, 2028. The increase to project scope will fund full design plans, bid documents, and plan checks due to the project being under budget. The term extension is to account for permit delays.

This Project was originally awarded funds to complete planning, including community outreach, permits, and design plans up to 65%. This request will result in completion of complete planning documents, and the project will be ready for implementation when funding is secured.

This amendment is due to the project having available funds remaining in the project budget to complete further planning. Additionally, the Grantee requires an additional year to secure all required permits. If the term extension is not approved, the grantee will complete the planning documents in the current project scope but will likely not secure all the permits outlined in the grant agreement by the current term end date.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

This Project is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Suisun City is the Lead Agency under CEQA and prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) finding that the acquisition of the project site and the project implementation were categorically exempt from CEQA because the project will not result in a significant effect on the environment, nor would it impact scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, or historical resources. (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 15303 and Section 15304). Suisun City filed their NOE as Lead Agency on November 25, 2025, and this change

in scope and funding term is within the project description that was previously considered by the Lead Agency.

BACKGROUND

The Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project (Project ID P6819) is a planning project for the construction of a 12-foot by 100-foot public fishing dock in the Suisun Slough, located within Suisun City (see Figure 9.1). The Project includes permitting, preparation of a site Master Plan, 65 Percent Design Plans, and community outreach. This fishing dock will serve as a recreational and educational hub, promoting tourism and environmental education in the region. The dock will be ADA accessible and feature benches, shade, fishing pole holders, and an educational kiosk. By creating a sustainable and inclusive space for fishing, kayaking, and learning about the local ecosystem, this Project will contribute to the conservation and economic enhancement of the Delta region and its communities. The Agreement for this work was initially active through March 15, 2027.

The grantee now seeks an extension of the grant deadline to March 15, 2028, to accommodate delays due to permitting approvals. Because Community Enhancement Program funds are not set to expire until June 30, 2029, this request can be met within the current program.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve an increase in the scope of work that will result in the completion of full planning documents and a one-year term extension to the City of Suisun City for the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning grant.

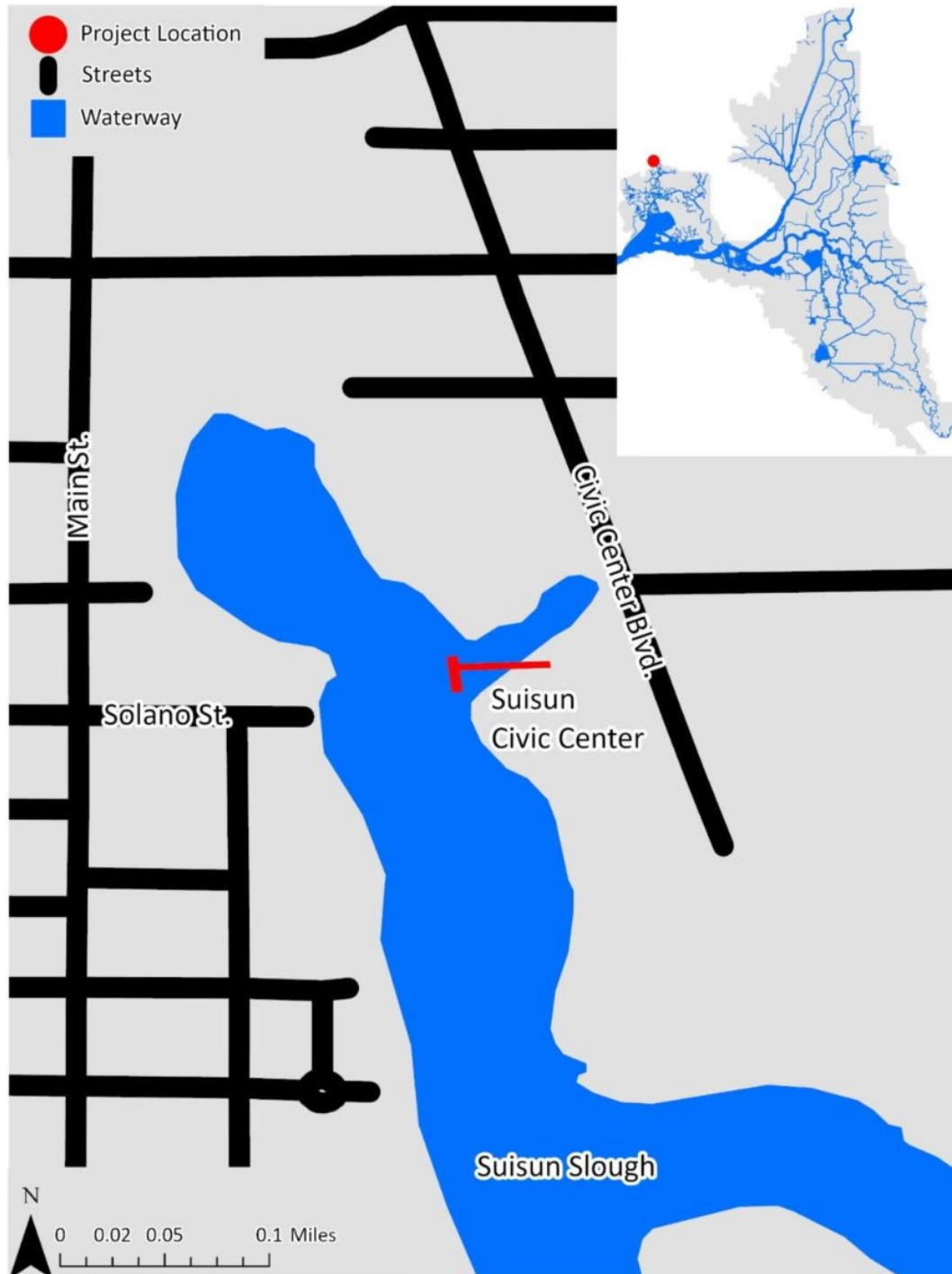
CONTACT

Maya Garrett, Ecological and Community Program Analyst
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

maya.garrett@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

(916) 634-3743

Figure 9.1. Map of the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Project Area



Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Solano County

675 Texas Street Suite 1900

Fairfield, California 94533

From: (Public Agency): City of Suisun City
611 Village Drive

City of Suisun City, California 94585

(Address)

Project Title: City of Suisun City Fishing Dock Replacement Project

Project Applicant: City of Suisun City

Project Location - Specific:

701 Civic Center Boulevard and 1200 Kellogg Street, City of Suisun City, California

Project Location - City: City of Suisun City Project Location - County: Solano

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The City's existing fishing dock, located at 1200 Kellogg Street, has reached the end of its useful life. To meet the community's need for more public and accessible recreational facilities, the City is proposing to remove the existing fishing dock and constructing a new fishing dock at 701 Civic Center Boulevard. The proposed project also includes the installation of a new gangway, gangway abutment, concrete walkway, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant parking stall.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Suisun City

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Suisun City

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sections 15303 and 15304
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

In accordance with Section 15300.2, the proposed project would not result in a significant cumulative impact or significant effect on the environment, nor would it impact scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, or historical resources. Accordingly, the proposed project is exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Janet Hull Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 7074292628

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ■ Yes No

Signature:  Date: 11/25/2025 Title: Recreation, Parks, and Marina Director

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____



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

CONTACT

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Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

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**Consideration to Authorize Phase II Funding and of Amendment to Scope of Nature Based Solutions:
Wetland Restoration Program Agreement for Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project**

Staff Report

Grantee	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Project ID	NBS01
Award Year	2023
County	Contra Costa
Category	Implementation
Original Award Amount	\$20,907,371 (\$3,221,199 for Phase I and a conditional \$17,686,172 for Phase II)
Request	Scope and Budget

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board release conditionally awarded funds for Phase II of the Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project (Project). Staff also recommend the Board approve a reduction to the Project scope of work that would reduce constructed acreage to up to 2,400 acres, eliminate the post-construction aquatic monitoring and island-wide levee analysis tasks, and approve a budget change to shift the \$410,000 of unused funds from the scope reduction, if approved, to wetland construction.

DESCRIPTION

The Grantee is requesting access to the remaining Phase II funds, which were conditionally awarded at the time of the original award. The Project is comprised of two individual projects, a Rice Conversion Project (Rice Project) and a Wetland Restoration Project (Wetland Project), each with a planning phase (Phase I) and an implementation stage (Phase II). Access to Phase II funds was approved conditional on successful completion of Phase I. The Grantee has completed Phase I for both Projects and has started Phase II of the Rice Project. Phase II of the Wetland Project includes construction, ongoing outreach, environmental monitoring, and island-wide analyses. This request is for the final batch of conditionally awarded funding.

In considering the release of funding, the Grantee is also requesting approval to reduce the constructed wetland acreage to up to 2,400 acres, which is consistent with engineering and design completed in Phase I, and remove the following tasks from the Phase II Project scope: development of a Technical Advisory Committee, drafting of an environmental monitoring plan, post-construction aquatic monitoring, and island-wide levee stability analysis. These tasks were originally proposed to help the broader scientific community understand the Project's impact to the Delta ecosystem and levee stability. However, the Grantee has convened with experts on these topics, and potential impacts of the island-wide mosaic will likely take several years post-construction to be measurable. Robust

scientific studies will require additional resources, beyond the funding allocated, with data collection spanning several years. These tasks are thus more appropriate for dedicated, multi-year studies completed outside of the scope of this Project.

If approved, the Grantee will also move \$410,000 from the removed tasks to construction to cover a budget shortfall of \$3,450,969 for construction. The total cost of the Project has increased to \$28,000,000. The Grantee has increased their cost share to \$7,092,629, or approximately 25% of the total Project cost, to complete the Project.

The requested amendment is due to conditional funding at the time of award that requires Board consideration to remove conditions and approve the release of funding. The request is also due to results from the planning phase and changes in cost from 2023 feasibility estimates. If the Conservancy does not approve to release the Phase II funding, the Project will not be completed as approved due to lack of funding to complete the Project. If the Conservancy does not approve the amendment to reduce the scope and modify the budget, the Project will experience delays and extended timelines while the Grantee finds time, resources, and funding to complete that work.

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 Director of California Department of Fish and Wildlife issued a [concurrence](#) with the SERP request on July 22, 2025. The CEQA lead agency, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, filed a [Notice of Exemption](#) (NOE) on July 24, 2025. Lead agency staff have determined that the Project modifications would not have an environmental impact that would alter the SERP concurrence.

BACKGROUND

Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project (Project ID NBS01) is a planning and implementation project to design and construct a mosaic of rice and wetlands on Webb Tract that will provide fish and wildlife habitat, reverse subsidence, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Funding was awarded in two phases: \$3,221,199 for the planning phase and a conditional \$17,686,172 for the implementation phase, subject to further review and consideration by the Board. Funding had the added condition that the funds being released will not be used for mitigation requirements of the Delta Conveyance program. This is the Grantee's second amendment request requiring Board consideration.

Funding was provided by a one-time 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 Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration (NBS: WR).

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve a change to the scope of work to reduce constructed wetland acreage to up to 2,400 acres, eliminate work associated with post-construction aquatic monitoring and island-wide levee analyses of the Wetland Mosaic Landscape Project on Webb Tract and release \$13,074,567 of Phase II funds for the Project.

CONTACT

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

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 Delta Conservancy

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

GENERAL GRANT GUIDELINES

~~July-May~~ 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. For questions or assistance, please contact the Delta Conservancy at (916) 375-2084 or 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 contribute to the Conservancy's mission, adaptive management, contribute 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. 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.



Consideration of Grant Solicitations for the Delta Community, Environment and Climate Grant Program and Delta Conservancy Small Grant Program

Staff Report

This agenda item requests Board approval of the grant solicitation notices for the Delta Community, Environment, and Climate Grant Program and Delta Conservancy Small Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend Board approval of the Delta Community, Environment, and Climate Grant Program and Delta Conservancy Small Grant Program Solicitation Notices.

DESCRIPTION

Based on the General Grant Guidelines considered by the Board today, and in anticipation of Proposition 4 Climate Bond funds being appropriated and approval of an exemption to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), the Conservancy has prepared Solicitation Notices for the Proposition 4 Climate Bond funds. The Solicitation Notices are for the Delta Community, Environment, and Climate Grant Program and the Delta Conservancy Small Grant Program. The solicitations will only be released upon the appropriation of Proposition 4 Climate Bond funds and approval of the rulemaking exemption for APA. Each of the Solicitation Notices includes a timeline with due dates that are based on the assumption that both of those conditions will be met, and Solicitation Notices will be able to be released by August 1, 2026. If there are delays in these conditions, then the timeline and due dates in the Solicitation Notices will need to be revised accordingly.

The Delta Community, Environment, and Climate Grant Program will fund planning projects from \$100,000 to \$750,000 and implementation and acquisition projects from \$100,000 to \$2 million. The Small Grant Program will fund projects under \$100,000 on a rolling basis that make transformative investments in the Delta's social, economic, scientific, and physical infrastructure. Projects may support community needs, advance scientific research that informs resource management, or enhance tourism and public understanding of Delta places.

The Proposition 4 Climate Bond funding provided the Conservancy with \$29 million, and \$24.8 million is now available to support grants for the Delta Community, Environment and Climate Program and Small Grants Program. The Conservancy will conduct two cycles of solicitations for proposals and the Solicitation Notices in this agenda item are only for cycle one. The Conservancy anticipates awarding \$15 million in cycle one, pending final appropriation of funds and an exemption or a procedural rulemaking to address the APA requirements. The Conservancy reserved \$900,000 for the Small Grants Program and plans to split the remaining \$14.1 million relatively evenly among three priorities: Community Enhancement, Nature-Based Solutions, and Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation projects (approximately \$4.7 million for each priority). Cycle one will primarily be funded through the Proposition 4 Climate Bond funding but will be combined with remaining funding from the Proposition

68 Bond and Climate Access and Resource (CAR) Programs. Board approval of projects and awards is expected at the July and October 2027 Board meetings.

BACKGROUND

Chaptered on July 5, 2024, Senate Bill (SB) 867, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (SB 867 93020(a)(4)) (Proposition 4 Climate Bond) provided the Conservancy with \$29 million for projects that reduce the risks of climate change impacts upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and increase public access. These Solicitation Notices are to utilize the Proposition 4 Climate Bond funds for the Delta Community, Environment, and Climate Grant Program and Delta Conservancy Small Grant Program.

The Board is considering revisions to the General Grant Guidelines (Agenda Item 12) that will serve as the basis for administering the program.

The Proposition 4 Climate Bond requires the adoption of regulations, in compliance with the APA, to implement and release its authorized funding. In order to implement the program, compliance would require an emergency rulemaking procedure. However, Assembly Bill 35 is currently going through the legislative process and if approved, will establish an exemption to the APA rulemaking requirement for Proposition 4 Climate Bond funds.

Once the General Grant Guidelines are approved, the APA exemption approved or rulemaking completed, and the funds are appropriated, the Solicitation Notices will be released to the public to encourage applications and provide instructions for submitting them.

If the Solicitation Notices are approved today, we are also requesting authority for the Executive Officer to modify the Solicitation Notices to adjust the timeliness and due dates as needed based on the timing of the APA requirements (either an exemption or emergency rulemaking regulation), the adoption of the General Grant Guidelines, and the appropriation of the funds. The goal will be to set due dates and timelines that are realistic for applicants yet allow for the expedient release of funding. The Solicitation Notices will not be released until these processes are complete. Although not anticipated, if an exemption to the APA rulemaking is not approved by the Legislature, the Solicitation Notices will not be released at this time.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve the Delta Community, Environment, and Climate Grant Program and the Delta Conservancy Small Grant Program Solicitation Notices as presented today with authorization for the Executive Officer to approve modifications to the Solicitation Notices related to the timeline and due dates.

CONTACT

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

Delta Community, Environment, and Climate Grant Program

**Funded by the Proposition 4 Climate Bond and remaining
funds from other grant programs**

Solicitation Notice

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I. Background

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 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.

The Delta and Suisun Marsh are unique natural resources of local, state, and national significance, and have a distinct natural and cultural heritage. The Delta is a 1,300-square-mile estuary and one of the largest on the west coast of North and South America. It is home to more than 500,000 people and is a world-class recreational destination. Despite its large size and economic importance, too many Californians cannot access the Delta's outdoor spaces (e.g., open lands, parks, trails, beaches) or the array of museums and cultural and historical sites. While many Delta residents frequently go outside to experience nature, others never have the opportunity. Given this, the state is working to expand all Californians' access to parks, open space, nature, and cultural amenities. In addition to expanding access to outdoors for all, the State has accelerated its response to build climate resilience to extreme and forecasted climatic events (e.g., drought, flood, wildfire, and sea-level rise). Climate resilience actions should support climate smart land management to achieve carbon neutrality, sustain the economy, protect food and water security, and support the state's biodiversity. To support community access and climate resilience, California is committed to conserving 30 percent of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030. These initiatives are part of a movement to protect natural resources and elevate the role of natural and working lands against climate change and advance biodiversity conservation. In line with the Conservancy's mission and to advance these statewide initiatives, the Conservancy is soliciting for projects that support public access, build climate resilience, and promote natural resource protection in the Delta region.

Goals of the Program

The goal of the Delta Community, Environment and Climate Grant Program is to fund multi-benefit projects in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. The Conservancy is soliciting proposals for three different priorities: Community Enhancement, Nature-Based Solutions, and Ecosystem Restoration.

- Community Enhancement planning and implementation projects will benefit Delta communities through public access, recreation and tourism, historic and cultural preservation, environmental education, and community engagement. Funded projects will provide outdoor access for all, sustain the Delta's heritage, and/or enhance the unique values of the Delta today. Example projects include, but are not limited to, water or hiking trails, sidewalks, bike routes, community parks or picnic sites, public boating infrastructure, visitor centers, kiosks, signage, renovation of

historic buildings for public use, development of cultural relevant historic districts, educational materials for the public about environmental or environmental justice issues, and land acquisition to support community enhancement projects.

- Nature Based Solutions projects will address ongoing subsidence and greenhouse gas emissions occurring on highly organic soils in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, which threaten the region's communities, agriculture, ecosystem, and the State and Federal water projects. Example projects include, but are not limited to, planning and implementation of managed and tidal wetland restoration, crop conversion to paludiculture (e.g., rice, walking wetlands, other wet crops), technical assistance to access the Voluntary Carbon Market or support practice implementation, scientific research, education and outreach on related topics, and land acquisition or easement.
- Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation projects protect the Delta and Suisun Marsh's natural resources, environment, and biodiversity. Funded projects will restore, research, plan, or educate about landscape health and/or reduce the risks of climate change impacts upon natural resources, fish, and wildlife. Example projects include, but are not limited to, planning, education, habitat restoration and enhancement, wetland protection, watershed resilience, land acquisitions, and conservation easements.

All projects funded through the Delta Community, Environment and Climate Program should aim to include multiple benefits as described below in Section IV Evaluation Criteria. Projects may span two or more of the funding priorities listed above.

II. Proposal Submission

The Conservancy's Delta Community, Environment, and Climate Program will have two funding cycles. The first funding cycle will begin in 2026, and the second will begin in 2027. Each cycle will have two rounds with a concept proposal and a full proposal for those invited to the second round. This Grant Solicitation Notice is for cycle one.

The General Grant Guidelines establish the process and criteria that the Conservancy will use for all grant programs. Since individual funding sources may establish additional limitations, requirements, or require additional guidance as mandated per statute, the grant solicitation notice will provide more details. To the extent that there are slight differences between these documents, the grant solicitation notice will have the most relevant information and will supersede the General Grant Guidelines.

The Conservancy will use the General Grant Guidelines and the principles outlined within this Grant Solicitation Notice to select and administer grants. Applicants should review the General Grant Guidelines and the requirements outlined in this Grant Solicitation Notice prior to applying for funds to tailor their applications to the specific funding requirements. In addition, applicants should review the goals of the various policy guidance listed in Section IV Evaluation Criteria below.

Eligible Grant Recipients

The eligible grant recipients under the Proposition 4 Climate Bond include the following:

- State and local public agencies including special districts, public utilities, local public owned utilities, mutual water companies, and joint powers authorities
- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
- Native American Tribes

While the Proposition 4 Climate Bond funds are the primary funding source for this grant solicitation, there are two additional funding sources included in this solicitation (see Section III Available Funding). Those funding sources have additional restrictions on eligible recipients. Conservancy staff will identify when projects meet the criteria for one of the additional funding sources and may fund projects using these funds if appropriate.

The following section provides a summary of the application and review process.

Concept Proposal

Applicants must submit a concept proposal using the Concept Proposal Application by September 15, 2026. The concept proposal provides a high-level summary of the proposed activities and a budget that will form the basis of a full proposal. Applicants must use the Concept Proposal Application and Instructions (available on the Conservancy website) and submit by email to grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

Concept proposals will be reviewed based on the Evaluation Criteria discussed in Section IV below. Once reviewed, Conservancy staff may confer with the applicant to discuss the project concept, request additional information as needed, or discuss next steps. An in-person meeting or a site visit may be necessary. Please refer to the timeline table provided below for specific dates on when feedback and decisions will be finalized.

Viability Assessment

Based on information gathered during the concept proposal stage, along with input from technical experts if needed, Conservancy staff will evaluate the viability of the proposed project and the overall benefit to the Delta by assessing if the proposed project:

- Is technically and financially feasible
- Is likely to provide locally supported benefits to the Delta and Suisun Marsh
- Will significantly advance the Conservancy's priorities
- Is consistent with the grant guidelines and applicable program priorities and goals

Full Proposal

If Conservancy staff determines that a project concept appears to be viable and brings significant benefit to the Delta, Conservancy staff will notify the applicant that they have been chosen to develop the concept proposal into a full proposal.

Applicants should submit a full proposal using the Delta Community, Environment, and Climate Grant Program Application and Instructions. Full proposals must be submitted by January 20, 2027, to: grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

Full Proposal Assessment and Board Approval

Conservancy staff will assess each full proposal based on the evaluation criteria and compare the merits of all full proposals received within each priority. Conservancy staff will consult external subject matter or technical experts as needed and reach out to applicants if additional information is needed to assess the proposal. Conservancy staff will present all projects to the Conservancy Board and will recommend projects that advance the program goals (described in Section I) and meet the Evaluation Criteria (described in Section IV) based on information provided in proposals. All final determinations regarding grant funding will be made by the Conservancy Board at a public meeting.

Table 1: Timeline for funding cycle one

Cycle One	Due Dates
Concept Proposal Submission	September 15, 2026
Concept Proposal Review and Discussion with Applicants	September 15 through November 15, 2026
Full Proposal Submission	January 20, 2027
Full Proposal Review	End of January through May 2027
Board Meeting for Consideration for Award	July and October 2027 Board Meetings

III. Available Funding

The Proposition 4 Climate Bond funding provided the Conservancy with \$29 million, and \$24,752,000 is available to support grants for the Delta Community, Environment and Climate Program. The Conservancy will conduct two cycles of solicitations for proposals. The first cycle of solicitations will occur in 2026, and the second cycle will occur in 2027. The

Conservancy anticipates awarding \$15 million in cycle, one pending final appropriation of funds and an exemption or a procedural rulemaking to address the Administrative Procedures Act requirements. The Conservancy reserved \$900,000 for the Small Grants Program (separate grant solicitation notice) and plans to split the remaining \$14,100,000 relatively evenly among three priorities: Community Enhancement, Nature-Based Solutions, and Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation projects (approximately \$4,700,000 for each priority).

Cycle one will primarily be funded through the Proposition 4 Climate Bond funding but will be combined with remaining funding from other grant programs as needed or desirable to advance the Conservancy's and program goals. The additional funding will come from unspent funds in the Conservancy's other grant programs including Proposition 68 and Climate Access and Resource Programs. Since these grant programs share some of the priorities of the Delta Community, Environment and Climate Program, these funding sources may be available to the proposed projects submitted under this solicitation. Applicants do not need to identify which funding source will be appropriate to their specific project as Conservancy staff will identify when projects meet the criteria for one of these other grant programs. Because there are differences between the funding sources, projects are not guaranteed to be eligible for these additional funding sources.

Funding Sources

Proposition 4, Chaptered on July 5, 2024, SB 867, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Senate Bill 867 93020(a)(4)) provided the Conservancy with \$29 million — \$24,752,000 of which now remains for funding proposed projects that reduce the risks of climate change impacts upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and increase public access.

Chaptered on October 15, 2017, the Proposition 68 California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 5) provided the conservancy \$12 million for projects that enhance Delta communities and keeps them economically strong.

Chaptered on September 6, 2022, the Amended Budget Act of 2022 (Assembly Bill 179, Item 3875-101-0001 of Section 111) provided the Conservancy with \$6,125,000 for projects that support climate resilience, community access, and natural resource protection activities (collectively known as Climate, Access, and Resource (CAR) Funding). Of the total, up to \$5,818,250 is available for projects.

Additional Funding Information

With rare exceptions, the Conservancy will cap funding amounts based on project type:

- Planning, research, communication, and capacity building grants can be awarded between \$100,000 to \$750,000.

- Implementation and acquisition grants can be awarded between \$100,000 to \$2 million.

Consistent with Proposition 4 Climate Bond language, the Conservancy may reimburse grantees for indirect costs based on one of the following criteria:

- The grantee's federally negotiated indirect cost rate (NICRA). Applicants must provide documentation of NICRA.
- The federal de minimis indirect cost rate (15 percent as of October 1, 2024).
- A rate negotiated by the grantee with another state agency within the last five years. Applicants must provide documentation to support indirect cost rate calculations.
- If an applicant does not have an existing indirect cost rate, applicants may propose an indirect cost rate for consideration by the Conservancy. Applicants must provide documentation to support indirect cost rate calculations.

Applicants may request reimbursement of indirect costs for the first \$50,000 of equipment purchases or subcontractor payments. The Conservancy will not reimburse grantees for indirect costs on acquisition fees or for costs associated with subcontractor markup. Please contact the Conservancy for questions regarding eligible indirect costs.

IV. Evaluation Criteria

Full proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Advances Delta Conservancy, Regional, and State Objectives**

Does the project advance priorities identified in the following:

- The Conservancy's [mission, governing statute](#), and [2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#) and the funding priorities identified above in Section 1 under Goals of the Program.
- [The Delta Plan](#) and the Delta Stewardship Council's Science Action Agenda
- The National Heritage Area Plan
- State Initiatives, including, but not limited to the following:
 - [Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#)
 - [California's Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#)
 - [Pathways to 30X30](#)
 - [Outdoors for All](#)
 - [California Climate Adaptation Strategy](#)
 - [California Water Resilience Portfolio](#)
 - Suisun Marsh Habitat Preservation Plan
 - Delta Protection Commission Land Use and Resource Management Plan
- Other relevant local, regional, State, and federal plans

2. Investment of State Resources

Is the project feasible and likely to achieve project goals? Is the budget complete, accurate, fair, reasonable, and justified? Does the project leverage non-state resources (e.g., in-kind services, volunteer hours, donations, local or federal grants)? Does the project team have the skills and expertise to meet the project goals within the funding term? Does the project provide resources in a geographic area(s) that have been underserved by the Delta Conservancy or State, or are considered a disadvantaged or vulnerable community? The State has developed several tools to assist in identifying communities that are vulnerable to climate and that are disadvantaged.

- The [Climate Vulnerability Map](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/652c6def7040429bafef23c38966f8f73/page/Welcome-%26-Regions) is an informational tool developed by the State of California to assist with identifying climate vulnerable communities. The tool can be accessed here: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/652c6def7040429bafef23c38966f8f73/page/Welcome-%26-Regions>
- The [Vulnerable Communities Platform](https://vcp.lci.ca.gov/) was created to identify where climate vulnerabilities and hazards are most severe. The Vulnerable Communities Platform can be accessed here: <https://vcp.lci.ca.gov/>
- The [Climate Bond Communities Map](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa723fdf521a44c9a428f1a46cd38a09/page/(S)DAC-Communities-Map) was developed to assist with the Proposition 4 Grant Program to determine if a project is anticipated to serve a disadvantaged (DAC) and/or severely disadvantaged community (SDAC). The tool can be accessed here: [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa723fdf521a44c9a428f1a46cd38a09/page/\(S\)DAC-Communities-Map](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa723fdf521a44c9a428f1a46cd38a09/page/(S)DAC-Communities-Map)

3. Readiness, Resiliency, and Sustainability

Does the project demonstrate the readiness of the project to proceed? How quickly and how long will the project provide meaningful benefits? For planning projects, are projects feasible and will planning activities advance the project toward implementation in a timely manner? For implementation projects, how complete is project planning, including the status of CEQA and permitting efforts? What is the status of land tenure? How does the project integrate adaptive management and climate change? Do implementation and acquisition projects have sustainability and funding for long-term operations and maintenance?

4. Community Engagement and Support

Was the community engaged in the visioning of the project? Does the project plan to engage the community throughout planning and implementation? Does the project build trust in the community or change unequal power dynamics? Does the project team reflect the community it serves? Does the project team have a good working relationship within the community? Has the project team made it easy for the community to participate in the project? Has the project team identified,

informed, and consulted with all affected parties to avoid, reduce or mitigate conflicts with the community or existing and adjacent land use? Has the project team addressed the Good Neighbor Checklist?

5. Tribal Engagement

Has there been an effort to engage with tribes in the project development or design phase? Does the project include working with tribes to enable traditional stewardship and cultural practices on ancestral lands or co-management of ancestral lands? Does the project include indigenous voices, leadership, perspectives including, traditional ecological knowledge, indigenous stewardship, or education programs? Are tribal concerns respected, and archaeological and cultural resources protected? Does the project acknowledge (e.g., signage, communication) tribal land and accurate historical information?

6. Merit

Does the project have multiple benefits? Does the project protect or enhance significant resources (natural, agricultural, recreational, or tourism)? Does the project have multiple, clear, achievable, and measurable performance metrics? For projects with a scientific component, is the project hypothesis driven and use the best science available and/or use traditional knowledge? Does the project use an innovative approach to address project goals?

7. Additional Considerations

Is the purpose of the project, goals, tasks, schedule, and deliverables clear and compelling? Does the project either possess or have a plan to gain, the knowledge, skills, and expertise to carry out the project?

V. Contact

For more information: <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/grant-program/>

If you have questions, please contact the Conservancy at grants@DeltaConservancy.ca.gov or (916) 375-2084.



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

Delta Conservancy Small Grant Program

Funded by the Proposition 4 Climate Bond

Solicitation Notice

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Goals of the Program

The Small Grant Program provides funding for eligible entities to complete projects under \$100,000 that make transformative investments in the Delta's social, economic, scientific, and physical infrastructure. Projects may support community needs, advance scientific research that informs resource management, or enhance tourism and public understanding of Delta places through events, programs, materials, or facilities.

The grants should support one of the three Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy's (Conservancy) Priority Areas described below (please see [the website](#) for more detailed descriptions).

Community Enhancement

Building and strengthening Delta communities; celebrating the Delta as Place; historical preservation; expanding outdoor access; supporting tourism; and providing environmental educational opportunities. Funded projects may include but are not limited to education and outreach, community events, equipment, signage, staff and board development, and strategic planning.

Ecosystem Restoration

Preserving and enhancing the Delta's habitat, environment, and biodiversity. Funded projects may include, but are not limited to feasibility studies, research, tribal consultations, post-implementation monitoring and maintenance, or education, outreach, and engagement.

Nature-Based Solutions

Using natural processes to address climate challenges, such as subsidence and carbon emissions. Funded projects may include feasibility studies, research, tribal consultations, or education, outreach, and engagement.

Proposals

The Conservancy is soliciting proposals from eligible entities that will provide technical assistance, social, economic and scientific investments, and strengthen Delta communities.

The General Grant Guidelines establish the process and criteria that the Conservancy will use for all grant programs. Since individual funding sources may establish additional limitations, requirements, or require additional guidance as mandated per statute, the grant solicitation notice will provide more details. To the extent that there are slight differences between these documents, the grant solicitation notice will have the most relevant information and will supersede the General Grant Guidelines.

Eligible Grant Recipients

The eligible grant recipients under the Proposition 4 Climate Bond include the following:

- State and local public agencies including special districts, public utilities, local public owned utilities, mutual water companies and joint powers authorities
- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
- Native American Tribes

This program uses a simplified application process, and the proposal application consists of an online form submitted by applicants. The proposal application includes essential project information, a project budget, and a one-page narrative describing why the project is important and how it supports Delta and Conservancy program goals.

The proposal application can be found on the Conservancy's Proposition 4 Webpage here: [Community, Environment, and Climate Grant Program Proposition 4 – Delta Conservancy](#)

Funding Availability

A total of \$900,000 is available for the Small Grant Program, distributed in relatively equal amounts across the three priority areas pending final appropriation of funds and an exemption or procedural rulemaking to address the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) requirements.

Timeline

Proposals will be accepted on an ongoing basis and reviewed in the order received. The application window will remain open until funding is exhausted. Please allow at least three months for time-sensitive requests.

Eligibility Requirements and Review

Proposals that meet the eligibility requirements detailed in the General Grant Guidelines (Section D2) will be considered for funding. The Delta Conservancy's General Grant Guidelines provide detailed information regarding ineligible activities and projects. Projects larger than \$100,000, acquisitions, or projects resulting in a capital asset should apply to the [Delta Community, Environment, and Climate Grant Program](#) by following the process in that Solicitation Notice.

The Conservancy will evaluate the project's viability and overall benefit to the Delta or Suisun Marsh by assessing whether the project:

- Is technically and financially feasible
- Is likely to provide locally supported benefits to the Delta and Suisun Marsh
- Will meaningfully advance the Conservancy's priorities
- Is consistent with the grant guidelines and applicable program priorities and goals

Funding

Selected projects will receive reimbursement in arrears as a single payment.

Background

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 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.

The Delta and Suisun Marsh are unique natural resources of local, state, and national significance, and have a distinct natural and cultural heritage. The Delta is a 1,300-square-mile estuary, one of the largest on the west coast of North and South America. It is home to more than 500,000 people and is a world-class recreational destination. Despite its large size and economic importance, too many Californians cannot access the Delta's outdoor spaces (e.g., open lands, parks, trails, beaches) or the array of museums and cultural and historical sites. While many Delta residents frequently go outside to experience nature, others never have the opportunity. Given this, the state is working to expand all Californians' access to parks, open space, nature, and cultural amenities. In addition to expanding access to outdoors for all, the State has accelerated its response to build climate resilience to extreme and forecasted climatic events (e.g., drought, flood, wildfire, and sea-level rise). Climate resilience actions should support climate smart land management to achieve carbon neutrality, sustain the economy, protect food and water security, and support the state's biodiversity. To support community access and climate resilience, California is committed to conserving 30 percent of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030. These initiatives are part of a movement to protect natural resources and elevate the role of natural and working lands against climate change and advance biodiversity conservation.

In line with the Conservancy's mission and to advance these statewide initiatives, the Conservancy is soliciting for projects that support public access, build climate resilience, and promote natural resource protection in the Delta region.

The Proposition 4 Climate Bond funding, chaptered on July 5, 2024, SB 867, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Senate Bill 867 93020(a)(4)) provided the Conservancy with \$29 million. The Conservancy has \$24,752,000 remaining for projects that reduce the risks of climate change impacts upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and increase public access. The Conservancy reserved \$900,000 for the Small Grants Program.

Contact

For more information: <https://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/grant-program/prop-4/>

If you have questions, please contact the Conservancy at grants@DeltaConservancy.ca.gov or (916) 375-2084.



Delta Conservancy 2026 Implementation Plan Status Update

Staff Report

This item presents the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy's (Conservancy) progress toward meeting the goals of the 2026 Implementation Plan.

DESCRIPTION

Staff provide the Board with a mid-year status update on work identified in the Implementation Plan. The Conservancy has made steady progress toward the 2026 Implementation Plan goals and, overall, work is progressing according to the timelines. A summary of progress in achieving 2026 Implementation Plan goals is detailed in Agenda Item 14.2.

BACKGROUND

The [2022-2027 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan](#) was adopted by the Board in January 2022. The Strategic Plan provides a high-level road map and sets objectives and performance measures to achieve them. The annual Implementation Plan, which provides a more detailed accounting of the tasks the Conservancy will undertake this year to implement the Strategic Plan, was adopted by the Board in January 2026.

CONTACT

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

2026 Implementation Plan Mid-Year Update

July 2026

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- Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for California Natural Resources Agency

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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.



Delta Conservancy 2027-2032 Strategic Plan Listening Session

Staff Report

The Conservancy updates its Strategic Plan every five years. For the 2027–2032 cycle, the Conservancy has engaged Metamorphic Consulting to comprehensively redesign the plan to ensure stronger alignment with our mission and vision.

Metamorphic Consulting brings decades of experience in strategic planning. Their collaborative approach will help the Conservancy develop a clear, durable framework to navigate the complexity and change expected over the next five years.

Marc Smiley, our lead consultant from Metamorphic Consulting, is here today to present the proposed process for developing the 2027–2032 Strategic Plan.

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