



Subcommittee on Bay-Delta

Briefing on Delta Island Collaborative Landscape Planning

Item 3c

April 25, 2023



“This feedback-heavy style of decision-making attributes to a leadership change at Metropolitan Water District that prioritizes innovation, inclusion, collaboration, and partnerships”

The Estuary Magazine, Mar 2023

An aerial photograph of a winding canal or river in a rural landscape. The water is a vibrant blue, contrasting with the brownish, dry-looking fields and dirt roads on either side. The canal curves through the landscape, creating a series of loops and bends. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, showing the intricate patterns of the water and the surrounding land.

Focus of Presentation

- Focus
 - Collaborative Landscape Planning that evaluates land use, habitat opportunities, & climate change resiliency through a California Department of Fish & Wildlife grant
- Agenda
 - Overview of Delta Islands
 - Highlight of Delta Island Landscape Planning
 - Next Steps

Overview

- 2016 purchase
- 31 sq. mi.; 20,400 acres
- Bouldin/Bacon Islands
- Webb/Holland Tracts



Multi-Benefit Restoration Planning

- Overview
 - California Department of Fish & Wildlife Grant (\$1.088 M)
- Objectives
 - Address subsidence reversal, carbon sequestration, ecosystem restoration, sustainable economic and agriculture practices
 - Utilize an innovative Structured Decision-Making Process
- Collaboration
 - Local Delta advisors
 - Technical experts
 - Public feedback
- Metropolitan Board
 - Updates



Delta Advisors

- Miwok
- Point Blue Conservation Science
- California Audubon Society
- The Nature Conservancy
- Ducks Unlimited
- California Waterfowl Association
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Metropolitan Water District
- Delta Conservancy
- Department of Water Resources
- Delta Stewardship Council
- Delta Protection Commission
- San Francisco Estuary Institute
- East Bay Parks



Technical Experts

- UC Merced (economics)
- CSU Chico State (human ecology)
- UC Davis (greenhouse gas dynamics)
- UC Davis (paludiculture)
- GEI (tidal wetlands)
- SFEI (landscape scenario planning)
- Natural Resources Group (Delta farming)
- MBK Engineers (levee/flood risks)
- Hydrofocus (wetlands, subsidence reversal)
- Delta Conservancy (Delta-wide public lands)
- Metropolitan (agriculture/rice farming)



Planning Activities Schedule



- Phase 1 (2021 – 2022)
 - Community outreach
 - Facilitated landscape-scale scenario planning
 - Preference starting choice – Bouldin Island
 - Phase 1 Report (completed)



- Phase 2 (2022 – 2024)
 - Community outreach
 - Bouldin Island multi-use opportunities
 - Future pilot projects/research recommendations

Next Steps

- Recommendations for future pilot projects, research/scientific studies, and other
- Final Conceptual Plans/Project Outcomes Report (Mar-2024)
- Advance landscape scenario planning for Webb Tract, Bacon Island & Holland Tract

