

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Governance



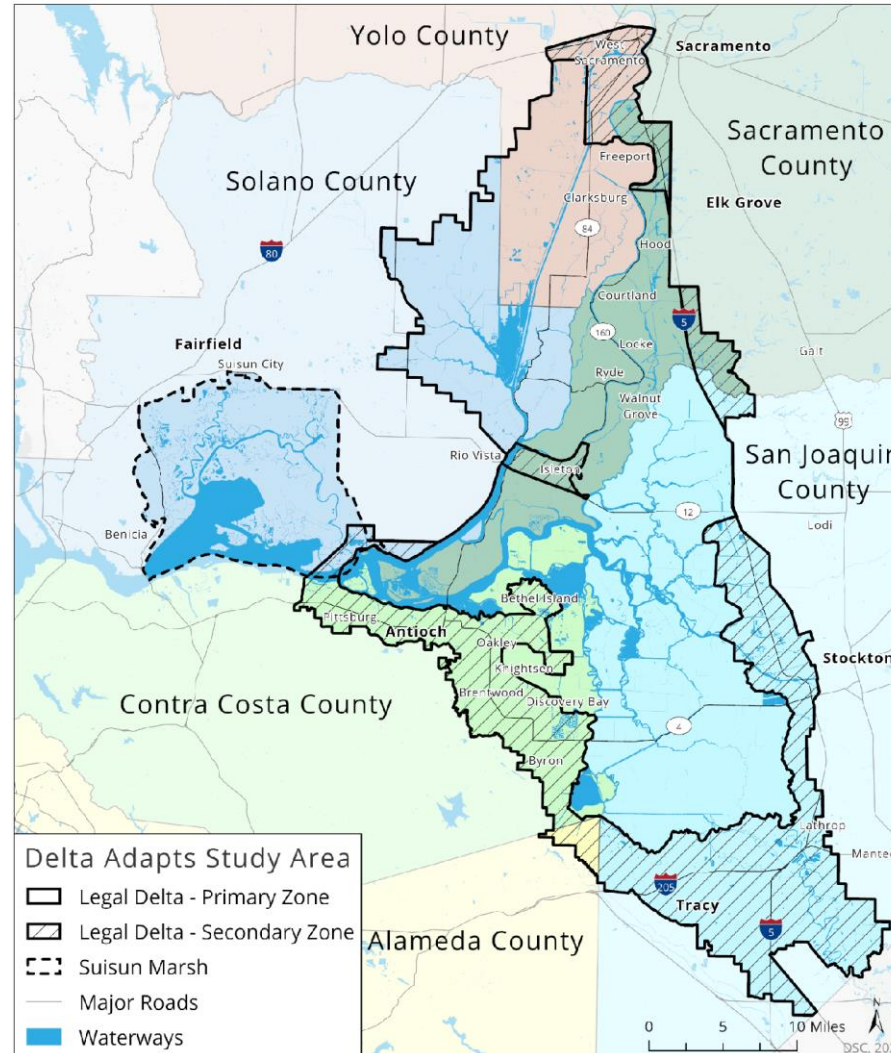
- Introduction
- Governance Framework
- Agency Overviews

Presented to the Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Dick Tzou, Hydro-geological Analyst, Resource Management
Amanda Bohl, Executive Director, Delta Protection Commission
Jeff Henderson, Deputy Executive Officer, Delta Stewardship Council
Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer, Delta Conservancy



Introduction and Background: Where is the Delta



Legal Delta: ~738,000 acres
Primary Zone: ~500,000 acres
Secondary Zone: ~238,000 acres



Introduction and Background

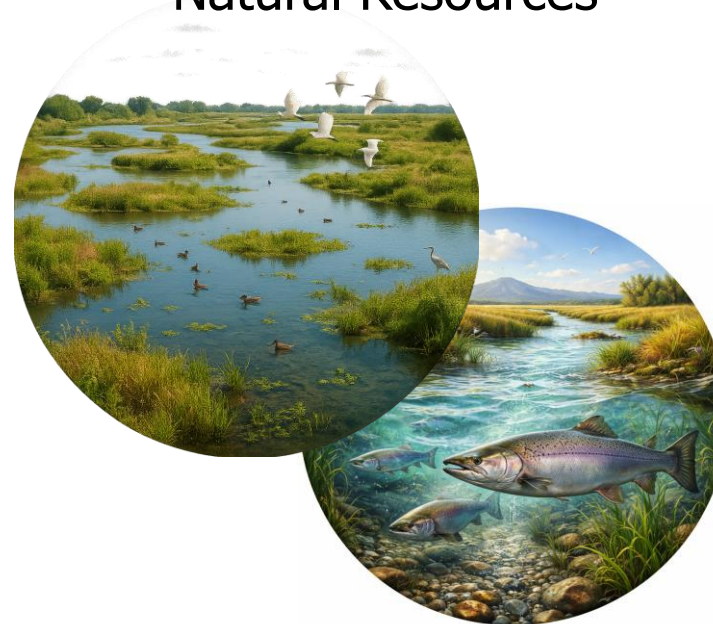
Why is the Delta important?

Water Supply & Flood Protection



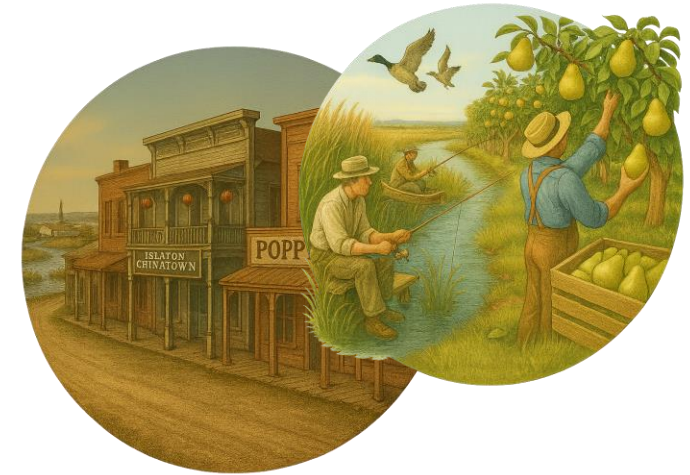
- 500,000 ac of ag. land
- Water Exports: 3M ac and 27M people
- Levees: ~1,100 miles

Natural Resources



- Largest estuary on the West Coast
- Critical habitat for fisheries
- Pacific Flyway
- Tidal wetlands

Culture & Recreation



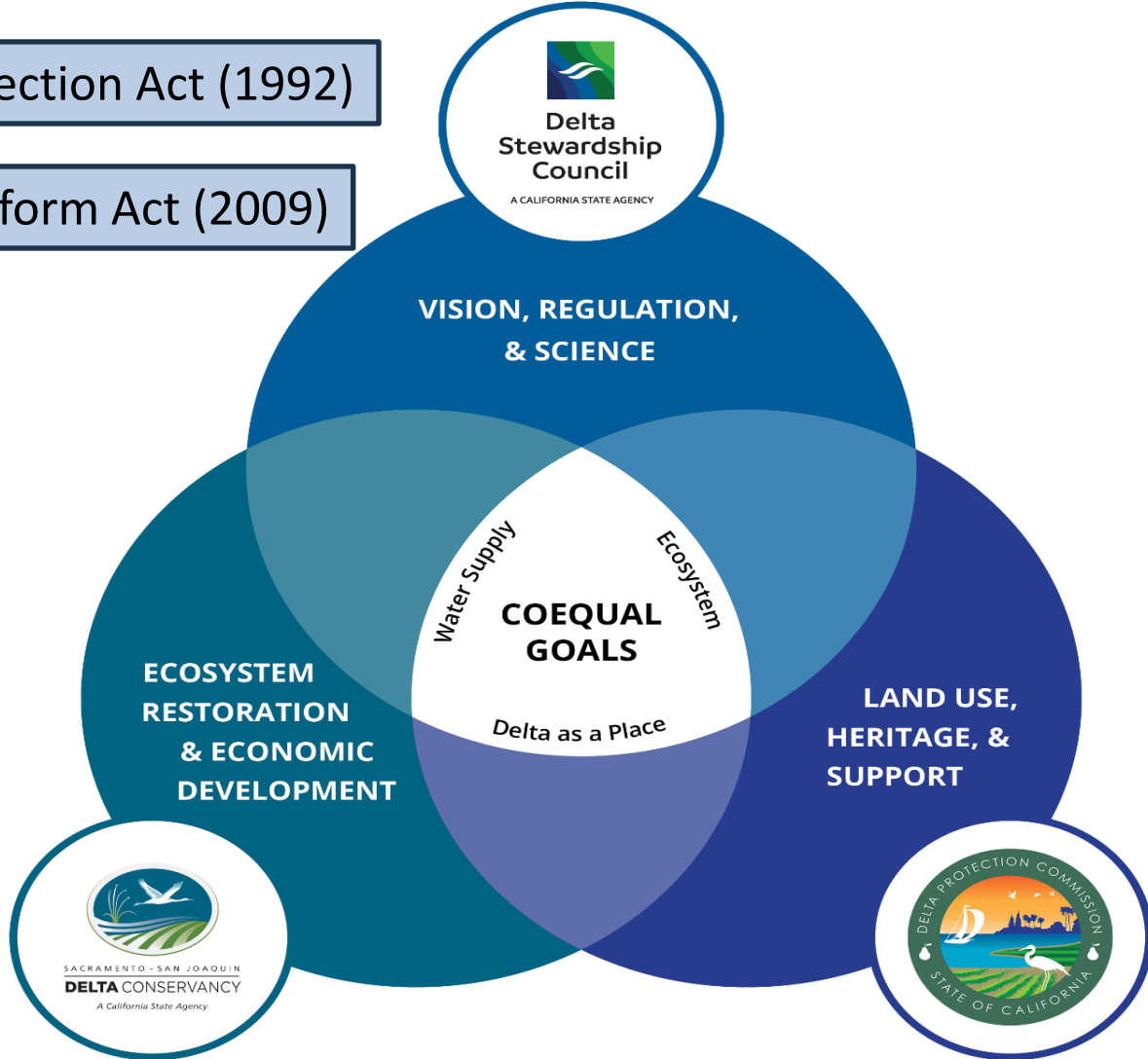
- "Delta as a Place" unique history, culture and rural legacy communities
- Delta National Heritage Area
- Population: ~4M (5 Delta Counties)



Delta Governance Framework

Delta Protection Act (1992)

Delta Reform Act (2009)





Delta Protection Commission

Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Mission

The Delta Protection Commission protects, maintains, enhances, and enriches the overall quality of the Delta environment and economy. We do this with a focus on agriculture, recreation, and natural resources, while remaining mindful of the importance of the Delta to all Californians.



Major Projects

- Economic Sustainability Plan
- Great California Delta Trail
- Levees
- Agriculture
- Land Use Resource Management Plan
- *Delta Happenings and Delta Heritage Courier*



Major Projects: National Heritage Area

- Passport Program
- Delta Leadership Program
- Delta Heritage Forum
- NHA Ambassadors Program
- Branding and Marketing
- Junior Ranger Program



Ready for the Delta to leave its stamp on you?

DELTA.CA.GOV/PASSPORT



Passport Stamping Stations

Other Local Attractions



THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
California's First National Heritage Area

Delta NHA
By the Numbers

- 1,237 Square Miles
- 178 Square Miles of Water
- 52 Islands
- 1,300 Miles of Levees
- 5 Counties
- 41 Communities
- 11 Legacy Communities
- 15 National, State and Regional Park Sites
- 1 State Scenic Highway
- 2 National Historic Trails
- 5 Trails in the Great California Delta Trail Network
- 3 National Landmarks
- 17 National, State, and Local Wildlife Areas
- 16 Historic Bridges
- 19 Museums
- 73 Marinas
- 55 U-Pick Farms
- 38 Wineries

Established by Congress in 2019

What is a National Heritage Area?

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are places where historic, cultural, natural and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important living landscape. NHAs support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects through public-private partnerships. These dynamic collaborations ensure that NHA activities reflect local interests and needs.

Why was the California Delta designated as an NHA?

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a vast inland tidal estuary where the state's two largest rivers converge, forming California's most crucial water and ecological resource. It boasts abundant resources that tell a unique American story and enrich California's quality of life and economy. Historically, it was one of the most biologically productive and diverse ecosystems on the West Coast. It remains an ecological gem for waterfowl, which have adapted to using the farmlands as habitat, and fish that travel its waterways between the Pacific Ocean and the Sierra Nevada mountains. Originally, numerous distinct Native American communities lived along the banks of the Delta's meandering waterways. The landscape and culture have also been shaped by American, Chinese, Filipino, Italian, Japanese, Mexican, Portuguese, and Sikh settlers and their descendants. In modern times, the Delta has become a recreational attraction. Boaters, anglers, bicyclists and other adventurers appreciate its maze of levees, sloughs, waterways and views. U-pick farms, wineries and restaurants welcome culinary tourists.





Relevance to Solano County & Opportunities for Engagement

- California Delta NHA: We have three Passport Stamping Stations in Solano!
- Agriculture: How can we help support your agriculture?
- LURMP: We can help guide development that respects the Delta.
- Great California Delta Trail: Add trails, create more ways to explore!
- *Delta Happenings* and *Delta Heritage Courier*: Subscribe!

Subscribe at
delta.ca.gov/get-connected

Watercolor Show Featured in Benicia



The California Watercolor Association's 56th International Exhibition runs through March 15 at the Arts Benicia Gallery.

Western Railway Museum



The Western Railway Museum in Suisun City is hosting its annual Pumpkin Patch Festival on the weekends of Oct. 11-12, 18-19, and 25-26.

Visitors take a scenic 5-mile train ride to Gum Grove Farm, where they can pick out a Halloween pumpkin, clamber on a giant hay fort, ride tractors, and get up close and personal with cute farm animals at the petting zoo. Other activities include pumpkin chucking (!) and zip-lining; and there are food and beverage options on-site for visitors.

Museum Hours are 9:00 a.m. and the last train is at 3:30 p.m. Train tickets are required for the year for...

tickets here

Delta Heritage Courier

March/April 2026



SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Rio Vista Students Promote Improved Air Quality



...ing attention to the importance of improving air quality and walkability in local communities, Sustainable Solano is hosting the Little Free Library and Pollinator Garden Celebration on Sept. 6 at the Rio Vista Community Garden.

A new "Little Free Library," built and painted by the Youth Air Protectors of Rio Vista High School, will be unveiled at the event. The colorful Library will contain educational resources relating to air quality and environmental action; and the event includes the planting of a native pollinator garden and an exploration of "air quality issues and solutions."

RSVP here

Did You Know

Benicia Has its Very Own Song?



Benicia's 8th Poet Laureate (2020-2023), Mary Susan Gast, is author of the lyrics for "Benicia Our Home," set to the traditional hymn "Morning Has Broken." The song has been recorded by a number of community groups in a collaborative effort with co-author Roger Straw.

Gast started writing poetry in her early 20s, "when the enormous awakening to global issues of justice and peace kind of pressed me into using the imagery and rhythm of poetry to convey my thoughts," she says. Benicia's Poet Laureate program, notes David Dodd, City of Benicia's director of Library and Cultural Services, "promotes the importance of poetry in daily life in our community."

Hear the Song

Benicia's Sparkly-New Fishing Pier



Benicia has announced that the City of Benicia's Fishing Pier restoration is complete and "officially open again." The pier (no parking required!) boasts new decking, a fish cleaning station.

Sought-after species for anglers using the pier include striped bass, sturgeon, flounder and salmon, with...

Rio Vista Museum Gets a Birthday Plaque



The Rio Vista Museum celebrated its 50th anniversary by debuting a commemorative plaque. The museum, which occupies a converted turn of the 20th Century blacksmith's shop, opened its doors in September 1975.

Artifacts featured at the site – including pictures, clothing and farm equipment – are available to visitors Saturday...

MAY 2026

Delta Stewardship Council

Deputy Executive Officer
Jeff Henderson



Delta
Stewardship
Council

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

The coequal goals

The **Delta Reform Act** created the **Council** and charged it with providing direction for the long-term future and management of the Delta and achieving the **coequal goals**:

- A reliable water supply
- A healthy ecosystem

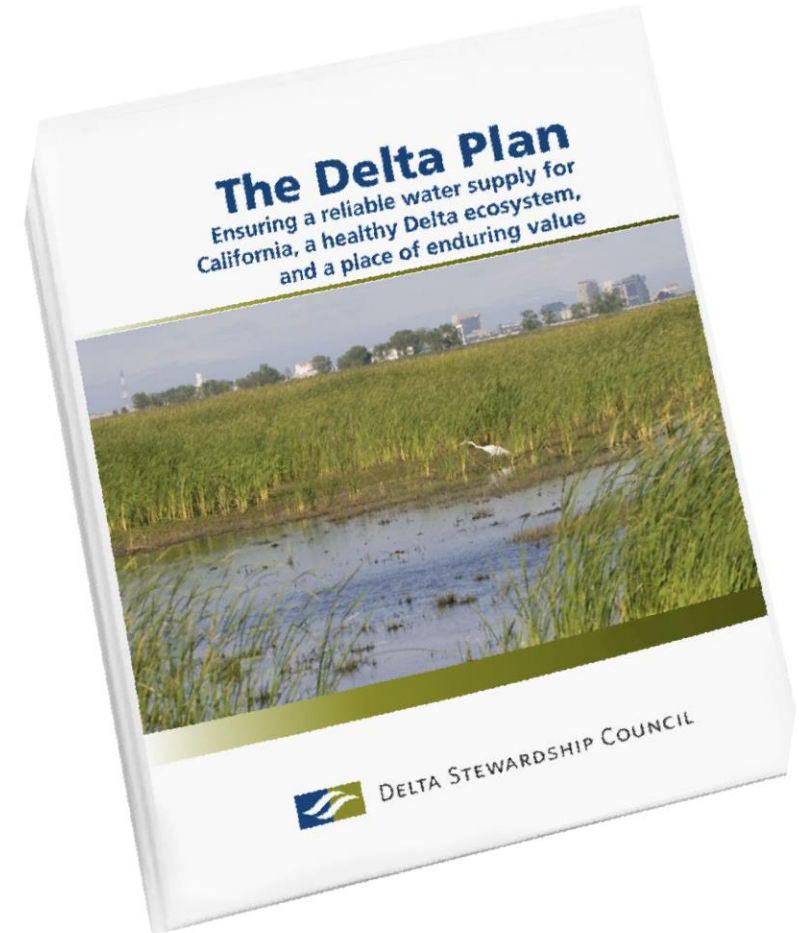


What is the Delta Plan?

Recommendations, regulations, and performance measures for:

- Water conservation and efficiency
- Flood risk reduction
- Ecosystem restoration
- Water supply reliability and water storage
- Protection of the Delta as a unique place
- Ensuring best available science and adaptive management

Implementation of the Delta Plan is an interagency effort led by the Delta Stewardship Council



Who are our Council members?

- The Council is comprised of **seven members**
- Of the seven, four are appointed by the **Governor**, one each by the **Senate** and **Assembly**, and the seventh is the chair of the **Delta Protection Commission**



Julie Lee
(Council chair)
GOVERNOR APPOINTEE



Gayle Miller
(Council vice- chair)
GOVERNOR APPOINTEE



Ann Patterson
GOVERNOR APPOINTEE



Daniel Zingale
GOVERNOR APPOINTEE



Former Senator
Susan Eggman
SENATE APPOINTEE



Maria Mehranian
ASSEMBLY APPOINTEE



County Supervisor
Diane Burgis
DPC CHAIR

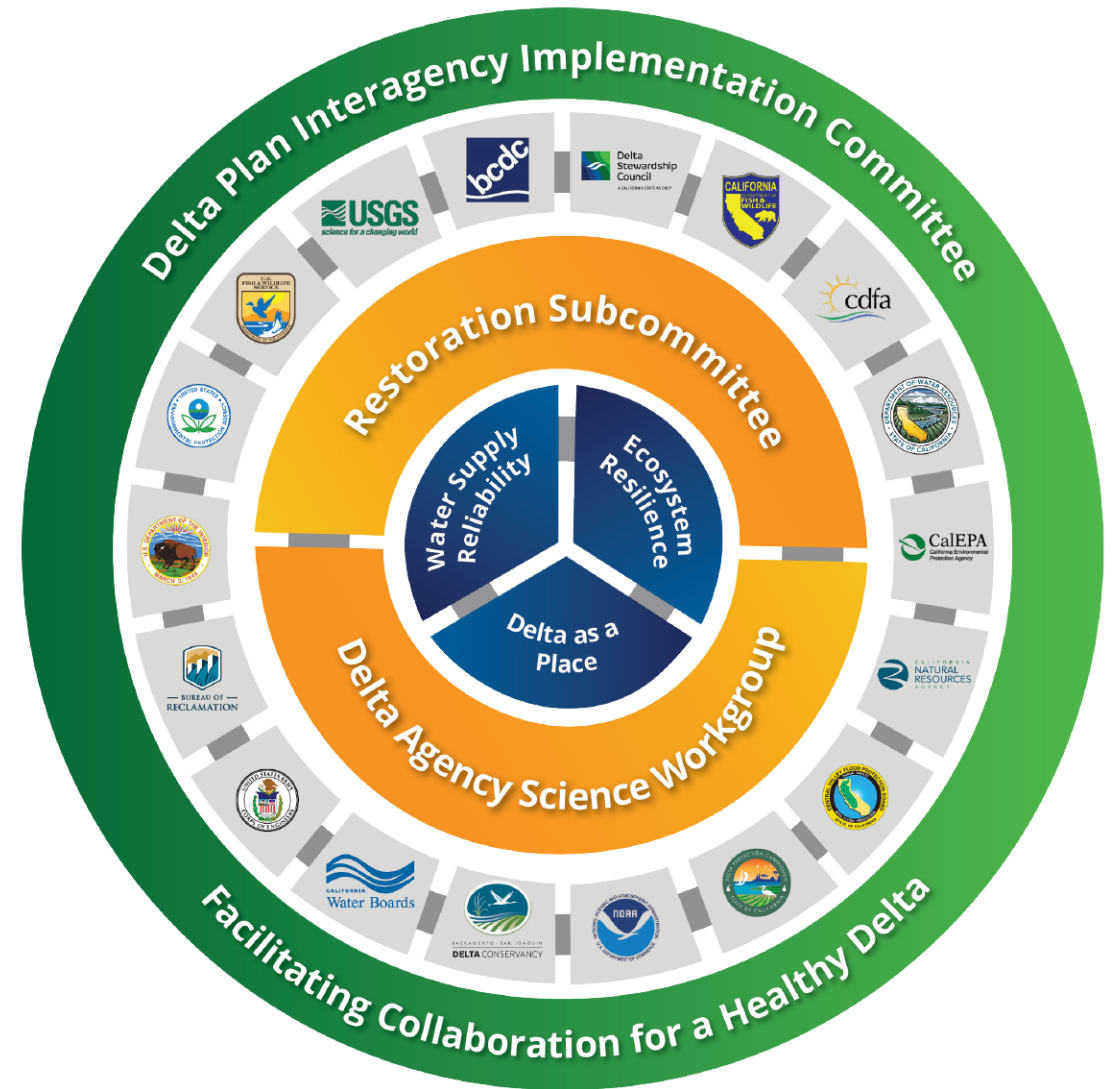
The Council is...

- Supported by a **dedicated staff** with extensive backgrounds in sciences, land use planning, engineering, communications, and more
- Advised by an independent 10-member **science board**
- The organization ensuring **200+** agencies are working towards the coequal goals
- **A facilitator** of federal, state, and local collaboration
- **An honest broker of science** and a trusted source for independent peer review



Progress is made through partnerships

- A resilient statewide water supply and ecosystem requires **collective implementation** of the Delta Plan



Council meetings

- Our monthly Council meetings are the definitive place for the public to **learn about and comment on the implementation of the Delta Plan**
- We host these meetings in a **hybrid format**:
 - In-person (715 P Street, Sacramento)
 - Via webcast
(California.adminmonitor.com/delta)
- Recordings are archived on YouTube



Thank you

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Deltacouncil.ca.gov



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Delta Conservancy

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer

Our Mission

- The Conservancy leads efforts to preserve, protect, and restore the natural resources, economy and agriculture of the Delta
- Funded more than 140 projects



Pacific Flyway Center: Walk in the Marsh

Construction of 3-mile trail and public access amenities at the Pacific Flyway Center in Solano County



Delta Conservancy

1 of 10 State Conservancies

- Serve communities and protect natural resources
- Connect communities to state funding
- Bringing partners together to solve local resource challenges
- Non-regulatory
- Board of locally elected officials and appointees

Address multiple needs

- Economic development
- Community and climate resilience
- Agricultural sustainability
- Outdoor recreation
- Watershed and ecosystem health
- Tribal collaboration
- Reducing wildfire risk



Delta Conservancy

Projects in Solano County

- Peterson Ranch: Working Waterway Enhancement
- Working Waterway Enhancement: Eight Sites Planning
- Blacklock Restoration: Phragmites Control Study
- Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration
- Improving Hydrological Resilience of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh
- Pacific Flyway Center: Walk in the Marsh Public Access Trail
- Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning

Information on all Delta Conservancy Funded Projects
[Project Table Updates – Delta Conservancy](#)



Delta Conservancy

Grant Programs

- Proposition 1: Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality
- Proposition 68: Community Enhancement
- Climate, Access, and Resources
- Delta Drought Response Pilot Program
- Nature Based Solutions
- Climate Bond: Proposition 4



Delta Conservancy

Climate Bond: Proposition 4

- Total allocation \$29 million
- Approximately \$8.6 million available for programs
 - Community Enhancement
 - Habitat Enhancement
 - Nature Based Solutions
- Grant Guidelines currently out for public comment
- Expect to open solicitation this summer



Agency Contacts

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