

Progress in the 10 Areas of Focus Identified the 2014 Habitat Restoration Issue Paper

Area of Focus	Council Staff Actions	Actions of Other Agencies and Stakeholders
Continue to provide early consultation on habitat restoration projects that are covered actions under the Delta Plan in order to advise project proponents on using best available science and adaptive management and avoiding or reducing conflicts with existing uses, where feasible.	Staff provided early consultation on six habitat restoration projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dutch Slough • Prospect Island • Lower Putah Creek • Tule Red • Goat Island Marsh and Lower Spring Branch Creek • Honker Bay Conservation Bank 	Agencies that have engaged in early consultation include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Water Resources (DWR) • California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) • State and Federal Contractors Water Agency • Solano County
Report on habitat performance measures by December 2014 and again in December 2015.	Staff reported to the Council on habitat performance measures in December 2014. In August 2015, staff identified refinements needed in habitat performance measures. Staff also provided input to the development of Delta indicators for the 2015 <i>State of the Estuary Report</i> , which may form the basis of future performance measures for the Delta Plan.	The San Francisco Estuary Partnership worked with California Water Quality Monitoring Council's California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup and others to develop ecological indicators to include in the 2015 <i>State of the Estuary Report</i> .
Work with others to complete at least one of the landscape-scale conceptual models and associated landscape habitat metrics for the priority habitat restoration areas (PHRAs).	Delta Science Program staff worked with the Delta Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and the San Francisco Estuary Institute to develop a proposal for the Northeast Delta Restoration Framework, a pilot planning effort that will include a landscape-scale conceptual model for the Cosumnes-Mokelumne PHRA.	The San Francisco Estuary Institute/Aquatic Sciences Center produced the <i>Delta Transformed</i> report, which includes an initial set of landscape habitat metrics. The report was funded by CDFW and the interagency Ecosystem Restoration Program.
Convene scientific experts to provide independent review of restoration project designs and adaptive management plans within a landscape context.	This item is included in the work plan for the Northeast Delta and Cache Slough restoration frameworks, and will be provided on a pilot basis for that region.	Not applicable.

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Provide science support to the Fishery Agency Strategy Team (FAST) and Suisun Marsh Plan's Adaptive Management Advisory Team (AMAT) in coordinating regulatory and scientific input on project design and adaptive management plans.	Council staff chair and Delta Science Program staff participate in AMAT meetings. The Science Program will engage with FAST over the next six months.	Not applicable.
Engage Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) members in discussions of challenges and potential solutions related to land acquisition and permit coordination.	Council staff participates in DWR's Land Use Subcommittee, which has invited a series of speakers to provide information about land acquisition issues, such as mineral rights and mitigation banks. Council staff participates in permit coordination discussion at EcoRestore meetings.	DWR made progress in resolving land acquisition challenges, as demonstrated by acquisition of land on Prospect Island and Decker Island in 2015. DWR is developing a process to contract with landowners to provide habitat restoration credits for the Fish Restoration Program. EcoRestore is helping to accelerate permitting for priority habitat restoration projects.
Complete the expansion of EcoAtlas to the Delta.	Not applicable.	San Francisco Estuary Institute, in partnership with the Delta Conservancy, Central Valley Joint Venture and San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, will launch the Delta project tracking component of EcoAtlas in October. A modern Delta habitat types layer has been added.
Complete the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Tidal Wetland Monitoring Protocols and include them in the adaptive management plans for Fish Restoration Program (FRP) projects.	Council staff, including Delta Science Program staff, participate in the IEP Tidal Wetland Monitoring Project Work Team developing the monitoring protocols.	The IEP Project Work Team mostly completed the conceptual models and DFW FRP monitoring staff began pilot testing of monitoring gear in 2015. The monitoring framework, including detailed sampling protocols, is expected to be complete in late 2016. Tidal wetland restoration projects will include these monitoring protocols in adaptive management plans, as appropriate, consistent with site-specific project objectives.

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<p>Apply Agricultural and Land Stewardship Strategies, as appropriate, to habitat restoration projects.</p>	<p>Staff informed project managers about the Agricultural and Land Stewardship (ALS) Strategies, as appropriate, during early consultation.</p>	<p>In designing the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project, DWR, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and local interests have identified specific agricultural enhancements that could be pursued and explored ways for project components to work better for agricultural interests. DWR also worked with state and federal agency partners to develop a template for conservation easements specifically designed to protect the economic viability of agriculture while providing essential habitat. In addition, DWR has included the elements of the ALS Planning approach in the draft Conservation Strategy for the 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.</p>
<p>Address top three Delta community stakeholder concerns regarding land acquisition and management, as discussed in the Habitat Restoration Issue Paper:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An inventory of public lands and lands purchased using public funds for habitat restoration. 2. A map of overlapping habitat areas associated with FRP, [Bay Delta Conservation Plan], county habitat conservation plan and natural community conservation plans, levee mitigation and enhancement, and the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Conservation Strategy. 3. Good neighbor policies, including funding for long-term operations and maintenance of habitat lands to avoid adverse effects on neighbors. 	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Land Management Working Group (LMWG) facilitated by the Delta Conservancy reviewed and discussed DWR's inventory of public lands and lands purchased using public funds for habitat restoration. In addition, under the Conservancy's leadership, the LMWG and the Delta Dialogues group shifted from long-term planning related to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan to near-term planning to provide the regional context for projects that can be funded by the Conservancy's Prop. 1 grant program. 2. The proposed map of overlapping habitat areas has not been prepared. 3. In October 2014, the DWR-led ALS Workgroup completed a Good Neighbor Checklist that references the ALS Strategies.