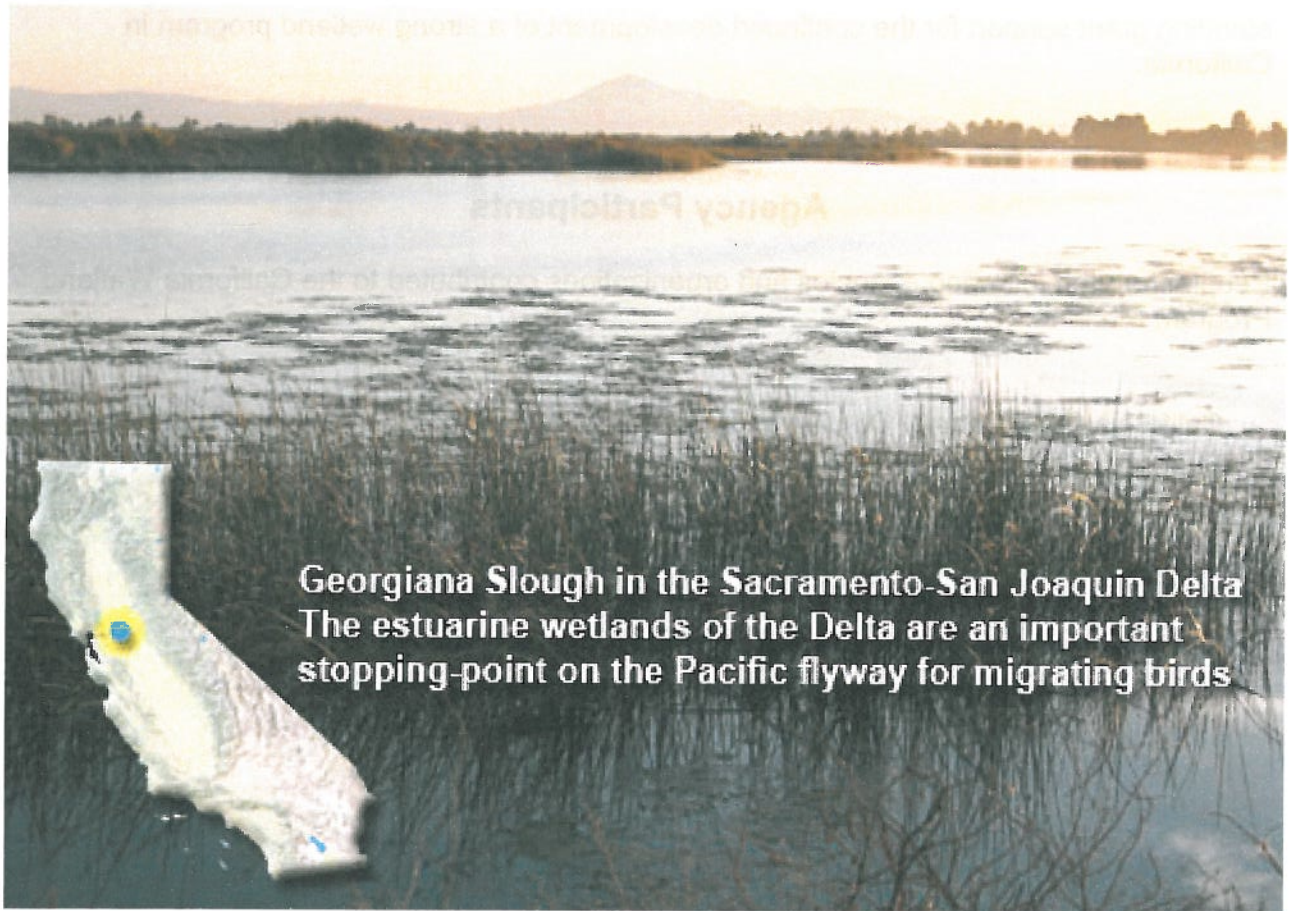


# California Wetland Program Plan 2017 – 2022



Georgiana Slough in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta  
The estuarine wetlands of the Delta are an important  
stopping-point on the Pacific flyway for migrating birds

Prepared by the California Wetland Interagency Team



Pursuant to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's  
Enhancing State and Tribal Wetland Programs (ESTP) Initiative



## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Agency Participants**

People from the following agencies and organizations contributed to the California Wetland Program Plan:

California State Coastal Conservancy

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California State Water Resources Control Board

Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

## 1. Purpose

This *California Wetland Program Plan* (Plan) serves as a comprehensive five-year strategy to direct and measure California's progress towards improving its existing wetland programs.

The Plan will also assist California agencies in applying for annual Wetland Program Development Grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for programs, projects, or activities that protect, manage, and restore California's wetlands in compliance with the Plan.

This Plan should be considered a "living document" that will be reviewed and revised by the participating agencies as needed, in coordination with the California Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup (CWMW).

## 2. Participating Agencies

Regulation and management of wetlands and other aquatic resources falls under numerous agencies in California. This Plan was jointly developed by staff of the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California State Coastal Conservancy (CSCC), and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (SSJDC), with assistance from USEPA Region 9.

## 3. Overall Goal Statement

The participating agencies developed the Plan with the shared overall goal of:

*Increasing the abundance, condition and diversity of California's wetlands and riparian areas, and sustaining and enhancing the delivery of ecosystem services.*

## 4. Current Extent and Condition of California Wetlands

While California has a great diversity of wetlands, including coastal and inland wetlands and vernal pools, it is estimated that California has lost more than 90% of its historic wetlands overall, and more than 95% of its coastal wetlands<sup>1</sup>. The approximately 450,000 acres of remaining wetlands are vulnerable to development, roads, farming practices, hydromodification, pollutants, invasive species, climate change, and a host of other potential stressors. The 2011 National Wetland Condition Assessment<sup>2</sup> estimated that for herbaceous wetlands in the West, 25% of the wetlands were in good condition;

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas E. Dahl, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Wetlands Losses in the United States 1780's to 1980's, Summary of Findings 1780's to 1980's*, at <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/wetlands/wetloss/findings.htm> (last modified Aug. 3, 2006).

<sup>2</sup> USEPA, Office of Research and Development. Washington, DC. May 2016. EPA-843-R-15-005. <http://www2.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys/national-wetland-condition-assessment>

32% in fair condition, and 43% in poor condition, whereas for inland woody wetlands, 21% were in good condition, 8 % were in fair condition and 71% were in poor condition. Estuarine wetlands were ranked nationally only, and generally over half were in good condition, and with the remainder split between fair and poor.

## 5. State Laws Protecting California Wetlands

The California legislature has passed numerous laws to protect valuable aquatic resources within its jurisdiction, including wetlands. The 1969 Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act broadly defines “waters of the state” as “any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state.”<sup>3</sup>

Wetlands are defined and protected in various laws and regulations, including the California Coastal Act<sup>4</sup> of 1976, the 1976 Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act<sup>5</sup>, the 1965 McAteer-Petris Act<sup>6</sup>, and the Suisun Marsh Protection Act<sup>7</sup>. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)<sup>8</sup> also plays a role in wetlands protection and management by requiring that project impacts be disclosed and mitigated by approving agencies before permitting can be finalized. Additional laws have been enacted to provide further protection for wetlands in coastal counties and the San Francisco Bay area and the Delta.

Governor Pete Wilson signed the State Wetland Conservation Policy in 1993<sup>9</sup>, which requires agencies to work together to: (1) ensure no overall net loss and achieve a long-term net gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands acreage and values in California in a manner that fosters creativity, stewardship, and respect for private property; (2) reduce procedural complexity in the administration of state and federal wetlands conservation programs; and (3) encourage partnerships to make landowner incentive programs and cooperative planning efforts the primary focus of wetlands conservation and restoration.

The Delta Reform Act of 2009<sup>10</sup> created the Delta Stewardship Council and established new standards for groundwater monitoring, statewide water conservation, enforcing Delta diversion and setting state policy that achieving water supply reliability and restoring the Delta’s ecosystem must be applied coequally. The Delta Plan, required by the Delta Reform Act, is a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the Delta. It creates new rules and recommendations to further the state’s coequal goals for the Delta: Improve statewide water supply reliability, and protect and restore a vibrant and healthy Delta ecosystem, all in a manner that preserves, protects and enhances the

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<sup>3</sup> Cal. Water Code § 13050(e).

<sup>4</sup> Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 30121.

<sup>5</sup> Cal. Fish & Game Code § 2785

<sup>6</sup> Cal. Gov’t Code §§ 66600-66694; Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, §§ 10110-11990.

<sup>7</sup> Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 29000-29612.

<sup>8</sup> Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21000 *et seq.*

<sup>9</sup> Office of the California Governor, *Executive Order W- 59-93 California Wetlands Conservation Policy* (1993), at <http://ceres.ca.gov/wetlands/policies/governor.html>.

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/sen/sb\\_0001-0050/sbx7\\_1\\_bill\\_20091112\\_chaptered.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/sen/sb_0001-0050/sbx7_1_bill_20091112_chaptered.html)

unique agricultural, cultural, and recreational characteristics of the Delta.

## **6. Coordination to Enhance Monitoring of California Wetlands - California Water Quality Monitoring Council.**

In November 2007, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)<sup>11</sup> was signed by the Secretaries of the Cal/EPA and the California Natural Resources Agency to establish the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Monitoring Council). The MOU was mandated by CA Senate Bill 1070 (Kehoe, 2006)<sup>12</sup> and requires the boards, departments and offices within the Cal/EPA and the California Natural Resources Agency to integrate and coordinate their water quality and related ecosystem monitoring, assessment, and reporting.<sup>13</sup>

CA Senate Bill 1070 (Water Code Sections 13167 and 13181) and the MOU require that the Monitoring Council develop specific recommendations to improve the coordination and cost-effectiveness of water quality and ecosystem monitoring and assessment, enhance the integration of monitoring data across departments and agencies, and increase public accessibility to monitoring data and assessment information. While the Monitoring Council may recommend new monitoring or management initiatives, it will build on existing effort to the greatest extent possible. The Monitoring Council published its initial recommendations in December 2008, and its recommendations for A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California in December 2010.

Workgroups formed under the jurisdiction of the Monitoring Council include:

- Bioaccumulation Oversight Group
- California CyanoHAB Network
- California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup<sup>14</sup>
- California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup<sup>15</sup>
- California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network
- Data Management Workgroup
- Healthy Watersheds Partnership
- Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health
  - Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINE)
- Safe Drinking Water Workgroup
  - Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program
- Safe-to-Swim Workgroup

Updates to the Wetland Program Plan have been coordinated by the California Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup (CWMW). CWMW's mission is to improve the monitoring and assessment of wetland and riparian resources by developing a comprehensive stream, wetland, and riparian area monitoring plan for California and

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<sup>11</sup> [http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring\\_council/docs/sb1070mou.pdf](http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/docs/sb1070mou.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring\\_council/docs/sb1070chptrd.pdf](http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/docs/sb1070chptrd.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring\\_council/index2.html](http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/index2.html)

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring\\_council/estuary\\_workgroup/index.html](http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/estuary_workgroup/index.html)

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring\\_council/wetland\\_workgroup/index.html](http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/wetland_workgroup/index.html)

through increasing coordination and cooperation among local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations. The workgroup reviews technical and policy aspects of wetland monitoring tool development, implementation and use of data to improve wetland management in California.

The Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan (WRAMP) is a plan developed by CWMW for comprehensive monitoring and assessment of aquatic resources using a watershed or landscape context. WRAMP, like U.S.EPA's three-tier monitoring and assessment framework, includes three levels of assessment and analysis, and provides the framework for making these three levels of assessment work together in the analysis of the overall condition and viability of aquatic resources within a watershed. Although WRAMP has been applied to support a watershed approach to wetland and stream protection in California, the framework can be adjusted to generally support ecosystem and habitat planning, assessment, monitoring, and reporting.

- Level 1 assessments consist of map-based inventories of aquatic resources, including: rivers, streams, and riparian areas, plus related projects that have a direct effect on the distribution and abundance of aquatic resources. Level 1 maps may serve as the basis for landscape and watershed profiles and be used as a framework for Level 2 and 3 assessments.
- Level 2 assessments are rapid, field based assessments that provide data on overall aquatic resource condition. In California, the California Rapid Assessment Method is the baseline for level 2 data collection. Other level 2 assessments exist and may also be used when needed.
- Level 3 assessments are usually site-specific measures of specific resources. Plant species composition, nesting bird surveys, spawning success, and groundwater recharge rates are examples of level 3 data types. Types of level 3 assessments will vary from site to site.

## **7. State Agencies Involved in Wetlands Protection**

### **a. California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).**

#### **i. State Water Resources Control Board**

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the nine affiliated Regional Water Quality Control Boards regulate discharges to wetlands under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the Clean Water Act.

Organizationally, the Water Boards are under the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). The Water Boards carry out regulatory functions, such as Clean Water Act §401 water quality certifications, monitoring, assessment, enforcement, and compliance. The SWRCB also develops statewide water quality plans, policies, and standards and determines water rights. The SWRCB directed staff, in Resolution Number 2008-0026, to develop a wetland protection policy using a phased approach. The first phase include a wetland definition and a wetland regulatory mechanism based on the 404 (b) Guidelines (40 CFR parts 230-233). SWRCB staff participates in wetland

protection and advance mitigation efforts integrated with regional planning approaches including natural community conservation plans, habitat conservation plans, watershed plans, integrated water resource management plans, and state climate change initiatives.

## **b. California Resources Agency**

The California Resources Agency is a sister agency to CalEPA with 34 departments, boards, commissions, and conservancies under its umbrella, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (SSJDC), California State Coastal Conservancy (CSCC), California Coastal Commission, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), and California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The Resources Agency is responsible for implementing the California Wetlands Conservation Policy and updating the state wetland inventory, as outlined in the policy and the Keene-Nejedly Act, and identifying restoration and enhancement opportunities. The California Wetlands Conservation Policy also directs the Resources Agency to establish an Interagency Task Force in cooperation with CalEPA to direct and coordinate administration and implementation of the policy.

In 2008 CWMW was convened to better coordinate the wetland monitoring activities of local, state, and federal agencies, tribes and non-governmental agencies involved in wetland monitoring and regulation (see CWQMC, above). SSJDC, SWRCB, CDFW, and CSCC staff participate in this group and provide technical input on a variety of monitoring and policy topics, including the development and use of the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) and CRAM's use in monitoring and assessment programs in California.

### **i. California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

The mission of the CDFW is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. CDFW works through both regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and other aquatic resources.

In addition to the CWMW, CDFW also participates in the California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup (along with staff from DWR, SSJDC, CalEPA, State and Federal Water Contractors Agency, and other local and federal agencies), and other efforts to assist in the coordination of wetland monitoring in the state, improve consistency among wetland-related regulatory efforts, support mapping efforts for the wetland resources of the state, and carry out wetlands conservation, management and restoration activities in cooperation with partner agencies and organizations statewide.

CDFW supports efforts to protect and restore wetlands through its various grants programs, such as the Landowner Incentive Program, which provides landowners with incentive payments for implementing a habitat conservation plan for threatened and

endangered species on restored wetlands, riparian lands, and native grasslands. Through its Watershed Restoration Grants Branch<sup>16</sup>, CDFW administers the Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs (Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program and the statewide Watershed Restoration Grant Program), Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant Program, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, and Ecosystem Restoration Program, which fund ecosystem protection and restoration projects. CDFW also administers the California Waterfowl Habitat Program, which is an incentive based program that compensates private landowners for managing their land in accordance with annual work plans developed by CDFW.

CDFW has developed guidelines, policies, and procedures for establishing conservation and mitigation banks. CDFW is currently developing policies and guidelines for the new Regional Conservation Investment Strategies (RCIS) program. The RCIS program includes an advance mitigation mechanism to create compensatory mitigation credits under an approved RCIS. California's Fish and Game Code further authorizes the CDFW to issue Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreements for activities that cause impacts to wetlands associated with rivers, streams, and lakes.

#### ii. Department of Water Resources

DWR is responsible for managing the state's water resources, as outlined in the California Water Plan, and for constructing, operating, and maintaining the State Water Project. Impacts to wetlands that result from its activities must be avoided, minimized, or mitigated based on permit conditions. DWR mitigates water quality impacts to the Suisun Marsh, manages the Upper Stream Restoration Program to help projects fix bank erosion and flood problems, provides staff to the Upper Sacramento River Advisory Council, develops and carries out the San Joaquin River Management Project, implements a Floodplain Management Program, and also works on establishing mitigation banks.

#### iii. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

The SSJDC leads efforts in protecting, enhancing and restoring the Delta ecosystem in coordination with other governmental and non-governmental entities in the Delta. The SSJDC is contributing to better coordinated monitoring, ecosystem restoration, and natural resource management that may impact California's wetlands.

The SSJDC also houses the Project Tracker that tracks habitat restoration activity on EcoAtlas. Projects are viewable on the interactive map and summarized in individual project pages. The Project Tracker provides detailed project information, such as acres of distinct habitat types, species benefitted, progress and status, and funding sources. Conservancy Project Tracker database provides visual displays and queries of the tabular and spatial project data. As new projects are developed and existing projects enter new phases, information is expanded and updated through the new online data entry forms ([ptrack.ecoatlas.org](http://ptrack.ecoatlas.org)). New spatial data layers, such as "Modern Delta

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Explore/Organization/WRGB>



Habitat Types”, allow users to evaluate projects within the context of existing ecological resources and other landscape characteristics and uses.

SSJDC’s Performance Measure Reporting Project is integrating project data and developing new capabilities to improve reporting on performance measures for wetland restoration projects. This Project is improving data access and availability by exchanging and synchronizing wetland restoration project data.

SSJDC administers the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program for multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection projects in the Delta.

SSJDC participates in the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup (with federal, state and other organizations) to assist in the coordination of wetland monitoring in the state, improve consistency among wetland-related regulatory efforts, support mapping efforts for the wetland resources of the state, and carry out wetlands conservation, management and restoration activities in cooperation with partner agencies and organizations statewide.

#### iv. California Coastal Commission

The California Coastal Act includes requirements related to coastal zone management and wetlands protection, including coastal development permits, and established the Coastal Commission as the coastal regulatory and management agency. The California Coastal Act prohibits dredge and fill activities in coastal wetlands, with the exception of low impact allowable uses such as restoration or research.

#### v. California State Coastal Conservancy

The CSCC works through non-regulatory mechanisms to protect, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands, as well as other coastal resources. The CSCC may work on wetland restoration or enhancement projects directly or provide funding and technical assistance to government agencies and organizations for projects. Through its Resource Enhancement Program, the CSCC is in the process of restoring over 40,000 acres in the San Francisco Bay Area and has restored 6,000 acres in Southern California.

CSCC is coordinating restoration activities efforts in the Bay through the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture and San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP), and is supporting the work of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. It has also been the lead on the recent update to the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals which generally guides wetland restoration activities in the region. Along the Central Coast, the CSCC is involved in several wetland restoration programs, including the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Tidal Wetland Program, and Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP), which stretches from Monterey County north to San Mateo. In the North Coast region, CSCC has helped establish the Humboldt Bay Initiative (HBI), a network of local partner agencies and non-profits that work to further ecosystem based management in Humboldt Bay, including wetland restoration. CSCC also sits on the Pacific Coast Joint Venture (PCJV) Management Board.

In Southern California, CSCC works to coordinate and facilitate wetlands restoration activities through the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP). SCWRP is a broad-based partnership of 18 state and federal agencies working in concert to improve coordination, pool resources, and advance the recovery of rivers, streams, and wetlands in coastal Southern California. SCWRP's *Regional Strategy* document guides project prioritization and shapes restoration and enhancement projects throughout the region. The *Regional Strategy* is currently being updated to include the best-available science on historical, present, and future changes to tidal wetlands. SCWRP also participates in CWMW in order to take advantage of knowledge and expertise from other portions of the state. SCWRP's participation in CWMW also provides the WRAMP framework with an excellent case study of regional cooperative monitoring, assessment, and planning. The CSCC provides staffing and serves as a fiscal agent for the SCWRP. In order to support the SCWRP's high-priority projects once they have been identified through the *Regional Strategy*, the CSCC is acting as the Program Sponsor for the development of a SCWRP In-lieu Fee Program. The SCWRP's In-Lieu Fee Program will provide an opportunity for consolidated compensatory mitigation projects that have greater ecological functions and benefits than small, geographically separated projects. Supporting the development of the In-lieu Fee Program will be a major focus for the Coastal Conservancy during the next five years.

vi. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

The BCDC's primary regulatory responsibility towards wetlands is issuing permits for any fill or extraction activities or any changes to land or water use in tidal wetlands and waters of the San Francisco Bay and Delta. The BCDC also is responsible for administering the San Francisco Bay Plan and the Suisan Marsh Preservation Act and planning for protection, restoration, and enhancement of the Bay.

vii. California Department of Parks and Recreation

CDPR is responsible for managing wetlands located within the State Park System, administering the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Programs, and identifying wetlands preservation opportunities on lands adjacent to state parks.

In addition to the various state agencies involved, regional and local agencies also regulate wetlands. Thus, there are multiple overlapping jurisdictions in regards to wetlands protection and management in California.

## 8. Plan Components

In 2007, the USEPA launched the Enhancing State and Tribal Programs (ESTP) Initiative<sup>17</sup> to enhance delivery of technical and financial support for wetlands programs. A foundation of the ESTP is the Core Elements Framework, which outlines the core

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<sup>17</sup> See [http://water.epa.gov/grants\\_funding/wetlands/estp.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/estp.cfm)

elements of an effective state or tribal Wetland Program Plan. Wetland Program Plans describe overall program goals along with broad-based actions and more specific activities that will help achieve the goals. Wetland Program Plans, approved by the USEPA, qualify submitters to compete for a larger allocation of the USEPA Wetland Program Development Grants.

The Core Elements Framework identifies four core elements that comprise a comprehensive wetland program. The four core elements of an effective Wetland Program Plan are:

1. Monitoring and Assessment;
2. Regulatory Activities, including the Water Quality Certification Program;
3. Voluntary Restoration and Protection; and
4. Water Quality Standards for Wetlands.

This Plan outlines specific activities over the next five years that are related to each core element. The tables below list actions related to each element, responsible agencies, and years during which actions will be addressed. Not all elements will be addressed in any given year.

## 9. Planned Activities by Core Element

### Table 1: Monitoring and Assessment

Responsible agencies	Planned activities	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Potential Partners
<b>California Water Quality Monitoring Council (CWQMC)</b>								
SWRCB, CDFW, CSCC, SSJDC	Provide technical and policy input and support with the goal of enhancing inter-agency coordination and cost-effectiveness of water quality and ecosystem monitoring, information sharing and public access to collected data.	X	X	X	X	X	X	CalEPA, Resources Agency
<b>CWQMC: California Data Management Workgroup (Members: SWRCB, CDFW, SSJDC)</b>								
SWRCB, CDFW, SSJDC	Facilitate storage, exchange and access to wetland related data through the My Water Quality website and <a href="#">California Wetlands Portal</a> as well as with an upcoming statewide integrated water data platform to be developed by DWR under AB-1755 Open and Transparent Water Data Act (9/23/2016).	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>CWQMC: California Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup (CWMW) (Members: SWRCB, CDFW, SSJDC, CSCC)</b>								
SWRCB, CDFW, SSJDC, CSCC	Provide technical and policy input and support to adopt and integrate wetland assessment and inventory tools and data into regulatory and grant programs in accordance with <a href="#">California's Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan (WRAMP)</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW, CSCC	<b>Level 1:</b> Research, develop and coordinate use of standard methods for wetland, stream, and riparian mapping, data collection, data management and data analysis. Ensure that these methods comply with developing State policies, and are compatible with the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) system and its network of Regional Data Centers.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW,	<b>CRAM:</b> Participate in the <a href="#">Level 2 Committee</a> to coordinate the review,	X	X	X	X	X	X	

CSCC	development and implementation of rapid assessment tools for all state agencies							
SSJDC	Facilitate Level 3 Committee: coordinate use of standard methods for Wetland Level III data	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB	<a href="#">CRAM</a> : Develop new modules such as Delta Channels/Riverine Tidal and develop existing modules through validation studies	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB	CRAM: Calibration, verification, and peer review	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB	CRAM: <a href="#">Training</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB	CRAM: Develop forms and support documents	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB	CRAM: User's Survey	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB	CRAM: eCRAM	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW, CSCC, SSJDC	<a href="#">EcoAtlas</a> : Participate in the development of further capabilities and functions, such as watershed profiles, habitat development curves, and estimates of riparian buffer widths to assist in implementing various regulatory procedures.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CDFW, CSCC, SSJDC	Project Tracker: Contribute habitat project data. Require projects funded by Prop 1 grant programs to provide their data.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW, CSCC, SSJDC	Continue development and maintenance of the California Aquatic Resource Inventory (CARI)	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW	Develop an assessment framework to support mitigation planning, evaluation and compliance monitoring based on WRAMP for NCCP/HCP-401/404 permitting	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW	Keep the <a href="#">California Wetlands Portal</a> updated	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	Support development of southern California's WRAMP technical node at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CDFW	Support dissemination of data pertaining to State's wetlands and other aquatic resource. Data/metadata will be available	X	X	X	X	X	X	

	for public viewing and downloading through DFW's <a href="#">Biogeographic Information and Observation System</a> (BIOS) website.							
SWRCB, CDFW	Support implementation of the <a href="#">Perennial Stream Assessment program</a> and the Reference Condition Management program; participate in efforts to expand bioassessment into wetlands and other waterbody types	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW	Wetland Status and Trends reporting, including the development of a Wetland Status and Trends program	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>CWQMC: California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup</b>								
CDFW, SSJDC, CSCC	Continue to participate in CEMW as a venue to increase efficiency and effectiveness of monitoring and assessment activities and delivery of information concerning the condition of California's estuaries. Keep the California Estuaries Portal updated.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Regional Assessments</b>								
Inter-agency Ecological Program; CDFW	Development and implementation of a biological monitoring program for fish and foodweb resources in restored tidal wetlands in the San Francisco Bay Delta system.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC, SSJDC	Conduct regular assessments of progress and reevaluate regularly. Update the <a href="#">San Francisco Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report</a> as needed and develop other regional initiatives for wetland resources such as tidal wetlands.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC, SSJDC	Assessments of progress towards San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report. Periodic assessment reports.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SSJDC	Manage the Delta Habitat Restoration Project GIS database on habitat restoration projects in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	SF Bay Restoration Authority: Strategic planning, development of Measure AA grant program, progress reporting, external oversight of grants.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	Update the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's Comprehensive			X	X	X	X	

Conservation Management Plan								
CSCC	Humboldt Bay Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan: Work with others to build on the completed sea level rise vulnerability assessment to identify specific adaptation approaches and projects for the region's resources	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	Reuse of Humboldt Bay Dredged Materials: Work with Humboldt Bay Harbor District to plan for the reuse of dredged materials for specific tidal marsh restoration and sea level rise adaptation projects.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	Humboldt Bay Native Oyster Restoration Study: Work with partners to evaluate sites for native oyster restoration and implementation of living shoreline restoration projects utilizing constructed native oyster reefs to mitigate effects of sea level rise.	X	X	X	X			
CSCC	Assessments of progress towards SCWRP's <i>Regional Strategy</i> restoration objectives. Periodic assessment reports.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	Update to SCWRP's <i>Regional Strategy</i> to include an assessment of non-tidal wetlands.	X	X	X	X	X	X	

**Table 2: Regulatory Activities**

Responsible agencies	Planned activities	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Potential Partners
<b>Phase 1 - Wetland Policy: <u>Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State</u></b>								
SWRCB	Procedures adoption	X						
SWRCB	Procedures approval	X						
SWRCB	Procedures implementation: Develop and carry out staff training	X	X					
<b>CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Procedures</b>								
SWRCB	Streamline the application process for 401 permits by using online forms and mapping tools	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB	Streamline the application process for 401 permits in accordance with	X	X					

	recommendations in completed Lean 6 Sigma efficiency assessment							
SWRCB	Improve tracking of approved wetland impacts	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB	Ensure better mitigation for approved wetland impacts	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB	Improve compliance monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB	Improve enforcement	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB	Update and expand Small Habitat Restoration Project General Orders <sup>18</sup>		X					CDFW
<b>Advance Compensatory Mitigation Planning</b>								
SWRCB, CDFW	Participation on the Mitigation Bank Program Development Team	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW	Participate on Interagency Review Teams that approve development plans for Mitigation Banks	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW, CSCC	Participate on Interagency Review Teams for In-Lieu Fee Programs	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	Sponsor In-Lieu Fee Programs: <a href="#">Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project</a> (SCWRP)	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW	Participate in Regional Advance Mitigation Planning efforts	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW	Participate in regional planning approaches, including <a href="#">Natural Community Conservation Plans</a> (NCCPs), <a href="#">Habitat Conservation Plans</a> (HCPs), watershed plans, and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) plans	X	X	X	X	X	X	

**Table 3: Voluntary Restoration and Protection**

Responsible agencies	Planned activities	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Potential Partners
CDFW, SWRCB, CSCC, SSJDC	Continue working to acquire and restore wetlands in cooperation with partner agencies and organizations.	X	X	X	X	X	X	

<sup>18</sup> 401 Program. See: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders\\_wb.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders_wb.shtml)



CSCC, CDFW	Develop plans and implement projects to restore and enhance coastal habitats including coastal wetlands, intertidal areas and stream corridors	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC, CDFW	Implement projects to improve fish habitat including projects to remove barriers to fish passage, ensure sufficient instream flow, and provide in stream habitat and favorable water temperatures.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC, CDFW	Complete plans and implement projects to improve water quality to benefit coastal and ocean resources.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC, CDFW	Support wetlands restoration and protection projects that sequester carbon, allowing California's natural resources to benefit from California's carbon market and/or projects that reduce anticipated impacts of climate change.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC, CDFW	Support sea level rise vulnerability assessment and adaptive management/restoration planning for coastal wetlands.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC, CDFW	Support projects that protect lands that could allow for wetland migration as sea levels rise.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB, CDFW, CSCC, SSJDC	Educational endeavors and outreach to increase public awareness of wetlands and the roles of wetland restoration and management	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CDFW	Administer the <a href="#">Comprehensive Wetland Habitat Program</a> (CWHP), which provides coordination, direction, and funding for many of CDFW's wetland habitat programs and activities.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CDFW	Administer the Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant Program in order to implement wetland restoration projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide co-benefits	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CDFW, SSJDC, CSCC	Administer Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs designed to implement multi-benefit ecosystem protection and restoration projects that further the objectives of the California Water Action Plan.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CDFW	Administer the Fisheries Restoration Grant	X	X	X	X	X	X	

	Program to fund projects that restore, enhance or protect anadromous salmonid habitat in anadromous watersheds of California.							
CDFW	Participate in the <a href="#">Central Valley Joint Venture</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC, CDFW	Participate in the <a href="#">San Francisco Bay Joint Venture</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	Participate in the Pacific Coast Joint Venture	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CDFW	Assist private landowners with the management of wetland habitat through the <a href="#">California Waterfowl Habitat Program</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CDFW	Assist private landowners with enhancing wetlands, native grasslands, and riparian habitat through the <a href="#">Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CDFW	Administer the <a href="#">Permanent Wetland Easement Program</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SSJDC	Lead the <a href="#">Delta Restoration Network</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CDFW, SSJDC	Work with federal, state, and local agencies, and the Delta stakeholder community to develop the <a href="#">Delta Conservation Framework</a> , a 25-year, high-level conservation framework for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Yolo Bypass, and Suisun Marsh, to guide protection, enhancement, restoration, and adaptive management of Delta ecosystems and their ecological functions to benefit human and natural communities.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	Continue to lead the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project in advancing wetland science, education, and public access as well as restoring, protecting, and enhancing wetlands throughout southern California.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	Participate in the formation of a Central Coast Joint Venture.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	Continue to lead and expand the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program in Santa Cruz County.	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CSCC	Support implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program.	X	X	X	X	X	X	

CSCC, CDFW	Support implementation of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Tidal Wetland Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SWRCB CDFW	Support the San Francisco Restoration Authority's efforts to restore, enhance and protect wetlands through efficient permitting processes.							


**Table 4: Water Quality Standards for Wetlands**

Responsible agencies	Planned activities	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Potential Partners
<b><i>Wetland Water Quality Standards</i></b>								
SWRCB	Research and develop draft report	X						
SWRCB	Pilot projects with Regional Boards	X						
SWRCB	Draft final report and recommendations for implementation		X					

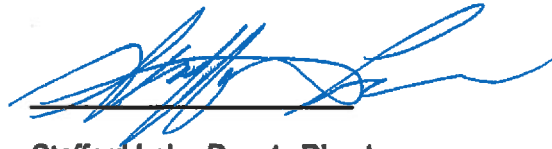
## ACRONYMS

<b>BIOS</b>	Biogeographic Information and Observation System
<b>BCDC</b>	San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
<b>CalEPA</b>	California Environmental Protection Agency
<b>CDPR</b>	California Department of Parks and Recreation
<b>CEDEN</b>	California Environmental Data Exchange Network
<b>CEQA</b>	California Environmental Quality Act
<b>CFR</b>	Code of Federal Regulations
<b>CIWQS</b>	California Integrated Water Quality System
<b>CRAM</b>	California Rapid Assessment Method
<b>CEMW</b>	California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup
<b>CWMW</b>	California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup
<b>CDFW</b>	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>CSCC</b>	California State Coastal Conservancy
<b>CWQMC</b>	California Water Quality Monitoring Council
<b>DWR</b>	California Department of Water Resources
<b>ICC</b>	Interagency Coordinating Committee
<b>NRCS</b>	Natural Resources Conservation Service
<b>SSJDC</b>	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
<b>SWRCB</b>	California State Water Resources Control Board
<b>SWAMP</b>	Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
<b>USEPA</b>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<b>WRAMP</b>	Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan

**10. Plan Authorization** We, the undersigned, have reviewed this Wetlands Conservation Program Workplan and direct our respective staff to work cooperatively towards its development and implementation as resources allow.



**Karen Larsen, Deputy Director  
Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board**



**Stafford Lehr, Deputy Director  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Natural Resources Agency**



**Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon  
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