



**Delta  
Stewardship  
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

October 24, 2024

Wildlife Conservation Board

c/o CDFW

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Delivered via email: [Angela.Calderaro@water.ca.gov](mailto:Angela.Calderaro@water.ca.gov)

**RE: Letter of Support for the Development of a Regional  
Conservation Investment Strategy for the Sacramento-San  
Joaquin Delta**

Dear Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of the Delta Stewardship Council (Council), I am writing to express our support for the development of a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) submitted by the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Multibenefit Initiatives. The Council has a deep appreciation for the critical role this region plays in California's ecology and economy, and an understanding of the critical need for additional habitat restoration in the Delta.

The Delta's unique ecosystem, encompassing a complex network of waterways, wetlands, and agricultural lands, faces numerous challenges, including habitat loss, water quality issues, and climate change impacts. The proposed strategy will help to promote voluntary conservation of natural resources and guide investments in

Regarding the Development of a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Grant Review Committee, October 24, 2024

conservation, infrastructure, and compensatory mitigation in a manner consistent with the Delta Plan, California's comprehensive resource management plan for the Delta.

The strategy will have the ability to improve the following:

- **Habitat restoration and enhancement:** By prioritizing the restoration of native plant communities and wetlands, the strategy will improve biodiversity and support a wide range of wildlife.
- **Climate change adaptation:** The strategy's emphasis on building resilience to climate change impacts, such as sea level rise and drought, is essential for ensuring the Delta's long-term sustainability.
- **Community engagement:** The involvement of local stakeholders, including farmers, fishermen, and environmental organizations, is crucial for the success of any conservation initiative. The strategy's commitment to fostering collaboration and consensus-building is commendable.

I believe that the proposed Regional Conservation Investment Strategy has the potential to make a significant and lasting impact on the ecological health and well-being of the Delta. I strongly recommend the Grant Review Committee provide the funding necessary to support this important initiative.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Jeff Henderson

Deputy Executive Officer