

Delta Counties Coalition

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County

"Working together on water and Delta issues"

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Mike Thompson
United States House of Representatives
268 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta One Water Initiative

Dear Representative Thompson:

The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), comprised of the five counties that make up the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, request \$6,350,000 in the Fiscal Year 2024 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, under Corps of Engineers, Construction, for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta One Water Initiative, authorized under section 8375 of Public Law 117-263. The goal of the program is to promote a holistic, sustainable, and inclusive approach to water management in the Delta, one that seeks to maximize the resilience and benefits of future investments in water supply, wastewater, stormwater, source water protection, environmental restoration, and flood control infrastructure.

The DCC and each of the five Delta Counties seek federal support for the following locally-led projects that will advance the Delta One Water Initiative:

The Knightsen Wetland Restoration Project (Contra Costa County)

FY 24 Request: \$2M

Purpose and Need: The Knightsen Wetland Restoration Project has been almost a decade in development. The assessment, planning, design, and permitting phases have been funded by state and local agencies. The project is moving to construction and the requested funds would specifically contribute to the revegetation effort associated with the habitat types included for restoration (freshwater tidal wetland, seasonal wetland, sand dune, grassland, and oak savanna). The project will restore a 645-acre property in the western Delta to providing a mosaic of habitats for state and federally threatened and endangered species. Ancillary benefits to the habitat restoration include conservation of open space, improved Delta water quality and increased local resilience to flood events.

Cosumnes River Multi-Benefit Project (Sacramento County)

FY 24 Request: \$850,000

Purpose and Need: Sacramento County seeks \$850,000 for technical, planning and design assistance for the Cosumnes River Multi-Benefit Project. The funds will be used to support County efforts to identify flood risk reduction measures along the Cosumnes River (including flood risk reductions that protect private water infrastructure) as well as identify opportunities for

additional habitat and water supply reliability benefits in the Lower Consumnes River. In early January of this year, the second highest flow in history was recorded on the Cosumnes River, with flows of more than 60,000 cubic feet per second – just below the 1997 record. The downstream levee breached, which caused flooding to critical water infrastructure, Dillard Road and Highway 99, diminished habitat values and led to two deaths. Improvements are urgently needed in the area.

Acampo Area Drainage Innovation Project – Phase 2b (San Joaquin County)

FY 24 Request: \$2M

Purpose and Need: Grant proceeds would be used for the design, environmental clearance, and regulatory permitting for the next phase of the Acampo Area Drainage Innovation Project, with an estimated cost of \$5 million. The Acampo area of San Joaquin County, a disadvantaged community, experiences flooding about once every ten years on average due in part to changes in the upper watershed that occurred over generations. In response to relatively severe flooding in 2017, a multiphase plan was developed, and the first phase of the plan was completed in 2019, which a drainage system in Coopers’ Corner area consisting of drainage pipes and inlets and a pump system. The area once again was subject to significant flooding in 2023. The second phase would continue efforts to provide additional flood risk reduction by intercepting and diverting surface flood waters upstream of the Acampo Area towards the Mokelumne River and conveying and spreading flood flows onto agricultural lands with suitable soil profiles. In addition to improving flood protection for the community, the recharged floodwaters via natural infrastructure would improve groundwater conditions in a critically over drafted groundwater basin. Completion of Phase 2 and future phases will not only improve water supply resiliency but also further reduce the frequency and magnitude of flooding for area residents, businesses, a mobile home park, two schools and roadways, including State Route 99 which was closed for several days due to the 2023 flood event.

Proposed to develop a county-wide One Water Master Plan (Solano County)

FY24 Request: \$1.5M

Purpose and Need: The One Water County Wide Master Plan builds upon a stakeholder-driven process currently underway by Solano County to develop a framework that identifies multi-benefit criteria for consideration for a county-wide plan. The One Water Master Plan will identify high-priority water, wastewater, recycled water, drainage and/or flood infrastructure needs along with agency alignments for project for implementation, initiate feasibility studies and modeling and develop planning and programmatic environmental reviews on priority projects. The objectives of the One Water Master Plan includes integrating management actions for water resources and policies through county-wide collaboration in order to implement holistic and equitable projects and programs that provide multiple benefits to support intended land uses county wide to improve the health of the Delta.

California experienced droughts for 15 of the last 20 years. Several of these drought periods have been followed by historic floods. The fragile Delta ecosystem and water quality continue to be at risk. The DCC seeks federal support for local initiatives that will advance holistic, multi-benefit solutions to future water management investments in the five Delta Counties. The Delta One Water initiative provides the opportunity for the five delta counties to collectively re-envision locally led infrastructure investments for long-term improvements in water quality, flood control, ecological benefits, and improved local water storage through stormwater capture and aquifer recharge that benefits the delta.

As noted above, Sec. 8375(a)(300) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) provides the authority for the Corps to participate in this important initiative:


“SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA, CALIFORNIA.—\$50,000,000 for water and wastewater infrastructure (including stormwater management), water supply and related facilities, environmental restoration, and surface water protection and development, including flooding resilience measures for such infrastructure, in Contra Costa County, San Joaquin County, Solano County, Sacramento County, and Yolo County, California.”

If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to reach out to any of us directly or to DCC Coordinator Elisia De Bord at deborde@saccounty.gov or (916) 874-4227.

Sincerely,



Patrick Kennedy, Supervisor
Sacramento County



Oscar Villegas, Supervisor
Yolo County



Ken Carlson, Supervisor
Contra Costa County



Mitch Mashburn, Supervisor
Solano County



Tom Patti, Supervisor
San Joaquin County