



May 2, 2023

Mr. Campbell Ingram
Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Re: Audubon California Support for The Nature Conservancy's Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project

Dear Mr. Ingram,

On behalf of Audubon California, I am pleased to support The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) grant application to restore wetland agriculture and incentivize rice conversion in the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta. TNC's Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project aligns with California's priorities for the Delta and would be an important step forward in demonstrating management practices that support a thriving and more resilient Delta for wildlife and people.

Audubon California works to conserve birds and the places they need and contribute to healthy human communities that are connected to nature. As the state office of the National Audubon Society and in coordination with over 48 Audubon chapters throughout the state, Audubon California works at local, regional, state, and federal levels to protect birds and vulnerable ecosystems. Audubon understands that conservation of wetlands is essential to stem bird population declines in the Pacific Flyway and to build healthy bird populations that will be more resilient to climate change and other challenges. More must be done in partnership with farmers and on working lands to incentivize bird- and wildlife-friendly practices that support biodiversity and robust economic activities.

The Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project provides financial incentives to agricultural landowners in the Delta to convert existing non-rice crops to climate and wildlife-friendly rice cultivation while demonstrating the ecosystem, climate, and agricultural benefits of carbon farming on Staten Island. These actions will reduce ground subsidence, provide ecosystem and water quality benefits, support agricultural sustainability, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing and improving critical habitat for migratory birds. The project would also serve as a proof of concept to encourage landowners and land managers in the Delta to consider alternative management practices that enhance sustainability in the Delta while maintaining economic returns.

Audubon California strongly supports the content and immediacy of this funding request and encourages the Delta Conservancy to fund this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Lynes".

Michael Lynes
Director of Public Policy



August 23, 2023

Mr. Campbell Ingram
Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691
Campbell.Ingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

RE: Support for The Nature Conservancy’s Delta Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration for Habitat, Climate, and Communities Project

Dear Mr. Ingram,

The California Farm Bureau is pleased to support The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) grant application to convert lands on Staten Island to wildlife-friendly rice and wetlands. TNC’s “Delta Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration for Habitat, Climate, and Communities” Project aligns with both California Farm Bureau’s mission and principles, and is also uniquely suited to help support a thriving and more resilient Delta for farming, wildlife and people.

Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, non-profit organization representing nearly 31,000 farming members, including over 20,000 small farms, with a purpose to promote agricultural interests throughout California and to find solutions to the problems facing agricultural businesses and rural communities. As California’s oldest and largest statewide farming and ranching organization, Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

The Delta is a cornerstone of California’s heartland. As one of the most fertile estuaries in the world, the Delta is home to more than 750 species of plants and animals, as well as many small communities. The Delta also contributes significantly to California’s agricultural economy and serves as a major water hub for tens of millions of Californians, providing critical water delivery for the state at large. However, climate change impacts like extreme heat and sea level rise threaten the Delta’s communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure. Ground elevation subsidence throughout the Delta has stressed existing infrastructure and increased flooding risks. An alternative mosaic of rice cultivation and carbon-farmed wetlands across the Delta could provide resilience against these threats and help preserve the region’s communities and agricultural future.

The Delta Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration for Habitat, Climate, and Communities project will involve carbon farming and wetland construction on approximately 1,000 acres on the southern portion of the TNC-owned Staten Island, where the island's rich peat soils are particularly well-suited to wet agricultural practices and carbon farming practices that directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stop or reverse ground subsidence while also creating high-quality habitat for migratory birds. This planned wetland area will be coordinated with adjacent rice cultivation on Staten Island, collectively demonstrating the economic, habitat, and climate benefits that can result from a mosaic approach to farming. This project is pursuing a Statutory Exemption for Regulatory Projects (SERP) under the California Environmental Quality Act with the Delta Conservancy as the lead agency.

The California Farm Bureau strongly supports the content and immediacy of this funding request and encourages the Delta Conservancy to fund this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alexandra Biering', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alexandra Biering
Senior Policy Advocate



April 28, 2023

Mr. Campbell Ingram
Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Re: CalCAN Support for The Nature Conservancy's Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project

Dear Mr. Ingram,

On behalf of the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN), I am pleased to support The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) grant application titled "Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project."

CalCAN is a statewide coalition founded in 2014 that advances state and federal policy to catalyze the powerful climate solutions offered by sustainable and organic agriculture. We use policy to move California agriculture towards a system that is increasingly resilient and just. We advocate for policy solutions that enhance the viability of California agriculture in the face of climate change while also delivering climate mitigation and other environmental and public health benefits. TNC's project that would restore wetland agriculture and incentivize rice conversion in the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta aligns with our mission and approach and would be an important step forward in demonstrating management practices that support a thriving and more resilient Delta for wildlife and people.

The Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project provides financial incentives to agricultural landowners in the Delta to convert existing non-rice crops to climate and wildlife-friendly rice cultivation while demonstrating the ecosystem, climate, and agricultural benefits of carbon farming on Staten Island. These actions will reduce ground subsidence, provide ecosystem and water quality benefits, support agricultural sustainability, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing and improving critical habitat for migratory birds. The project would also serve as a proof of concept to encourage landowners and land managers in the Delta to consider alternative management practices that enhance sustainability in the Delta while maintaining economic returns.

CalCAN strongly supports the goals and strategy, and the timeliness of this project and encourages the Delta Conservancy to fund it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renata Brillinger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Renata Brillinger, Executive Director



Delta Counties Coalition

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County
"Working together on water and Delta issues"

August 31, 2023

Mr. Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Re: Support for The Nature Conservancy's Delta Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration for Habitat, Climate, and Communities

Dear Mr. Ingram,

The Delta Counties Coalition is pleased to support The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Delta Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration for Habitat, Climate, and Communities Project (Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration project), a project that aligns with California's priorities for the Delta and would be an important step forward in identifying management practices that support a thriving and more resilient Delta for wildlife and people.

The DCC has supported the protection and restoration of the Delta ecosystem for over a decade. We believe TNC's project aligns with our efforts to improve the economic vitality of the Delta through responsible land uses that promote environmental sustainability, , along with the ongoing vitality of Delta communities.

The Delta is a cornerstone of California's heartland. As one of the most fertile estuaries in the world, the Delta is home to more than 750 species of plants and animals, as well as many small communities. The Delta also contributes significantly to California's agricultural economy and serves as a major water hub, providing critical water to the state at large. However, climate change impacts like extreme heat and sea level rise may threaten the stability of Delta ecosystems, as well as infrastructure and communities in the long term. Ground subsidence in some areas of the Delta has stressed existing infrastructure and increased flooding risks. Additional rice cultivation and carbon-farmed wetlands in appropriate locations the Delta may help protect communities and nature in the face of these threats, while providing durable economic and environmental resilience.

TNC's Delta Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration project will involve carbon farming and wetland construction on approximately 1,000 acres on the southern portion of the TNC-owned Staten Island, where the Island's rich peat soils are well-suited to wet agricultural practices and carbon farming practices that may help reverse ground subsidence while creating high-quality habitat for migratory birds. This planned wetland area will be coordinated with adjacent rice cultivation on Staten Island, collectively demonstrating the potential economic, habitat, and climate benefits that a mosaic approach to farming can carry.

August 31, 2023

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DCC supports the content and immediacy of this funding request and encourages the Delta Conservancy to fund this project.

Sincerely,



Patrick Kennedy, Supervisor
Sacramento County



Oscar Villegas, Supervisor
Yolo County



Ken Carlson, Supervisor
Contra Costa County



John Vasquez, Supervisor
Solano County



Tom Patti, Supervisor
San Joaquin County



May 22, 2023

Mr. Campbell Ingram
Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Letter of Support for The Nature Conservancy's Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project

Dear Mr. Ingram,

Ducks Unlimited, Inc is please to support The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) grant application to restore wetland agriculture and incentivize rice conversion in the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta. TNC's Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project aligns with California's priorities for the Delta and would be an important step forward in demonstrating management practices that support a thriving and more resilient Delta for wildlife and people.

Ducks Unlimited is the world's leader in wetland conservation since 1937. Restoring wetlands throughout the central valley is critical to the long-term success of not only waterfowl and other wetland dependent species, but also for landscape resiliency in the face of climate change. As such we believe large scale wetland restoration and sustainable agriculture that reduces carbon emissions and promotes healthy ecosystems is vital to the success of Sacramento San Joaquin Delta and California.

The Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project provides financial incentives to agricultural landowners in the Delta to convert existing non-rice crops to climate and wildlife-friendly rice cultivation while demonstrating the ecosystem, climate, and agricultural benefits of carbon farming on Staten Island. These actions will reduce ground subsidence, provide ecosystem and water quality benefits, support agricultural sustainability, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing and improving critical habitat for migratory birds. The project would also serve as a proof of concept to encourage landowners and land managers in the Delta to consider alternative management practices that enhance sustainability in the Delta while maintaining economic returns.

Ducks Unlimited supports the content and immediacy of this funding request and encourages the Delta Conservancy to fund this project.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey McCreary
Director of Operations



April 28, 2023

Mr. Campbell Ingram
Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Re: HydroFocus Support for The Nature Conservancy's Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project

Dear Mr. Ingram,

On behalf of HydroFocus, Inc., I support The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) grant application to restore wetland agriculture and incentivize rice conversion in the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta. TNC's Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project aligns with California's priorities for the Delta and would be an important step forward in demonstrating management practices that support a sustainable and more resilient Delta for wildlife and people.

HydroFocus has worked with The Nature Conservancy and Conservation Farms and Ranches since 2011. Our work has included assessment of sustainability, evaluation of and planning for alternate more sustainable land uses, greenhouse gas, water quality and subsidence monitoring.

The Nature Conservancy and Conservation Farms and Ranches are pioneers in the implementation of more sustainable land uses in the Delta. The Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project will help support their efforts by providing financial incentives to agricultural landowners in the Delta to convert to climate and wildlife-friendly rice cultivation while demonstrating the ecosystem, climate, and agricultural benefits of carbon farming on Staten Island. These actions will reduce land subsidence, provide ecosystem and water quality benefits, support agricultural sustainability, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing and improving critical habitat for migratory birds. The project would also incentivize landowners and land managers to consider alternative management practices that enhance sustainability in the Delta while maintaining economic returns.

HydroFocus strongly supports the content and immediacy of this funding request and encourages the Delta Conservancy to fund this project.

Sincerely,

Steven Deverel
President



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

September 14, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Campbell Ingram
Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Dear Mr. Ingram:

Support for The Nature Conservancy's Staten Island
Wetland Restoration and Carbon Farming for Habitat, Climate, and Communities

On behalf of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I am pleased to support The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Staten Island Wetland Restoration and Carbon Farming for Habitat, Climate, and Communities Project, a project that aligns with California's priorities for the Delta and would be an important step forward in demonstrating management practices that support a thriving and more resilient Delta for wildlife and people.

Metropolitan is a public agency and regional water wholesaler. It is comprised of 26 member agencies serving about 19 million people in portions of six counties in Southern California, including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Metropolitan's mission is to provide its 5,200-mile service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way. At Metropolitan, we take a statewide view of our environmental stewardship responsibilities and work collaboratively with others to improve habitat and waterways throughout California. These efforts have led to important land conservation, protection, and restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Colorado River Watershed, and throughout Southern California.

The Delta is a cornerstone of California's heartland. As one of the most fertile estuaries in the world, the Delta is home to more than 750 species of plants and animals, as well as many small communities. The Delta also contributes significantly to California's agricultural economy and serves as a major water hub, providing critical water delivery for the state at large. However, climate change impacts like extreme heat and sea level rise threaten the stability of Delta ecosystems, as well as infrastructure and communities. Ground subsidence throughout the Delta has stressed existing infrastructure and increased flooding risks. An alternative mosaic of rice cultivation and carbon-farmed wetlands across the Delta could protect communities and nature in the face of these threats, providing durable, economic, and environmental resilience.

Mr. Campbell Ingram
Page 2
September 14, 2023

The Staten Island Wetland Restoration and Carbon Farming for Habitat, Climate, and Communities Project will involve carbon farming and wetland construction on approximately 1,000 acres on the southern portion of the TNC-owned Staten Island, where the Island's rich peat soils are particularly well-suited to wet agricultural practices and carbon farming practices that directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stop or reverse ground subsidence – all while creating high-quality habitat for migratory birds. This planned wetland area will be coordinated with adjacent rice cultivation on Staten Island, collectively demonstrating the economic, habitat, and climate benefits that a mosaic approach to farming can carry. This project is pursuing a California Environmental Quality Act Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects with the Delta Conservancy as the lead agency.

Metropolitan strongly supports the content and immediacy of this funding request and encourages the Delta Conservancy to fund this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adel Hagekhalil', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

MKS:rrw



Mr. Campbell Ingram
Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691

May 2, 2023

Re: The Pew Charitable Trusts' Support for The Nature Conservancy's Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project

Dear Mr. Ingram,

On behalf of the Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), I am pleased to support The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) grant application to restore wetland agriculture and incentivize rice conversion in the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta. TNC's *Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project* aligns with California's priorities for the Delta and would be an important step forward in demonstrating management practices that support a thriving and more resilient Delta for wildlife and people.

Since its founding 75 years ago, Pew's data-driven conservation efforts—both in the U.S. and abroad—help to preserve wild places and rivers, restore biodiversity, and increase understanding of ocean ecology. On land, our programs focus on conserving and restoring wildlife corridors, coastal ecosystems, wetlands and pristine landscapes.

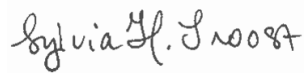
Pew's interest relative to the *Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project* is to advance conservation and restoration of California's wetland habitats as a nature-based solution for both mitigating climate change and building resilience to its impacts among frontline communities. The Delta is emblematic of the risks posed by the legacy of past land use practices and climate-driven threats like sea level rise to communities and healthy ecosystems. We have a window of time to implement and scale on-the-ground projects like the one proposed by TNC that aim to improve land management practices and restore wetland habitats to build resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions occurring from degraded landscapes.

The *Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project* provides financial incentives to agricultural landowners in the Delta to convert existing non-rice crops to climate and wildlife-friendly rice cultivation while demonstrating the ecosystem, climate, and agricultural benefits of carbon farming on Staten Island. These actions will reduce ground subsidence, provide ecosystem and water quality benefits, support agricultural sustainability, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing and improving critical habitat for migratory birds. The project would also serve as a proof of concept to encourage landowners and land managers in the Delta to

consider alternative management practices that enhance sustainability in the Delta while maintaining economic returns.

Pew supports the content and immediacy of this funding request and encourages the Delta Conservancy to fund this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvia H. Troost". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Sylvia H. Troost
Senior Manager



Point Blue Conservation Science
3820 Cypress Drive Suite 11
Petaluma, CA 94954
707.781.2555 pointblue.org

Conservation Science for a healthy planet.

Mr. Campbell Ingram
Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691

May 5, 2023

Re: Point Blue Conservation Science Support for The Nature Conservancy's Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project

Dear Mr. Ingram,

On behalf of Point Blue Conservation Science (Point Blue), I am pleased to support The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) grant application to restore wetland agriculture and incentivize rice conversion in the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta. TNC's Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project aligns with California's priorities for the Delta and would be an important step forward in demonstrating management practices that support a thriving and more resilient Delta for wildlife and people.

With a mission to conserve birds, other wildlife, and ecosystems through science, partnerships, and outreach, Point Blue Conservation Science has over 50 years of experience creating and curating long-term ecological monitoring data that total over a billion observations. Our scientists support planning, design, and implementation of climate-smart practices and ecological monitoring on hundreds of farms and ranches across California.

The Scaling Benefits in the Delta for Climate, Habitat, and Communities Project provides financial incentives to agricultural landowners in the Delta to convert existing non-rice crops to climate and wildlife-friendly rice cultivation while demonstrating the ecosystem, climate, and agricultural benefits of carbon farming on Staten Island. These actions will reduce ground subsidence, provide ecosystem and water quality benefits, support agricultural sustainability, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing and improving critical habitat for migratory birds. The project would also serve as a proof of concept to encourage landowners and land managers in the Delta to consider alternative management practices that enhance sustainability in the Delta while maintaining economic returns.

Point Blue strongly supports the content and immediacy of this funding request and encourages the Delta Conservancy to fund this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manuel J. Oliva', with a small asterisk at the end of the signature.

Manuel J. Oliva
Chief Executive Officer
Point Blue Conservation Science



SAN JOAQUIN
— COUNTY —
Greatness grows here.

Board of Supervisors

Robert Rickman, *Chairman, Fifth District*

Miguel Villapudua, *Vice Chair, First District*

Paul Canepa, *Second District*

Tom Patti, *Third District*

Steven J. Ding, *Fourth District*

Rachél DeBord, *Clerk of the Board of Supervisors*

October 4, 2023

Mr. Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691

**Re: Support for The Nature Conservancy's Delta Carbon Farming and
Wetland Restoration for Habitat, Climate, and Communities**

Dear Mr. Ingram,

San Joaquin County is pleased to support The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Delta Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration for Habitat, Climate, and Communities Project (Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration project), a project that aligns with California's priorities for the Delta and would be an important step forward in identifying management practices that support a thriving and more resilient Delta for wildlife and people.

San Joaquin County, in conjunction with the Delta Counties Coalition, has supported the protection and restoration of the Delta ecosystem for over a decade. We believe TNC's project aligns with our efforts to improve the economic vitality of the Delta through responsible land uses that promote environmental sustainability along with the ongoing vitality of Delta communities.

The Delta is a cornerstone of California's heartland. As one of the most fertile estuaries in the world, the Delta is home to more than 750 species of plants and animals, as well as many small communities. The Delta also contributes significantly to California's agricultural economy and serves as a major water hub, providing critical water to the state at large. However, climate change impacts like extreme heat and sea level rise may threaten the stability of Delta ecosystems, as well as infrastructure and communities in the long term. Ground subsidence in some areas of the Delta has stressed existing infrastructure and increased flooding risks. Additional rice cultivation and carbon-farmed wetlands in appropriate locations the Delta may help protect communities and nature in the face of these threats, while providing durable economic and environmental resilience.

TNC's Delta Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration project will involve carbon farming and wetland construction on approximately 1,000 acres on the southern portion of the TNC-owned Staten Island, where the Island's rich peat soils are well-suited to wet agricultural practices and carbon farming practices that may help reverse ground subsidence while creating high-quality habitat for migratory birds.



Board of Supervisors

This planned wetland area will be coordinated with adjacent rice cultivation on Staten Island, collectively demonstrating the potential economic, habitat, and climate benefits that a mosaic approach to farming can carry.

San Joaquin County supports the content and immediacy of this funding request and encourages the Delta Conservancy to fund this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Rickman".

Robert Rickman, Chair
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors



130 Allison Court 2-A Vacaville, CA 95688
707-449-8044

Mr. Campbell Ingram
Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691

September 25, 2023

Re: Support for The Nature Conservancy’s Delta Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration for Habitat, Climate, and Communities

Dear Mr. Ingram,

On behalf of Solano County Farm Bureau, I am pleased to support The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) Delta Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration for Habitat, Climate, and Communities Project, a project that aligns with California’s priorities for the Delta and would be an important step forward in demonstrating management practices that support a thriving and more resilient Delta for wildlife and people.

Solano County Farm Bureau has been at the forefront working for the betterment of family farmers and ranchers in California. We have been committed to improving the well-being and quality of life for California farmers and ranchers for over 100 years, providing advocacy, ongoing outreach, and economic services and products for those involved in agricultural production. We support the continued innovative practices to keep the Delta thriving in conjunction with climate-smart practices that support the farming economy in the Delta and California.

The Delta is a cornerstone of California’s heartland. As one of the most fertile estuaries in the world, the Delta is home to more than 750 species of plants and animals, as well as many small communities. The Delta also contributes significantly to California’s agricultural economy and serves as a major water hub, providing critical water delivery for the state at large. However, climate change impacts like extreme heat and sea level rise threaten the stability of Delta ecosystems, as well as infrastructure and communities. Ground subsidence throughout the Delta has stressed existing infrastructure and increased flooding risks. An alternative mosaic of rice cultivation and carbon-farmed wetlands across the Delta could protect communities and nature in the face of these threats, providing durable economic and environmental resilience.

The Delta Carbon Farming and Wetland Restoration for Habitat, Climate, and Communities project will involve carbon farming and wetland construction on approximately 1,000 acres on the southern portion of the TNC-owned Staten Island, where the Island’s rich peat soils are particularly well-suited to wet agricultural practices and carbon farming practices that directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stop or reverse ground subsidence – all while creating high-quality habitat for migratory birds. This planned wetland area will be coordinated with adjacent rice cultivation on Staten Island, collectively demonstrating the economic, habitat, and climate benefits that a mosaic approach to farming can carry. This project is pursuing a SERP statutory exemption with the Delta Conservancy as the lead agency.

Solano County Farm Bureau strongly supports the content and immediacy of this funding request and encourages the Delta Conservancy to fund this project.

Sincerely,

William Brazelton
President
Solano County Farm Bureau

2023 SCFB Board of Directors

Fairfield-Suisun Center

Jeff Dittmer
Cliff Howard

Rio Vista Center

Vacaville Center

Bruce Brazelton
Will Brazelton
Chris Calvert

Dixon Center

Sean Favero
Bobbie Moriel
Alexis Harvey

Winters Center

Joseph R Martinez

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Jennifer House
Greg House
Dale Crossley

Young Farmers & Ranchers

Hans Rotteveel

Office Admin

Lisa Shipley,
Executive Director

Member relations

Manager
Jill Hendrix

Executive Committee

William Brazelton,
President

Dale Crossley,
1st VP

Cliff Howard
2nd VP

Jeff Dittmer,
Secretary/Treasurer