



Real Property and Asset Management

Briefing on Delta Island Opportunities

Item 6a

October 11, 2022



Focus of Presentation

- Focus
 - Gather Board input on a proposed analysis of ongoing & potential future Delta Island opportunities
- Agenda
 - Overview of Delta Islands
 - Proposed opportunities analysis
 - Highlights of ongoing collaborative efforts
 - Schedule

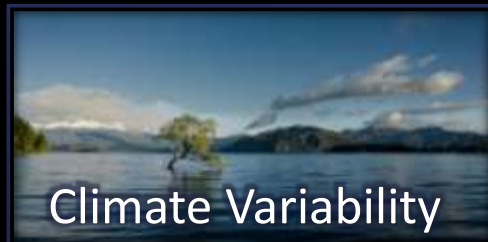
Overview

- 2016 purchase
- 31 sq. mi.; 20,400 acres
- 111 structures
- 2021 Chipps Island sold



Overview

- Bay-Delta Board Policies
 - Staff currently guided by existing Board Policies
 - Draft revised policies advancing for potential October 2022 Board action
- Focus





Collaborative Opportunities

- Completed
 - ✓ \$54+ million in grants received
 - ✓ 15 miles of water conveyance levees improved
 - ✓ First to have on-island flood fight warehouse
 - ✓ First to install real-time levee early warning tech
 - ✓ First to install water diversion meters
- Ongoing
 - ❑ Delta Smelt natural propagation
 - ❑ Floating wetland research
 - ❑ Subsidence control program
 - ❑ Collaborative landscape planning process
 - ❑ Riverine restoration
- Proposed
 - ❑ Community farms & education program
 - ❑ Levee modernization design



Levee Improvement



Natural Propagation



Family Farmers



Proposed Analysis

Island Opportunities

- Conveyance
- Environmental
- Science research
- Carbon sequestration
- Ag & ecosystem education
- Tribal & community activities



Collaborative Input & Analysis

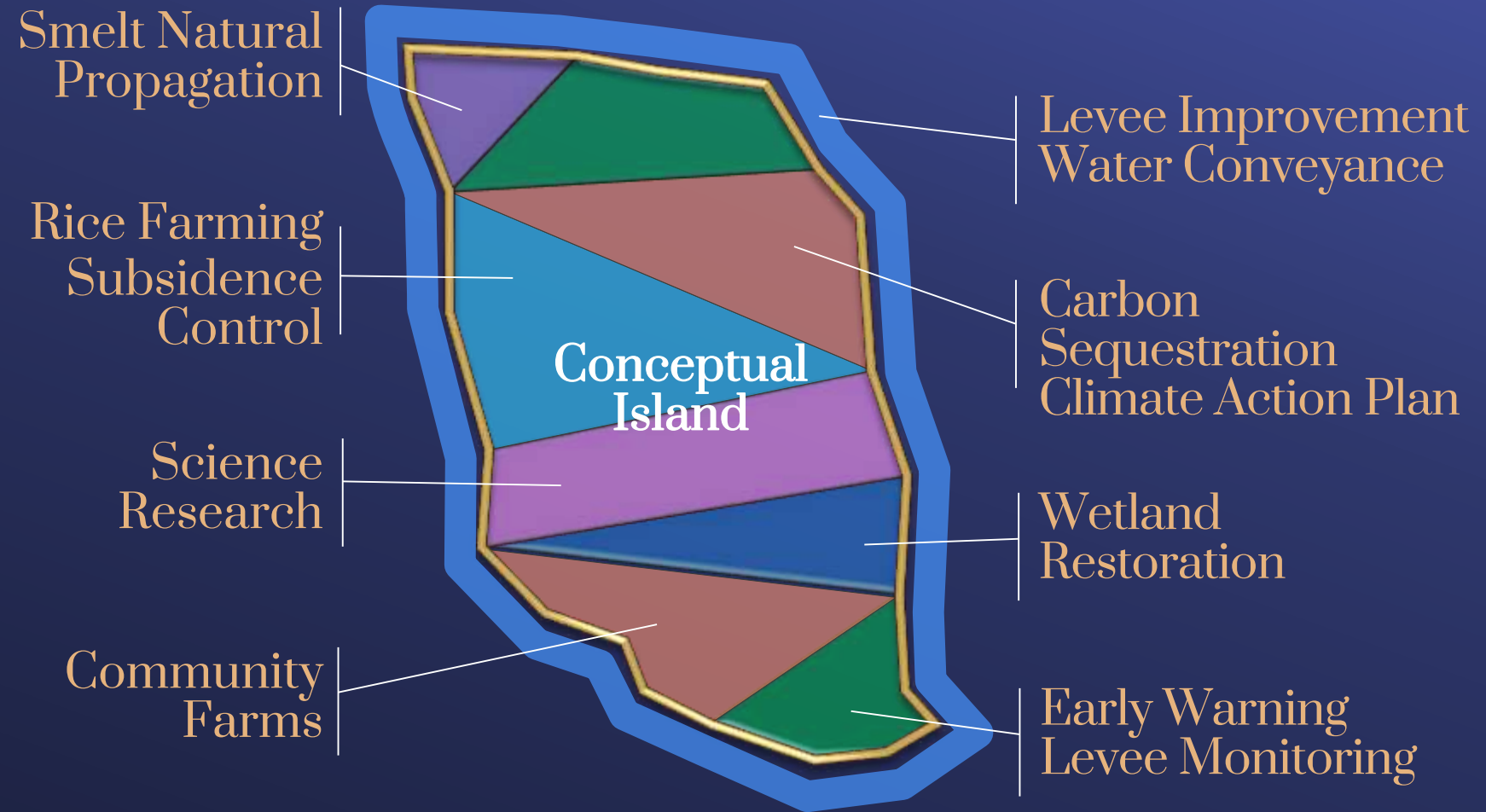
- Board policies & input
- Benefit/costs/risks
- Expert feedback (University, etc.)
- Community/NGO/tribal feedback
- Other

Board Discussion/Report



Proposed Analysis

Collaborative Opportunities *(Concept Example)*





Proposed Analysis

- Collaborative Input Partners

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



- Technical Advisors

- UC Merced
- CSU Chico State
- UC Davis
- SF Estuary Institute
- Natural Resources Grp
- GEI
- MBK Engineers
- Hydrofocus

An aerial photograph of a winding river, likely the Colorado River, with a dirt road and greenery along its banks. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right, curving around a small island. The surrounding landscape is arid with some green vegetation. The text "Highlights of Ongoing Collaborative Efforts" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Highlights of Ongoing Collaborative Efforts

Highlights of Ongoing Collaborative Efforts

- Delta Agriculture
 - Webb Tract
 - Highest biodiversity
 - Initial step – Corn to grazing
- Benefits
 - Carbon sequestration
 - Subsidence control
 - Reduced fertilizer & pest control chemicals
 - Environmental enhancement
 - Consistent with Board policies
 - Community support



Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction (*Rough Estimate*)

- ~ 18,000 metric tons/year CO² savings
- ~ 3,800 vehicles driven/year equivalency
- ~ 4 years of zero emissions by MWD fleet (~ 900 vehicles)

Highlights of Ongoing Collaborative Efforts

- Delta Smelt Natural Propagation
 - Tentative pilot Fall 2022
 - Bouldin Island ponds
 - Smelt introduction & scientific research study
- Objectives
 - Study island conditions to inform propagation of endangered species in more naturalized areas
 - If smelt thrive, Delta islands could be used to stabilize the population



Schedule¹

- Dec 2022
 - Initial analysis of benefits, costs, risks
- Feb 2023
 - MWD Board & local community input
 - Further benefits/costs analysis
 - Form of additional input
- Apr 2023
 - Review of additional input received
 - Board discussion and recommendation

1. Schedule is subject to change based on Board schedule & input

