



One Water & Stewardship Committee

# Update on Rice Development and Wetland Restoration Projects on Webb Tract

Item 6a

September 9, 2024

# Item 6a Webb Tract Projects Update

## Subject

Update on Rice Development and Wetland Restoration Projects on Webb Tract

## Purpose

Provide update to the Board on current status of the grant-funded, multi-benefits projects on Webb Tract

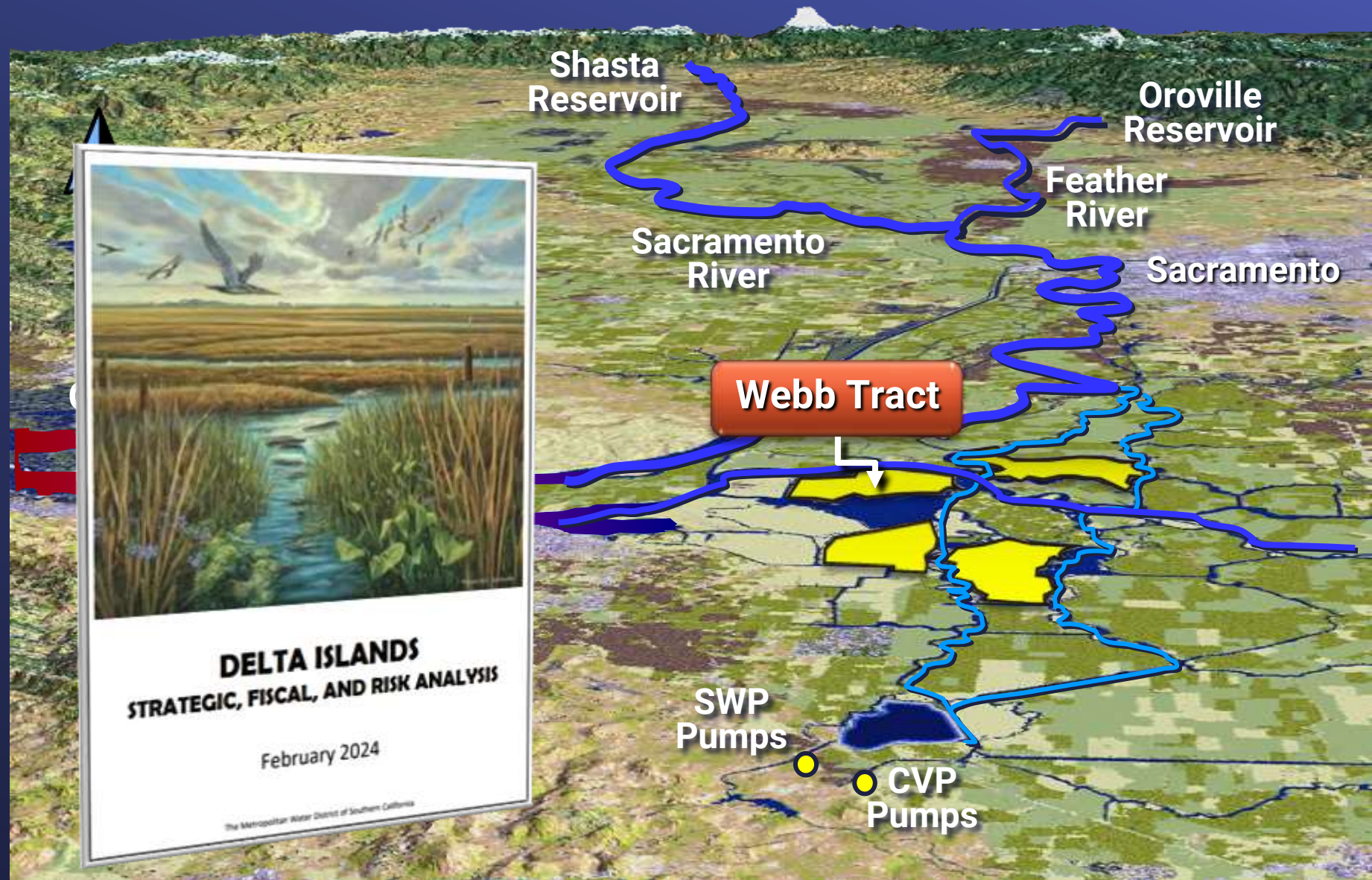
## Next Steps

Return to the Board later this year to approve the Rice Development Project and approve lease agreement

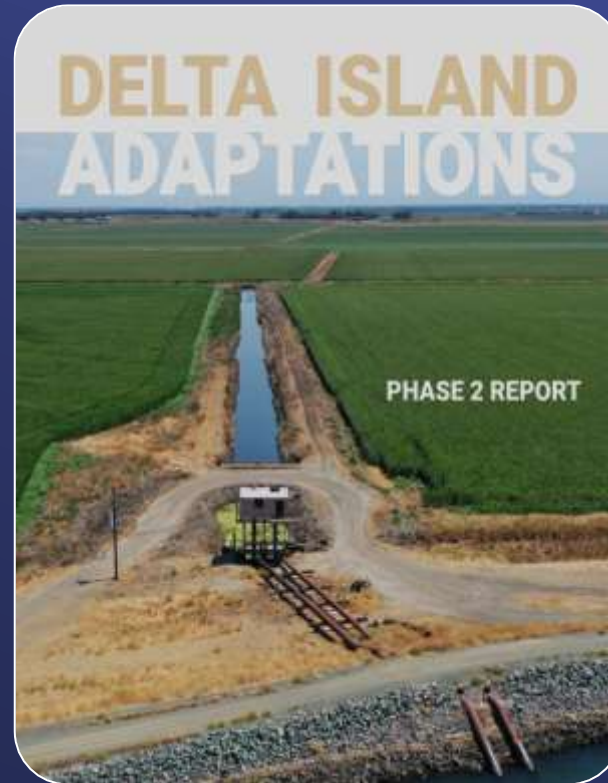
## Outline

- Background
- Wetland Restoration Project
- Rice Development Project
- Public Engagement
- Webb Tract Landscape Restoration Video

# Overview



# Evolution of a Concept



Largest grant ever for  
Delta wetland restoration &  
agriculture enhancement

Grant  
Funds  
Multi-Benefit  
Projects on  
Webb Tract

- Awarded \$20.9 million grant – May 2023
- Grant agreement signed – March 2024
- Funds two projects
  - Rice Development
  - Wetland Restoration

Grant  
Goals  
Consistent  
with Board  
Policy

## Wetland

- Reverse subsidence
- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Create habitat
- Generate revenue from carbon credits

## Rice

- Stop subsidence
- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Sustainable agriculture

# Wetland Restoration Project

- Completed
  - Biological & hydrological studies
- In progress
  - Preliminary design
  - Cultural resource study
  - Environmental documentation



# Streamlining Habitat Restoration

## Reducing regulatory barriers

- Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP)
- Restoration Management Permit Act (AB 1581)



# Webb Tract Rice Project

- Request for Proposal (rice only)
- Proposed lease terms
  - Grant-funded subsidy to encourage rice development
  - Flexible rent structure (crop share) option
  - Ten-year lease agreement with farmer tenant
  - Five-year extension option



## Rice Project Schedule

- Farmer negotiations - In progress
- Board action – Anticipated Nov. 2024
  - Approve Rice Development Project
- Delta Conservancy Board action
  - Approve project as responsible agency
  - Release Phase 2 grant funds

# Engaging Local Interests

- Local counties
- Farming interests
- Rice cooperatives
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Delta Stewardship Council
- Delta Protection Commission
- Delta Conservancy

# Tribal Partnerships

- Eco-cultural working group
- Initiated tribal outreach (AB 52)
- Site visits planned



# First Public Outreach Meeting



# Public Information

## News @ Webb Tract



### **PUBLIC MEETING VIDEO AVAILABLE**

A public meeting held on July 10 introduced local interests and other stakeholders to two multi-benefit projects to improve Webb Tract, one of four islands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta owned by the Metropolitan Water District.

In partnership with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, the first hybrid meeting held at Big Break Visitor Center in Oakley focused on the Rice Development and Wetland Restoration Projects planned for Webb Tract. The projects are funded by the Nature-Based Solutions Grant Program administered by the Delta Conservancy. The recorded meeting can be viewed [here](#).

### **GRANT-FUNDED, MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECTS ON WEBB TRACT**

Webb Tract  
Outreach  
Video





