FY 2021-2022 Delta Crosscut Budget Report

Building an Effective Delta Science Enterprise



Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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The Delta Science Enterprise

State and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academic institutions fund and implement a wide variety of science programs and activities across the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Together, these activities constitute the Delta science community and inform a network of regional managers and stakeholders.

Delta Plan Interagency Committee (DPIIC)

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Delta Reform Act) charged the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) with "establish[ing] and oversee[ing] a committee of agencies responsible for implementing the Delta Plan. Each agency shall coordinate its actions pursuant to the Delta Plan with the Council and the other relevant agencies." (CA Water Code Section 85204)

The Council established the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) after adoption of the Delta Plan in 2013 and continues to coordinate and oversee its activities as required by the Delta Reform Act.

DPIIC strives to facilitate Delta Plan implementation through collaboration in support of shared national, statewide, and local goals for the Delta. The Council aims to craft agendas that highlight the interconnections of the Delta Plan with initiatives, plans, or programs of DPIIC agencies. DPIIC explores opportunities to align agencies' actions in the Delta watershed, showcases DPIIC agencies' achievements, and guides actions to address pressing issues affecting Delta Plan implementation. These agencies are vital to making progress on achieving the coequal goals through four key elements: water supply reliability, Delta ecosystem health and restoration, Delta as a Place, and best available science in support of "<u>One Delta, One Science</u>."

Coequal goals refers to the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place. (CA Water Code Section 85054)

Foreword

The fourth annual Delta Crosscut Budget Report serves as a valuable tool to help Delta decision-makers understand how we fund science and restoration. This initiative began in 2018 with an initial goal of improving the efficiency of science funding in the system. With the inclusion of restoration funding in 2019, we are now able to report more broadly on how state, federal, and local funds are being spent in the Delta. The collection of this data also helps us understand where additional investments in both science and restoration are needed.

As Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) members use the best available science to implement adaptive management in service to achieving the coequal goals, our understanding of how and why we are spending these funds becomes more important.

In April 2023, DPIIC gathered at Dutch Slough Tidal Restoration Project to see an example of a significant restoration site that utilizes science on a daily basis to implement restoration. Our science investments are also investments in habitat restoration. This year's funding data is a valuable resource for informing the continued efforts of DPIIC member agencies.

The Delta Stewardship Council and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — the DPIIC agencies coordinating this effort — are pleased to continue spearheading the development of Delta Crosscut Budget Reports. We are heartened by the continued participation of DPIIC's leaders to annually report this essential information in a transparent and usable way as we work together to build a healthier and more adaptable Delta.

Virginia Maduiño

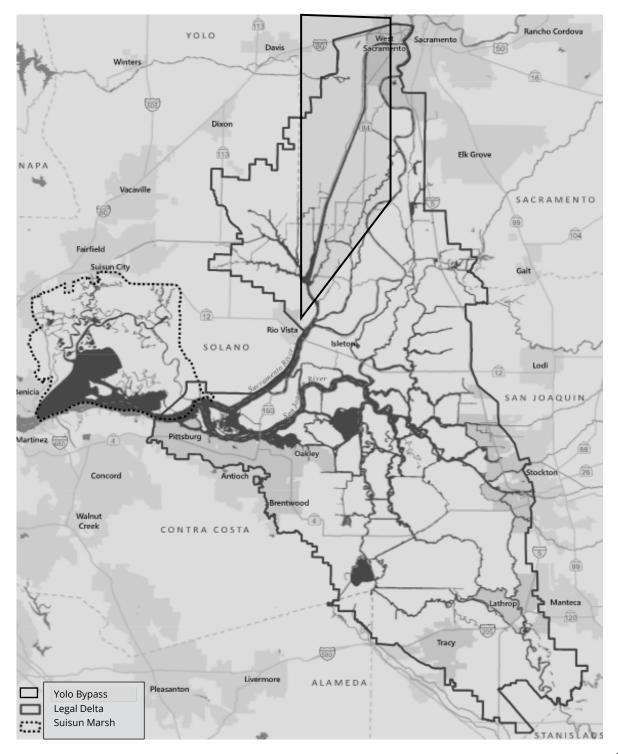
Virginia Madueño Chair, Delta Stewardship Council

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Ernest Conant Regional Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Map of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

The geographic boundary for the Delta Crosscut Budget is the legal Delta, Yolo Bypass, and Suisun Marsh. This is the area referred to as the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta or simply, the Delta throughout the report. Source: DSC 2018a (image modified for accessibility).



FY 2021-22 Delta Crosscut Budget Reporting

This Delta Crosscut Budget Report provides a summary of State, federal, and local investments in science activities in the Delta during the state fiscal year July 2021–June 2022 (FY 2021–22). The Delta Crosscut Budget Report replaces the Interim Federal Action Plan (IFAP). Twelve agencies reported their funding activities for this fiscal year (see table below for agencies and water contractors with their associated acronyms).

Acronym	Agency
BC/P/WS IDs	Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus irrigation districts*
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Council	Delta Stewardship Council
Delta Conservancy	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
Reclamation	United States Bureau of Reclamation
SLDMWA	San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
SWC	State Water Contractors
SWRCB	California State Water Resources Control Board
USGS	United States Geological Survey
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Table 1 | Funding Agencies and Their Associated Acronyms

*Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus irrigation districts are independent irrigation districts, but they reported their science funding as a shared lump sum and therefore are listed together.

Science Funding Accomplishments

The report features green boxes with project highlights from participating agencies that showcase results of science funding and habitat work being done throughout the Delta.

Delta Crosscut Budget Science Investment Reporting FY 2021-22

The funding analysis and reporting that follows focuses on science activity categories, total expenditures, funding sources, and reimbursability. The funding template included other metrics, but those were omitted from the following analysis because reporting in those categories was inconsistent across agencies; partial information on those metrics is available within the raw data files. Data was rounded to the tenth decimal point.

Science Activities Definitions

Core Monitoring: Monitoring that provides information on a seasonal and daily basis to inform specific decisions on operations for water supply and fish species status. Core monitoring is conducted almost entirely to fulfill requirements for regulatory compliance.

Status and Trends Monitoring: Monitoring that contributes to long-term datasets used to compare environmental conditions (e.g., species populations, water quality) over time. Information improves system understanding and can be applicable to a variety of management decisions rather than a specific action. Status and trends monitoring is primarily required for regulatory compliance, although it may also be associated with non-regulatory efforts.

Synthesis: The combining of diverse information from multiple sources into one concept, model, finding, or report.

Targeted Foundational Research: Science efforts that provide the knowledge and context to inform long-term management and policymaking, while also identifying and understanding emerging issues so that natural resource managers can be better prepared for future challenges. This is not typically supported by funds allocated for science efforts linked to regulatory requirements.

Targeted Immediate Research: Science efforts that answer current management questions by providing evidence to support or refute hypotheses. This is not typically supported by funds allocated for science efforts linked to regulatory requirements.

Some of this science is required under existing regulations and some investments are voluntary, in that the science is conducted by agencies to provide additional information not required under regulation but that expands understanding of the system's dynamics. While any of these categories can be regulatory or non-regulatory, core monitoring, status and trends monitoring, and synthesis are most often activities required under existing regulations, and targeted foundational research and targeted immediate research activities are most often voluntary science investments.

Figure 1 | Total FY 2021–22 Science Expenditures by State Agencies, Federal Agencies, and water contractors (in percent of total funds and millions of dollars)



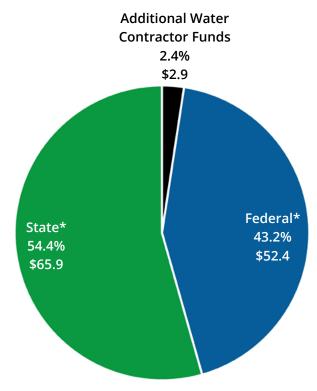


Figure 1 illustrates how the total reported \$121.3 million science expenditures were funded:

- **State agencies*** funded 54.4% or \$65.9 million of expenditures;
- Federal agencies* funded 43.2% or \$52.4 million of expenditures; and
- Additional water contractor funding contributed 2.4% or \$2.9 million of expenditures.

*Water contractors contribute to both DWR and Reclamation expenditures. However, the figure does not reflect what proportion of the expenditures reported by the DWR and Reclamation are paid for by the contractors (i.e., reimbursable) and what proportion comes from other State and federal funding sources. That information is provided for Reclamation's funding in Figure 6.

Figure 2 | Total FY 2021–22 Science Expenditures by Project Category (in percent of total funds and millions of dollars)

Figure 2 illustrates how expenditures this fiscal year are distributed across project categories:

- **Core monitoring** received the largest share of funding, accounting for 41% or \$49.7 million of total expenditures;
- Status and trend monitoring received the second largest share, accounting for 22.8% or \$27.7 million;
- Targeted immediate research accounted for 17.7% or \$21.5 million;
- Targeted foundational research accounted for 14% or \$16.9 million; and
- **Synthesis** accounted for 4.5% or \$5.5 million.

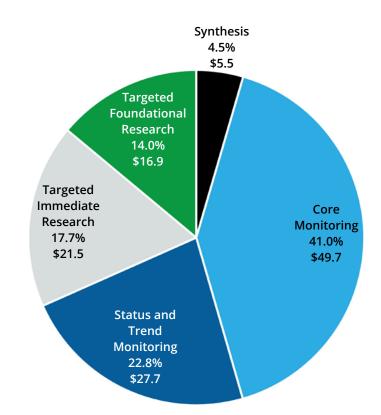


Figure 3 | Comparison of Science Expenditure (in millions of dollars) in FY 2018–19, FY 2019–20, FY 2020–21, and FY 2021–22 by Project Category

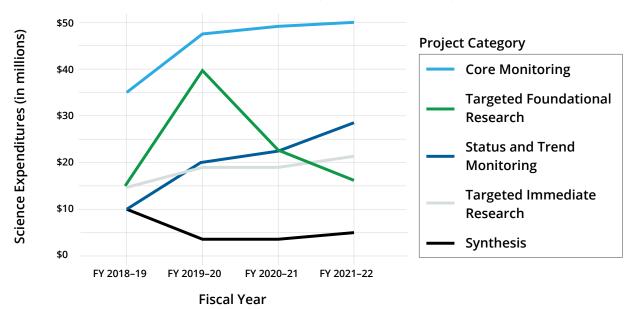


Figure 3 illustrates the differences across the spending categories from FY 2018–19 to FY 2021–22. Over the past four years, three of the five project categories have seen growth in expenditures: core monitoring, status and trend monitoring, and targeted immediate research.

- **Core monitoring** received \$37 million in FY 2018–19, \$47 million in FY 2019–20, \$48 million in FY 2020–21, and \$50 million in FY 2021–22 (36% to 41% of total expenditures);
- **Status and trends monitoring** received \$10 million in FY 2018–19, \$19 in FY 2019–20, \$22 million in FY 2020–21, and \$28 million in FY 2021–22 (11% to 24% of total expenditures); and
- **Targeted immediate research** received \$15 million in FY 2018–19, \$18 million in FY 2019–20, \$19 million in FY 2020–21, and \$22 million in FY 2021–22 (14% to 18% of total expenditures).

Expenditures toward **targeted foundational research** appear more varied: they total \$16 million in FY 2018–19, \$40 million in FY 2019–20, \$23 million in FY 2020–21, and \$16.9 million in this report (FY 2021–22) (14% to 31% of total expenditures). The FY 2019–20 expenditures in this category are notable with an almost two-fold increase over the next closest year (FY 2021–22); this sizeable jump was driven by a single year investment of just over \$10 million in science by Reclamation to support the Reinitiation of Consultation for Long Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project underway that year and \$4.2 million from DWR to support model development, maintenance, and documentation for DSM2, CalSim, and SCHISM.

Synthesis received \$5 million in FY 2021–22, up slightly over \$4 million in FY 2020–21 and FY 2019–20, and still below the high of \$10 million in FY 2018–19 (3% to 11% of total expenditures).

Two important notes for understanding the limits of the report's multi-year comparisons:

- Although these comparisons do provide some insight into changing expenditures, total expenditures by category (Figure 3) and by agency (Figures 4A & 4B) are not directly comparable. The three largest funding agencies remained the same across all four years of reporting, but other funding agencies reporting have varied across years. In addition, some spending may have gone unreported in the first years of the report due to different interpretations of the geographic scope (e.g., projects in the Yolo Bypass or Suisun Marsh may have been excluded).
- This reporting is focused on expenditures, not obligations. Because funds obligated in a given year are not necessarily spent that year, an annual increase or decrease in expenditures does not necessarily indicate budget growth or contraction.

Table 2 | Science Funding Sources by Agency

Table 2 illustrates that all agencies except Reclamation and Council reported science funding from a single source for this year's report.

Agency	Funding Source
BC/P/WS IDs	Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus irrigation districts
CDFW	California Proposition 1 (Prop 1)
Council	General Fund
Council	Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF)
Delta Conservancy	General Fund
DWR	State Water Project Fund
Reclamation	California Bay Delta Restoration Fund (CBDRF)
Reclamation	Central Valley Project Restoration Fund (CVPRF)
Reclamation	Water and Related Resources (W&RR)
SLDMWA	San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA)
SWRCB	General Fund
SWC	State Water Contractor's Board of Directors (SWC Board)
USFWS	FWS Resource Management
USGS	Congressional Appropriations

On the next page, figures 4A and 4B represent science expenditures by agency across the four years of reported data. The data is split into two graphs: Figure 4A shows the four largest funding agencies (with expenditures above \$5 million annually) and Figure 4B shows the other eight agencies (with expenditures less than \$5 million annually).



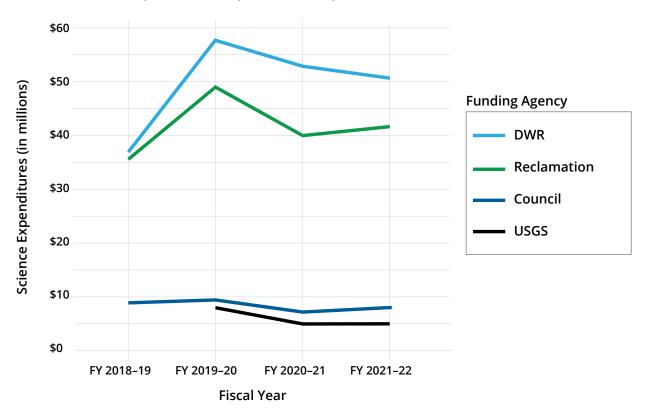


Figure 4 A | Total Science Expenditures (in millions of dollars) by Funding Agency (agencies reporting expenditures above \$5 million) across FY 2018–19, FY 2019–20, FY 2020–21, and FY 2021–22

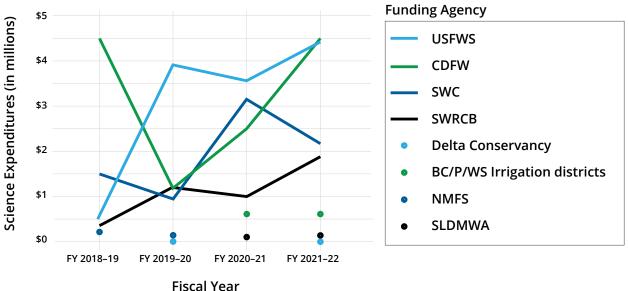
DWR and Reclamation are consistently the first and second largest spenders on science respectively.

- Their expenditure totals follow similar trends, peaking in FY 2019–20 (DWR at \$57 million and Reclamation at \$48.9 million) and then decreasing in FY 2021–22 (DWR to \$52.7 million and Reclamation to \$39.4 million); and
- This year, DWR's spending decreased slightly (to \$52.1 million) and Reclamation's increased modestly (to \$43 million).

The Council and USGS have reported relatively consistent expenditures across the four-year period:

- The Council has reported between \$8.1 and \$9.3 million all four years;
- In FY 2021–22, the Council spent \$8.5 million; around \$668k was spent on the Delta Independent Science Board, which provides scientific oversight of programs that support adaptive management in the region; and
- USGS, which did not contribute data in FY 2018–19, has reported between \$5 and \$6.7 million in subsequent years. One caveat: USGS expenditures this year, FY 2021-22, were estimated at \$5 million, rather than resulting from a formal accounting like the other agencies.





- Agencies spending between \$1 and \$5 million CDFW, USFWS, and the State Water Contractors (via their additional contributions above and beyond those contributed through DWR) — show variations in expenditures across years;
- SWRCB's expenditures rose more gradually (from \$344,000 in FY 2018–19 to \$1.7 million in FY 2021–22) but without the variability seen in other agencies; and
- For the other agencies Delta Conservancy, NMFS, SLDMWA, and BC/P/ WS Irrigation districts — data was only collected for two years each, as indicated by the single dots in the graph above.

Reclamation Meridian Farms Pump Replacement Project

This project will reduce fish mortality due to diversions of water at the Meridian Farms Water Co. on the Sacramento River, near Meridian, CA. The new pump intakes at the 135 cfs diversion will be screened, reducing the mortality of juvenile salmonids. The project will replace the outdated pumps and install fish screens on the new intakes. The project is scheduled for completion in FY 2026.

DWR Suisun Marsh Program

In FY 2022, the Suisun Marsh Program successfully completed reconstruction of the DWR Beldon's Landing Water Quality Station, which is an integral part of the agency's water quality monitoring program, and supports Delta Smelt and fisheries research in the area.

Figure 5 | Total FY 2021–22 Science Expenditures by Funding Source (in percent of total funds and millions of dollars)

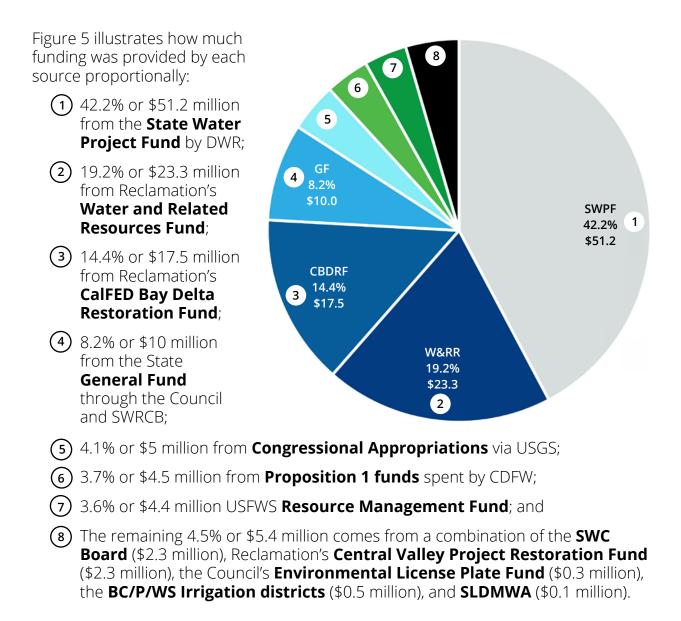
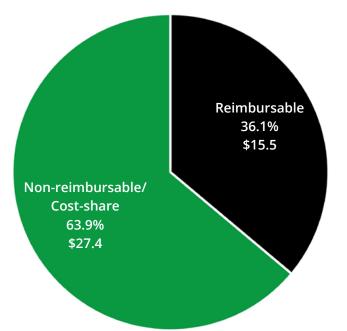


Figure 6 | Total FY 2021–22 US Bureau of Reclamation "Reimbursability" of Science Expenditures (in percent of total funds and millions of dollars)



- 36.1% or \$15.5 million of Reclamation's science expenditures were **reimbursable**. In general, reimbursable costs are recovered from the Central Valley Project water contractors and power customers through existing rate structures; and
- 63.9% or \$27.4 million were **non**reimbursable/cost-share with the State.



Long-term CDFW Science and Restoration Investments

In FY 2022–23, CDFW continued funding for important research, including studying the prevalence of cyanobacteria and HAB toxins in Delta invertebrates, effects of storm-driven contaminants on Delta smelt, quantification of genetic and epigenetic adaptation characteristics in Delta smelt, and accretion of blue carbon in Delta wetlands. CDFW also funded habitat restoration, including the Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project, which is expected to improve habitat quality, diversity, and connectivity along four miles of channel.

Delta Crosscut Budget Habitat Investment Reporting FY 2021–22

For the third year, the Crosscut Budget data collection effort included collection of habitat restoration project investments. Habitat projects refer to a range of projects, including federal Biological Opinion and State Incidental Take Permit restoration as well as other habitat investments associated with flood and multi-benefit projects.

The Crosscut Budget's primary purpose of providing a better understanding of science funding remains. However, this part of the report provides insight into the cost of habitat projects, which is useful given that the **implementation of these projects is tied to ongoing learning and adaptive management.** This means that they are important to planning for long-term science funding and overall policy direction.

There is interest in **using this data to explore questions** such as whether there is enough investment in science to understand the benefits of habitat restoration, and conversely, whether habitat restoration is occurring at a scale needed to inform scientific understanding of ecological processes. The habitat expenditures reported included acquisition costs, permitting costs, construction costs, and ongoing post-construction costs. Synthesis, monitoring, and research accompanying habitat projects (e.g., pre/post restoration monitoring or research to inform the design of a restoration project) continued to be reported as part of the science investments described in the section above.

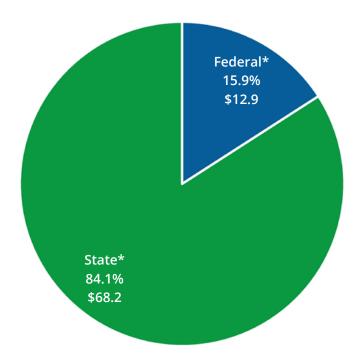
Four agencies provided submissions, Reclamation, DWR, CDFW, and Delta Conservancy, up from three in FY 2020–21. DWR's submittal only reflects some of its habitat expenditures, in that it does not include projects funded through the Division of Multibenefit Initiatives. The lack of reporting by other agencies does not necessarily signify they did not have restoration funding, but rather, they may not have had capacity or time to submit data this year.



Figure 7 | Total FY 2021–22 Habitat Expenditures by State Agencies and Federal Agencies (in percent of total funds and millions of dollars)

Figure 7 illustrates how the total \$81.2 million in habitat expenditures were funded:

- 84.1% or \$68.2 million of reported habitat expenditures were by **State Agencies** (DWR*, CDFW and Delta Conservancy); and
- 15.9% or \$12.9 million of reported habitat expenditures were by Federal Agencies (Reclamation*).



*Water contractors contribute to both DWR and Reclamation expenditures. However, the figure does not reflect what proportion of the expenditures reported by the DWR and Reclamation are paid for by the contractors (i.e., reimbursable) and what proportion comes from other State and federal funding sources. This information is available for Reclamation's funding in Figure 10.

Table 3 Funding Sources by Agency for Habitat Expenditures

Table 3 lists the funding sources utilized by each agency for habitat expenditures reported this year.

Agency	Funding Source
CDFW	California Proposition 1 (Prop 1)
CDFW	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)
Delta Conservancy	California Proposition 1 (Prop 1)
Delta Conservancy	General Fund
DWR	State Water Project Fund
Reclamation	California Bay Delta Restoration Fund (CBDRF)
Reclamation	Central Valley Project Restoration Fund (CVPRF)
Reclamation	Water & Related Resources (W&RR)

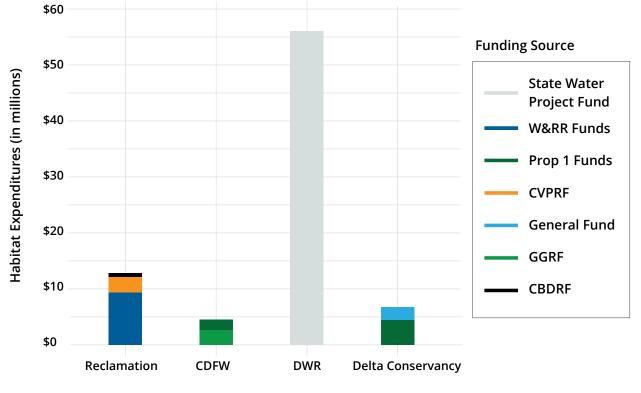


Figure 8 | Total FY 2020–21 Habitat Expenditures (in millions of dollars) by Funding Agency and Funding Source

Funding Agency

Figure 8 shows habitat expenditures for Reclamation, CDFW, DWR, and Delta Conservancy broken down by funding source. In the legend, the funding sources are listed in order of total dollars contributed from that source (most to least).

- **Reclamation** reported \$12.9 million in habitat funding, with \$8.9 million from the Water and Related Resources Fund, \$3.6 million from the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund, and \$0.4 million from the California Bay Delta Restoration Fund;
- **CDFW** reported \$4.5 million in habitat funding, with \$3 million from Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and \$1.5 million from Prop 1 funds;
- **DWR** reported \$56 million in habitat funding from the State Water Project Fund; and
- **The Delta Conservancy** reported \$7.7 million in habitat funding, with \$4.5 million from Prop 1 funds and \$3.2 million from the General Fund.

Altogether, reported habitat expenditures totaled \$81.1 million.

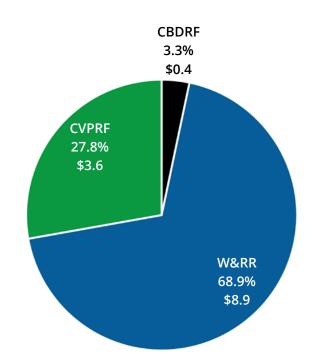
DWR Fish Restoration Program

In 2022, DWR broke ground on the Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project. Located at the southern end of the Yolo Bypass, the project will restore approximately 3,000 acres of land to tidal habitat and increase bypass capacity by the same amount. DWR expects to complete construction in Fall 2024.

Figure 9 | US Bureau of Reclamation FY 2021–22 Habitat Expenditures by Funding Source (in percent of total funds and millions of dollars)

Figure 9 illustrates that:

- 68.9% of all Reclamation's reported FY 2021–22 habitat expenditures came from the Water and Related Resources Fund, for a total of \$8.9 million;
- The Central Valley Project Restoration Fund supported 27.8% or \$3.6 million of reported habitat expenditures; and
- The California Bay Delta Restoration Fund accounted for 3.3% or \$0.4 million of reported habitat expenditures.





Delta Conservancy's Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program

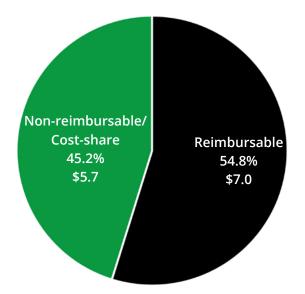
During FY 2022–23, the Delta Conservancy awarded a total of \$24 million to eight projects to advance ecosystem restoration, climate resiliency, and nature-based solutions on more than 7,000 acres in the Delta and the Suisun Marsh.

Figure 10 | US Bureau of Reclamation FY 2021–22 Reimbursability of Habitat Expenditures (in percent of total funds and millions of dollars)

Figure 10 illustrates the reimbursability of Reclamation's habitat expenditures. In FY 2021–22:

- 54.8% or \$7 million of reported habitat expenditures were reimbursable; and
- The remaining 45.2% or \$5.7 million, were **non-reimbursable or cost-shares with the State.**

In general, reimbursable costs are recovered from Central Valley Project water contractors and power customers through existing rate structures.





Accounting and Reporting Protocols

The following is a summary of the common accounting and reporting protocols used by participants in the Crosscut Budget. These provide participants with a universal and consistent method for accounting and reporting science expenditures for the Delta. All reporting agencies agreed to use the State's fiscal year to provide a common reporting period.

DPIIC representatives from the Council, DWR, DFW, NMFS, Reclamation, USFWS, USGS, and State and Federal water contractors collaborated on the development of these protocols.

The following common accounting and reporting protocols were developed:

- Standard Reporting Template;
- Standard Definitions;
- List of Reporting Participants; and
- Definition of Science Categories for Reporting.

Standard Reporting Template

The standard reporting template includes fields for funding agencies to provide information regarding the following:

- **Project Category:** Primary, secondary categories, and sub-purposes are identified, where appropriate, for those actions that meet multiple needs.
- **Geographic Scope:** Actions are limited to those directly/mainly in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Yolo, and Suisun Marsh.
- **Appropriating Agency:** Actions are only reported by the agency that appropriated the funding to implement the work.
- **Timing of Expenditure:** Expenditures and obligations reported are based on the State fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).
- Audit Codes & Regulations: Expenditures and obligations reported are consistent, to the extent practicable, with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit requirements for Federal Awards).

List of Reporting Participants

The total number of agencies participating in reporting increased by four since the first report in FY 2018–19. Some DPIIC agencies did not report because they either did not fund any science during FY 2021–22 or were unable to provide information for this reporting period.

The participating agencies for FY 2021–22 were Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Water Resources, California State Water Resources Control Board, Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Conservancy, Patterson Irrigation District, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, State Water Contractors, United States Bureau of Reclamation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Geological Survey, and West Stanislaus Irrigation District.

Definitions of Categories for Reporting

The white paper, "Funding Science to Meet Tomorrow's Challenges" (available in Appendix 3 of linked document), provided standardized definitions for categories of science activities which were then adopted into the Delta Science Funding Initiative Implementation Report's template for implementing an annual crosscut budget that was endorsed at DPIIC's November 2019 meeting.

Since expenditures for habitat restoration were not included as part of the science categories or collected as part of the first year of reporting, a DPIIC Subgroup met in Summer 2019 to develop additional categories for the habitat investments to be collected as part of future budget reports (i.e., acquisition costs, permitting costs, construction costs, and ongoing post-construction costs). Those categories will continue to be refined in coming years.

Data Collection and Quality

Process for Data Collection

Council staff worked with DPIIC representatives to collect the data. Participating agencies were asked to complete the standard reporting template. The appropriating agency — not the implementing agency — reported expenditures.

Process for Quality Accuracy and Quality Control (QAQC)

The Council and Reclamation reviewed the data, identifying — where possible — potential inaccuracies, data gaps, and potential double-counting of expenditures.

Contact Information

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