



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

Delta Conservancy Funding Needs for FY14/15

The following is a list of priority funding needs for the Delta Conservancy to continue our efforts to establish a State partnership with the Delta community that will be critical for future implementation of the Delta Plan, ongoing efforts to implement the RPA's in the Biological Opinions for Delta smelt and salmon, and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan should it be approved. Total request: up to \$2,950,000.

1. Delta Agricultural Analysis

- a. Background: A onetime project to conduct analysis of agricultural baseline, current and future trends and infrastructure needs to ensure strategic investment to maintain agricultural viability in the Delta (example – Rural Urban Connections Strategy model).
- b. Funding Request: **\$500,000**. (onetime expenditure)
- c. Justification: This type of analysis demonstrates the State's interest in understanding the relationships between potential impacts of ongoing planning efforts and how best to invest to maintain viability of Delta agriculture.

2. Development of Delta Community Plans and Implementation of Priority Projects

- a. Background: In cooperation with the Delta Protection Commission the Conservancy would prepare plans for legacy communities that emphasize their distinctive character, encourage historic preservation, identify opportunities to encourage tourism, encourage partnerships to support recreation, or develop other appropriate uses, and reduce flood risks.
- b. Funding Request: **\$1,500,000**. \$500,000 (onetime expenditure) for development of plans and \$1,000,000 for implementation of high priority projects to be identified in the plans.
- c. Justification: This effort is required to establish the relationships and partnerships that will be necessary to implement the Delta Plan and the BDCP if it moves forward.

3. Delta Dialogues

- a. Background: The Delta Dialogue is an effective interest based discussion with leaders from all interests groups in the Delta. This discussion is not happening anywhere else in the system and allows the participants an opportunity to come together for an entire day once a month to have very generative and constructive conversation around Delta issues.

- b. Funding Request: **\$450,000.** In Phase 2, the participants and a private foundation grants covered \$260,000 of the \$710,000 total budget for the 12 month process.
- c. Justification: The good will generated in this process, along with innovative ideas that result from these collaborative conversations, has the potential to offer solutions that better meet the needs of more Delta interests and therefore could result in a more implementable project.

4. Delta Restoration Network

- a. Background: The Conservancy convened the agencies expected to conduct ecosystem restoration in the Delta (DWR, DFW, SFWCA, Conservancy), twelve additional agencies that will have some involvement through permitting or coordination and the Delta community to develop a Draft Restoration Framework to ensure a coordinated and integrated restoration program. The Framework and the Delta Science Plan, call for the development of Regional Implementation Strategies to inform where, how, when and by whom restoration would take place, and how we collectively track efforts against targets and performance objectives. The Conservancy will continue to convene the group and will begin to develop Regional Conservation Strategies for priority areas.
- b. Funding Request: **\$500,000.** \$100,000 to support the Delta Restoration Network and \$400,000 to develop up to 3 of 6 priority Regional Conservation Strategies.
- c. Justification: Implementation of ongoing habitat restoration in the Delta, and at the scale contemplated by the Delta Plan and the BDCP will require extreme levels of coordination and integration. Absent such efforts, we are likely to repeat the accountability and effectiveness challenges suffered by previous restoration programs.

Other Funding Priorities – Total \$2,750,000

- 1)** Develop and run a grant program to fund wildlife friendly farming projects (\$1,000,000)
- 2)** Develop and run a grant program to support agri-tourism efforts (\$250,000)
- 3)** Develop up to 1,000 acres of managed wetlands in the Delta for GHG emission reductions of over 7,000 metrics tons of CO2 per year, stop subsidence and provide habitat and water quality benefits. (\$1,500,000)