



## **INFORMATION ITEM**

### **Pacific Flyway Center Project Presentation**

#### Summary

The Pacific Flyway Center Project (project) submitted a certification of consistency to the Council as a covered action in 2021 and held the groundbreaking for Phase 1 in 2023. The purpose of the project is to raise awareness of the Pacific Flyway through the creation of an 845-acre wetland preserve with an adjacent interpretive nature and educational facility located in the southwest portion of the City of Fairfield at the edge of Suisun Marsh. Their mission is to educate the public about the importance of migratory bird conservation within the Pacific Flyway, which is part of a major north-south migration route for birds in the Americas, extending from Alaska to Patagonia. A large focus will be on youth education to foster an appreciation for conservation. As a way to stay connected to covered action projects that have filed certifications of consistency, staff invited Veronica Cornett from Pacific Flyway Fund to present today on the progress and status of the project to date.

#### Background

The City of Fairfield, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), submitted a Certification of Consistency to the Council on May 3, 2021, and the certification was not appealed. The lead agency filed a Notice of Determination for the project, completing the CEQA process on December 7, 2022.

The Certification of Consistency for the project identified detailed findings to establish consistency with the Delta Plan and applicable Council regulations (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5001 et seq.), pertaining to, among other things, the coequal goals, mitigation measures, best available science and adaptive management.

The project just received \$ 1.9 million in a Climate, Access, and Resource (CAR) Grant from the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta Conservancy to help this multi-

benefit project. Phase 1 of the project, which broke ground in 2023, is the 124-acre "Walk in the Marsh," a trail with new ponds and restored vegetation for viewing birds and other wildlife. The Walk in the Marsh will stretch almost a mile and take visitors deep into the wetlands through an extensive series of winding paths with interpretive displays and raised boardwalks featuring viewing hides for bird and wildlife watching. Once the project is completed, there will be interactive bird, plant, and wildlife identification apps using electronic technology and dipping ponds where youth educational programs can gather and examine invertebrates that are vital to the marsh.

### Today's Presentation

The Pacific Flyway Fund is a non-profit organization that partners with California Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, National Audubon Society, UC Davis, International Bird Rescue, and Suisun Resource Conservation District to fulfill its mission. Veronica Cornett the Pacific Flyway Center Project Manager will discuss the history, progress status, successes, and future goals of the project. The project will create, restore, enhance, and manage wetlands on the site as an open space preserve and wildlife habitat conservation area with an interpretive and educational facility. The intent of the project is to educate the public about the societal importance of the conservation of migratory birds and their aquatic habitat within the Pacific Flyway. The design elements of the project involved several state and federal agencies led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Marine Fishery Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the San Francisco Bay.

### Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

### List of Attachments

No attachments.

## Contact

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