

Suisun Resource Conservation District

Five Year Strategic Plan

2025-2029



Table of Contents



Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director.....3

Vision and Mission.....4

Legislated Authority.....5

About Suisun Resource Conservation District.....6

SRCD Highlights.....7

Natural Resource Issues.....8

Landowner Priority Objectives.....9

Long Range Strategic Goals.....13

SRCD Program Summaries.....17-24

Suggested citation: Suisun Resource Conservation District. 2025. Five Year Strategic Plan, 2025-2029. Suisun Resource Conservation District. Suisun City, CA. 26pp.



Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director



Dear Suisun Marsh Community,

On behalf of the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) Board of Directors and staff, we are pleased to present our new Five Year Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2029. This Plan builds on our previous Five-Year Strategic Plan updated with contributions from the Suisun Marsh landowners, club members, partner organizations, government agencies, stakeholders, SRCD staff, Associate Directors, and Board of Directors.

SRCD's Vision and Mission statements remain the same, and SRCD's legislated authority to improve water management practices on privately owned lands within the Primary Management areas of the Suisun Marsh remains unchanged. This new Five-Year Strategic Plan provides SRCD with the opportunity to assess existing SRCD programs effectiveness, re-prioritize SRCD program delivery, and pursue new initiatives and programs to benefit Suisun Marsh landowners and wetland habitats. We also consider how our goals can be achieved within budgetary limitations and SRCD staffing constraints.

This Plan revision highlights SRCD accomplishments over the past 5 years, identifies continuing and new key natural resource issues facing the landowners, and provides a stakeholder-driven assessment from responses to a questionnaire and prioritized list of SRCD programs. The assessment was distilled into 11 strategic long-term goals for SRCD to pursue and implement over the next five years. This Plan will help provide the road map for SRCD program improvements and increased effectiveness.

In 1963, the Suisun Marsh landowners came together to form the Suisun Soil Conservation District which in 1970 became the Suisun Resource Conservation District. For the past 62 years, the District has developed and expanded programs to meet the needs of the landowners while supporting the stewardship and conservation of Suisun Marsh.

In the first Annual Suisun Soil Conservation District Report 1965, Dr. William Coon, Chairman, Board of Directors of the Suisun Soil Conservation District stated, *"Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of the District to date is the intangible – the Suisun Marsh and farmlands now have a spokesman and a rallying point. Somebody cares, and everybody knows it. This concern has been warmly welcomed by interested state and federal personnel. However, even the most worthwhile programs can slip backward or reach a plateau of little progress, and the best way to avoid this is to continue to gain momentum."*

Sixty years later, these words still ring true today! With the continued efforts of SRCD's dedicated staff, Board of Directors, and the support of the Suisun Marsh landowners, this Five-Year Strategic Plan will help us all *"keep up the momentum"* to continue to conserve and protect Suisun Marsh's amazing wetland and wildlife resources into the future.

Sincerely yours,

Tony Vaccarella, Board Chair

Steve Chappell, Executive Director



Vision and Mission



Vision

Improve programs and services to provide the Suisun Marsh landowners technical assistance in habitat management, water control, and permitting to ensure the wetland and wildlife values of the Suisun Marsh are sustained and enhanced.

Mission

The Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) works collaboratively with private landowners, local, State, and Federal agencies and conservation organizations to meet the environmental and conservation needs of the Suisun Marsh, Solano County, and the San Francisco Bay-Delta of California for future generations. SRCD's historic goal has been to achieve a water supply of sufficient quality so that preferred wetland habitat conditions and wildlife values can be retained through appropriate management practices. SRCD seeks to implement existing programs and develop new efforts aimed at protecting and enhancing the Suisun Marsh wetland and wildlife resources.



Legislated Authority



The principal legislative Act that governs Resource Conservation Districts in California is Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code. As a resource conservation district, the SRCD is empowered to coordinate resource management efforts for purposes of watershed restoration and enhancement (*Id.* at §§ 9001(b) (1) and (3)).

The California Public Resources Code also empowers resource conservation districts to control runoff, prevent and control soil erosion, protect water quality, develop and distribute water, improve land capabilities, and facilitate coordinated resource management efforts for watershed restoration and enhancement (*Id.* at §§ 9003, 9960 *et seq.*).

In 1977, the California Legislature enacted the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act, which stated that “The Suisun Marsh represents a unique and irreplaceable resource to the people of this state and nation; that future residential, commercial, and industrial developments could adversely affect the wildlife value of the area; and that it is the policy of the state to preserve and protect resources of this nature for the enjoyment of the current and succeeding generations” (*Id.* at § 29002).

The Suisun Marsh Preservation Act empowered SRCD with the “...primary local responsibility for regulating and improving water management practices on privately owned lands within the primary management area of the Suisun Marsh” (*Id.* at § 9962). Also, SRCD was given the authority to issue regulations requiring compliance with any water management plan or program for privately owned lands within the primary management area.



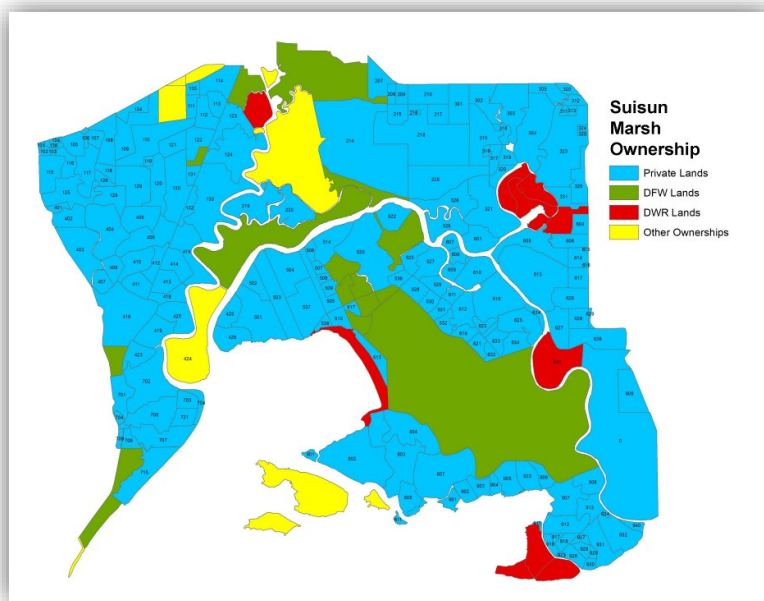
About the Suisun Resource Conservation District

Suisun Marsh is the largest brackish wetland in the Pacific Flyway and comprises 10% of California's remaining natural wetlands. It has an extensive waterfowl hunting heritage that predates the late 1800's. It is comprised of public and private ownerships, including duck clubs that support more than 221 bird species, 45 mammal species, 40 fish species, and 36 species of reptiles and amphibians. Among them are several rare, endangered, or unique species.

The region includes about 116,000 acres which comprises approximately 50,000 acres of managed wetlands, 9,000 acres of unmanaged tidal wetlands, 30,000 acres of bays and sloughs, and 27,000 acres of upland grasslands. SRCD fulfills a role of representing landowners, agencies, organizations, and private citizens.

Today, SRCD provides the landowners technical assistance and support in environmental permitting, water control and habitat management, and grants and cost share programs to ensure the wetland and wildlife values of the Suisun Marsh are sustained and enhanced. SRCD also coordinates with numerous government agencies to represent landowner interests and concerns.

The SRCD Board of Directors is the governing body for the special district, comprised of five unpaid members appointed to 4-year terms. SRCD has 8 full-time and 2 part-time staff and are led by the Executive Director. Staff members provide assistance and direction to the landowners of Suisun Marsh to benefit habitat management. SRCD also owns and manages the 1,330 acre Lower Joice Island located between Suisun and Montezuma Sloughs on the south-west side of the Marsh.



Suisun Resource Conservation District Highlights

Over the last 5 years —

- Worked with landowners to meet dissolved oxygen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) targets in tidal slough channels and conducted water quality monitoring of dissolved oxygen levels
- Completed revision and certification for 132 Individual Ownership Adaptive Habitat Management Plans by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. These plans were updated in 2022 for the first time since the 1980s
- Developed a process to annually update Individual Management Plans for changes made under the Regional General Permit 3 (RGP 3) and updated 82 plans
- Administered the RGP 3 permit and renewed the 5 year permit in 2023
- Administered the Suisun Marsh dredging program and reissued the RGP 47 permit in 2025
- Obtained a grant to support the Belden's Landing Water Access Facility
- Received 2 grants from the California Department of Food and Agriculture for Pest Weed Control in Suisun Marsh
- Worked with CWA and USGS to document production of blue carbon in managed wetlands with different hydrology and management treatments
- Played a leading role in the range-wide survey of the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse with support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Completed a socioecological study on *Phragmites* control efforts in Suisun Marsh with five university partners supported by a \$1M grant from the Delta Stewardship Council
- Obtained 2 San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority grants for \$1.8M to assess and renovate Suisun Marsh fish screen facilities
- Managed the SMPA Preservation Act Implementation (PAI) cost share program. Grant funding supported 132 landowner projects with expenditures exceeding \$3.2M
- Redesigned the SRCD website for easier dissemination of information to landowners
- Produced 16 quarterly West Wind Newsletters with each mailed to >400 recipients
- Hosted 9 Suisun Marsh Landowner Workshops
- Completed a 20-year update of a Suisun Marsh Plant Guide and distributed to landowners
- Published peer-reviewed papers on the historical spread of *Phragmites* in Suisun Marsh, a pioneering study on use of a spray drone to control invasive *Lepidium*, and habitat use by salt marsh harvest mice determined with LiDAR imagery
- Managed the annual pest weed control program (*Lepidium* and *Phragmites*)
- Worked with UC Davis on the Fish and Fowl Study on Managed Wetlands
- Supported the Bird Return Program implementation for landowners in Suisun Marsh



Key Natural Resource Issues In Suisun

Waterfowl habitat conservation: Conserving habitats for waterfowl remains the primary goal for most landowners in Suisun Marsh. This includes providing habitat to support abundant wintering waterfowl, migratory populations, and breeding birds.

Water quality and salinity adaptive management: Meeting existing water quality and salinity standards are critical to protect beneficial uses. Retaining the natural resource value of the managed wetlands requires flooding and draining through water control structures and completing leach cycles. This reduces salinity in the soils, promoting waterfowl food plant growth. Drought and increased salinity are predicted challenges facing future wetland managers.

Exterior Levee protection: The primary feature in Suisun Marsh that protects managed wetlands from loss and saltwater intrusion are the exterior levees. Levee maintenance is essential due to threats from rodents (nutria, beavers, muskrats, etc.), wind-waves, frequent winter storm events, and sea-level rise that may increase with climate change.

Fish population enhancement: Suisun Marsh is a nursery area for fish within the greater Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed. Food resources including phytoplankton and zooplankton are developed in the managed wetlands and provide resources for growing smolts and smelt populations in adjacent tidal sloughs.

Endangered species recovery: Several state or federal listed species are found in the Suisun Marsh ecosystem. These include both animals and plants, and special consideration must be given to protect their populations while benefiting other biota.

Tidal marsh restoration: Tidal restoration has been promoted in the estuary as a means to restore historical ecosystems and support recovery of listed species. However, tidal marshes are vulnerable to sea-level rise and involve the conversion of existing managed wetlands into tidal habitat.

Mosquito vector control: During fall flood up, wetlands can serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are carriers of diseases like West Nile virus, which can pose a risk to humans. To control disease transmission, mosquito populations are managed while landowners maintain important habitats for migratory birds.



Landowner Priority Objectives

The Key Natural Resource Issues were used as a framework to establish a list of objectives for the SRCD. Those objectives were then shared with Suisun Marsh stakeholders during the 2025 Spring Landowner Workshops. Participants were asked to rank each goal from a scale of 1 to 6, with 6 representing their highest priority. The 11 objectives listed below are ranked in order of priority based on responses of landowners. SRCD programs and communication outlets were also ranked in order of priority.

- 1. Increase grant dollars for the wetland and wildlife habitat improvement, enhancement and preservation activities in the Marsh. (5.50)*
- 2. Assist private landowners in implementing and improving water management practices consistent with the Duck Clubs 2022 Certified Management Plan. (5.33)*
- 3. Increase partnerships with local, State, and Federal agencies and conservation organizations to support SRCD's Mission. (5.07)*
- 4. Continue environmental permitting for managed wetland operation, maintenance and enhancements activities RGP 3 and Dredging permits. (5.03)*
- 5. Promote the establishment of a long-term funding source for Suisun Marsh exterior levee maintenance. (4.98)*
- 6. Increase monitoring information (water salinity, soil salinity, temperature, DO, pH) provided to landowners for making decisions on wetland management. (4.85)*
- 7. Increase landowner participation in Suisun Marsh policy issues, recruit active SRCD Associate Directors to serve a future SRCD Board members, and increase education outreach to landowner. (4.49)*



Landowner Priority Objectives (continued)

8. *Continue implementation of the 30- year Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation and Restoration Plan. (4.44)*
9. *Provide detailed elevation information of club management structures and marsh surface for planning and club improvements. (4.16)*
10. *Support increased scientific research in Suisun for how managed wetlands export fish food resources to adjacent slough and bay habitats. (4.09)*
11. *Participation in other Delta and Bay conservation planning activities that influence the Marsh. (4.00)*

Existing SRCD Programs Prioritization Rankings:

1. *Water Manager Program*
2. *SMPA PAI Cost Share Program*
3. *RGP 3 Managed Wetland Maintenance Permit*
4. *Pest Weed Control Program- Phragmites*
5. *LOP Levee Maintenance Dredging Permit*
6. *Annual Diversion Reporting Assistance*
7. *Pest Weed Control Program- Lepidium*
8. *Drought Response Program*
9. *Portable Pump Program*
10. *Fish Screen operational support*



SRCD Communications Prioritization Rankings:

1. *Workshops (Spring and Fall)*
2. *Land of the West Wind Newsletter*
3. *SRCD Website*
4. *E-mail Blasts (Mailchimp)*
5. *Phone Calls/Text Messages*
6. *SRCD Annual Reports*
7. *Monthly Board Meetings*
8. *Social Media*



Landowner Priority Objectives (continued)

Suisun Marsh Landowner Assessment of SRCD

(List generated from percentage of responses given for each question that includes one or more of the following phrases or descriptions)

What are Suisun RCD's strengths?

Provides good landowner support, communication, and useful information **(33%)**

Helpful in assistance with permitting compliance, knowledge of regulatory requirements, and program implementation **(28%)**

Staff is hardworking, friendly, approachable, and knowledgeable **(20%)**

What are Suisun RCD's weaknesses?

Needs to improve diversifying information and guidance for the changing landscape of the marsh and marsh landowners **(23%)**

Pursuing funding and resources for levee work, invasive weeds, and other beneficial studies **(18%)**

What do the landowners need most from SRCD?

Assistance with habitat/water management and maintaining Suisun Marsh properties **(33%)**

Support, guidance, and leadership to work with regulatory agencies and outside interests **(24%)**

Pursuit of funding sources and more collective support of goals **(19%)**



Landowner Priority Objectives (continued)

Suisun Marsh Landowner Assessment of SRCD

(List generated from percentage of responses given for each question that includes one or more of the following phrases or descriptions)

What new programs should SRCD be pursuing moving forward?

Levee maintenance assistance **(29%)**

Pest weed management **(23%)**

Habitat Improvement **(16%)**

What type of information is most interesting and valuable?

Property and habitat improvement recommendations **(39%)**

Ongoing biological studies relevant to Suisun Marsh **(29%)**

Suisun Marsh success stories and successful SRCD program stories or reports **(16%)**

Grant funding opportunities for landowners to pursue **(15%)**



Long Range Strategic Goals

Eleven Strategic Goals were established from the list of prioritized objectives and from written and verbal comments offered by stakeholders through discussion forums.

1. Increase wetland and wildlife habitat improvement, enhancement and preservation activities in the Marsh

SRCD seeks grant opportunities to support managed wetland conservation and enhancement projects. We also assist CWA and DU in wetland enhancement project development, design, and delivery, including water management considerations, landowner coordination and permitting. SRCD staff assists landowners and DFW in the maintenance of conical fish screens within the Suisun Marsh including annual removal, cleaning, replacement of cathodic protection, and any necessary repairs.

2. Assist private landowners in implementing and improving water management practices within the Primary Management Area of the Suisun Marsh

Implementation of the Water Manager Program, Portable Pump Program, RGP 3 Dredging Program, and the Preservation Agreement Implementation (PAI) Program. The PAI program provides funds to improve wetland facilities, water management capabilities, and operational efficiency of managed wetlands. SRCD facilitates effective water management and conveyance facility operations on properties with shared water levels or joint-use water control infrastructures.

3. Increase partnerships with local, State and Federal agencies and conservation organizations to support SRCD's Mission

Improve coordination with the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District to ensure effective wetland management, while protecting public health, and safety from vector production. Support CDFW, DWR, and USBR on implementation of the Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement and protection of Suisun Marsh water quality. Assist CWA and DU with the delivery of the Suisun Marsh grant programs to enhance water delivery and habitat management capabilities on public and privately managed wetlands in the Suisun Marsh. Continue to build and expand existing partnerships, and identifying new partnerships, as needed.



Long Range Strategic Goals (continued)

4. Continue streamlining environmental permitting for managed wetland operation, maintenance and enhancement activities

SRCD administers the 2023 Suisun Marsh U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit 3 for ongoing managed wetlands operations and maintenance activities, as well as the new 2025 RGP 47 for the Suisun Marsh Dredging Program. We assist landowners in the completion of reports and measurement of diverted water, burn permit applications, and required smoke management plans for wetland habitat enhancement burns. We participate in the quarterly Suisun Marsh Plan Compliance Team meetings and implement Alternative Plan of Compliance for Diversion Measurement and Reporting.

5. Promote the establishment of a long-term funding source for Suisun Marsh exterior levee maintenance needs

Working with agencies and landowners, we will seek support for long-term levee maintenance. This effort will include participation in the Sedimatch program to match those needing sediment in the estuary with those that have available sediment for exterior levee system improvements.

6. Increase monitoring information (IMP Annual Updates, water salinity, soil salinity, temperature, DO, pH) provided to landowners for making decisions on wetland management.

Relatively inexpensive meters are available that provide measurements of important parameters that influence wetland vegetation. We will seek to provide this monitoring information for landowners to help them assess when to undertake management actions, such as soil salinity management and leach cycles.



Long Range Strategic Goals (continued)

7. Increase landowner participation in Suisun Marsh policy issues, recruit active SRCD Associate Directors to serve as future SRCD Board members, and increase education outreach to local stakeholders

SRCD holds monthly Board meetings on the second Wednesday of every month. It distributes the triennial SRCD Land of the West Wind Newsletter. Holds bi-annual SRCD Landowner Workshops and sub-regional landowner focused meetings. Upgrades and maintains the SRCD website for community outreach and support, and partners with Solano RCD to support Suisun Marsh grade school field trips to Rush Ranch and the Watershed Explorers Program.

8. Continue implementation of the 30-year Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation and Restoration Plan and participation in other Delta and Bay conservation planning activities that influence the Marsh

SRCD participates in relevant meetings, regional planning activities, technical and advisory committees associated with Marsh management, mitigation, water supply, and habitat restoration activities. These memberships include the SMP Principals, SMP Adaptive Management Advisory Team, SMPA Environmental Coordination Advisory Team, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board, Pacific Flyway Center Education Center Advisory Committee, and the Solano County Water Agency Flood Control Advisory Committee.

9. Provide detailed elevation information of club management structures and marsh surface for planning and club improvement

SRCD supported development of a 2018 digital elevation model (DEM) from aerial imagery with an analysis that accounted for the height of plants and revealed the true surface elevation of Suisun Marsh. In addition, we acquired a Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) GPS survey rover unit to provide highly accurate estimates (within ~1-1.5") of structures or surfaces for project planning and continue to make these services available to landowners.



Long Range Strategic Goals (continued)

10. Support increased scientific research for Suisun Marsh waterfowl, wetland resource management and how managed wetlands interact with the adjacent slough and bay habitats

SRCD assists USGS, DFW, UC Davis, and other partners in conducting waterfowl breeding, survival, wintering, foraging, and predator interaction research and wetland projects in the Suisun Marsh. We have assisted San Francisco State University, UC Davis, and the Department of Water Resources in the completion of scientific studies to document the contributions of managed wetland including production of zooplankton for native fishes, including at SRCD's Lower Joice Island property.

11. Participation in other Delta and Bay conservation planning activities that influence the Marsh

There are numerous groups that provide strategic plans and support for wetlands in the San Francisco estuary. For example, the National Park Service recently designated the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area to highlight the importance of the ecology and culture of the Delta region, and SRCD is an ex-officio member on the Board. SRCD also has a similar role on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, and they have been involved in planning efforts of the Central Valley Joint Venture and San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. SRCD plays an important role representing Suisun Marsh interests by having a seat at the table in many of these regional groups.



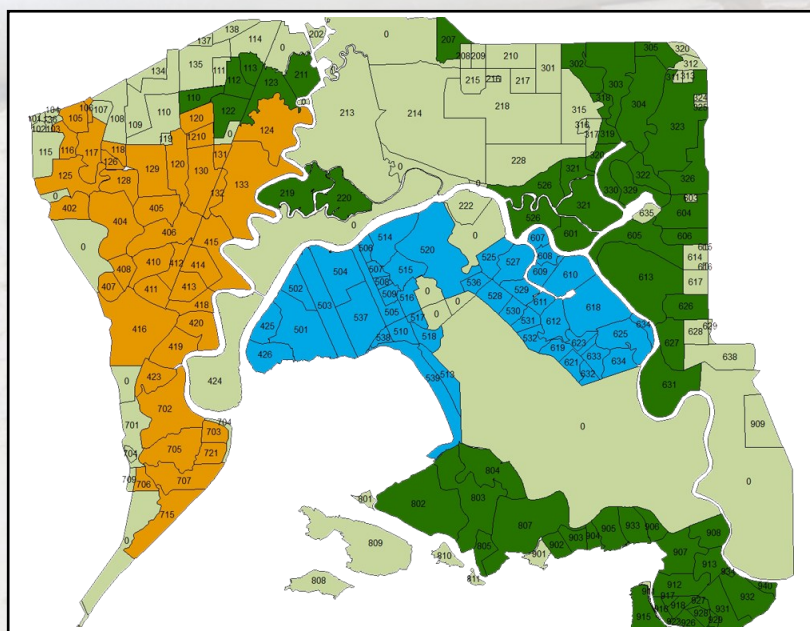
SRCD Programs

Water Manager Program

The Water Manager Program is funded by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) through the 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement (SMPA) , Article VIII.

The primary program goals are:

- Assist in the implementation of yearly management strategies as outlined in the “IOAMHP” and updating as needed.
- Promote and encourage wetland management activities such that flooding, draining, and circulation occur at the appropriate critical times of the year to produce desired wildlife habitats.
- Provide technical support and educate landowners on beneficial management techniques and the protection and enhancement of endangered species habitat.
- Supervise and coordinate the portable pump program.
- Assist landowners in planning yearly maintenance, enhancement projects, and RGP 3 permit applications.
- Assist CDFW and DWR in water management of state owned property and assisting in yearly Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse monitoring and California Ridgeway's Rail surveys.



Zone 1	Jeff Taylor
Zone 2	Tim Edmunds
Zone 3	Marina Guzman

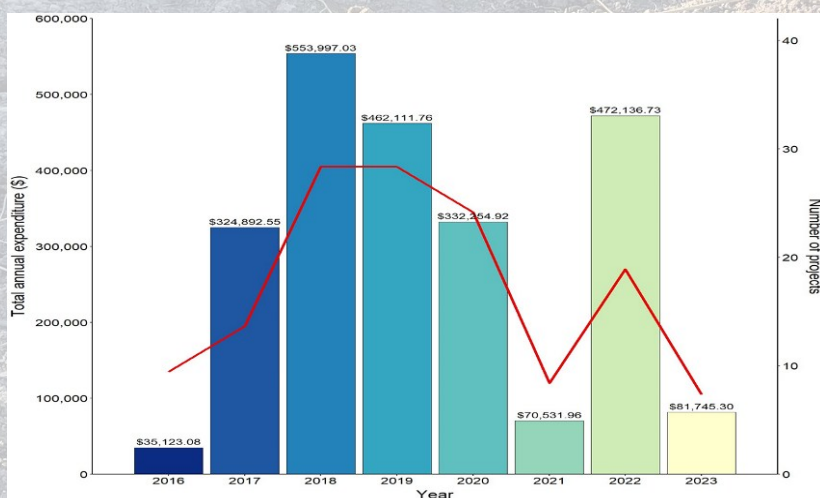


SRCD Programs

Preservation Agreement Implementation Program

The Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement Implementation (PAI) program provides grant funding for activities needed to improve managed wetland facilities, operational efficiency and water management capabilities. Guidelines for each cost-share program specify which types of habitat improvements may be eligible for participation.

- 50/50 Cost Share Program: Funds management and infrastructure improvements to increase leaching and drainage efficiency of individual ownerships.
- 75/25 Cost Share Program: Funds managed wetland infrastructure improvements for individual ownerships to meet the 30-day flood and drain cycle objective. Funds for this Program will not be used for maintenance of water control structures or for fish screens.
- Joint Use Facilities (JUF) 75/25 Cost Share Program: Funds water control improvements *in which* a project is on one or more properties with common shared water management or shared water levels, and two or more properties benefit from the improvement.



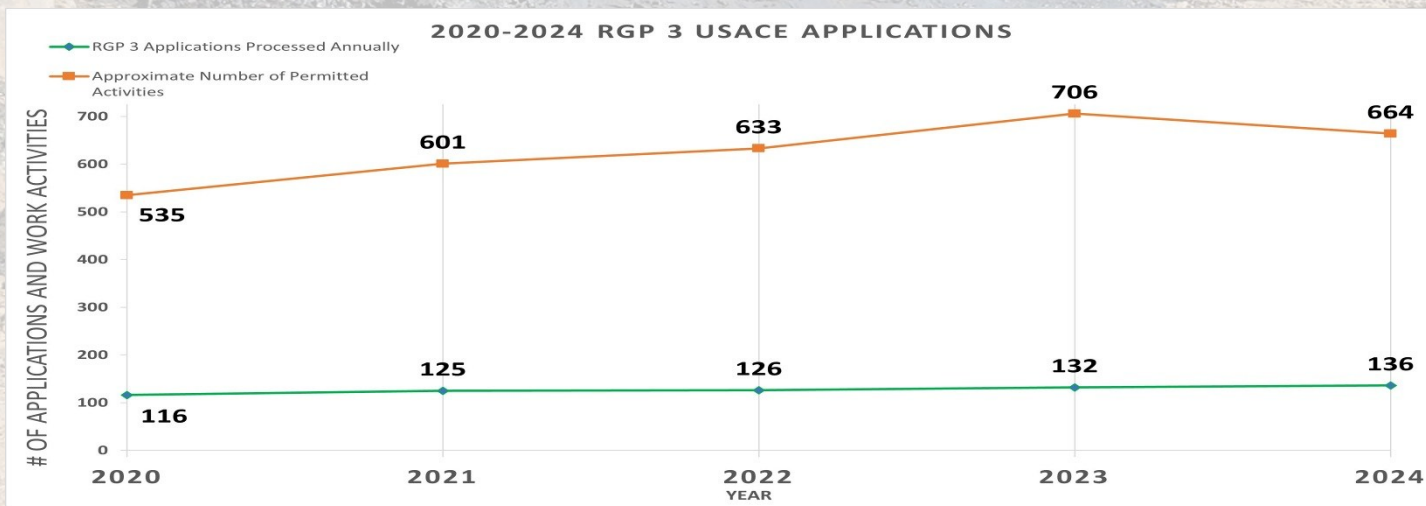
75/25 and 50/50 Cost Share Program Summary



SRCD Programs

RGP 3 Maintenance Permits and Exterior levee maintenance dredging permit

- The Regional General Permit 3 (RGP 3) allows managed wetland landowners, DWR facilities and properties, and CDFW lands to implement 34 different work activities to maintain and improve drainage and circulation within the managed wetlands, as well as improve/maintain interior and exterior infrastructure (water controls, levees, bulkheads, etc.) across the marsh. Each year SRCD Water Managers process an average of 127 permits and get approvals for an average of 628 individual work activities annually.
- The Suisun Marsh Dredging Program allows managed wetland landowners, DWR facilities and properties, and CDFW lands that meet certain criteria's to excavate material from the tidal side of exterior levees to provide a cost effective, localized source of material to repair and improve exterior levee segments impacted by rodent, wind, and tide damage. On average, SRCD processes 1-20 dredging applications, with an average of 11,814 cubic yards dredged annually



Annual Dredging Activity in the Marsh (cubic yards)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL Volume By Waterway
Waterway Type						
Major Slough	-	-	1,480	14,488	8,088	24,056
Minor Slough	-	600	3,436	14,042	60	18,138
Dredger Cut	530	1,710	7,879	4,023	2,389	16,531
Bay	-	-	346	-	-	346
TOTAL Volume by Year	530	2,310	13,141	32,553	10,537	59,071
Number of Project Sites	1	2	10	13	20	



SRCD Programs

Pest Weed Control Program: Phragmites, Lepidium, Russian Thistle

The main goal of Pest Weed Control Program is to control invasive weeds in the Suisun Marsh. SRCD offers advice on treatment options and application practices, and provides cost-share opportunities when available.

The three primary invasive weeds in the Marsh are:

- Lepidium: grows in large concentrations along levee edges and areas within the Marsh that are not flooded year around. The plant changes the soil composition which can eliminate other plants from emerging once it has established itself. Best time to spray is before plants set seed (mid-April-May).
- Phragmites: grows in dense tall patches within semi-flooded and flooded areas in the Marsh. If left unmanaged, stands can consume entire pond areas and eliminate native and beneficial Marsh plants. Best time to spray is before seed set (mid-June to July).
- Russian Thistle: grows into large round plants on all elevations of pond bottoms and levees. If left unmanaged they will detach from the root, roll under wind power, and disperse thousands of seeds across the pond bottoms.
- Other invasive aquatic weeds include alligator weed, water primrose, and parrot's feather. These plants should be controlled and removed from Suisun wetlands if possible.



SRCD Programs

Portable Pump Program

- The Portable Pump Program benefits Marsh managed wetlands by providing better removal of soil salts during drainage. The pumps shall be moved throughout the Marsh to provide the most benefit as determined by the Water Manager to obtain effective leach cycles. SRCD shall make the pumps available for draining operation of Individual Owner-ships, CDFW, and DWR/Reclamation lands and facilities.
- Pumps can be used to increase drainage efficiency and leaching during the spring months, while water conditions in the slough have low salinity. Irrigation and leach cycles are crucial for managed wetland habitat improvements. Salinity meters are also used to determine the soil and water salinity conditions in the managed wetlands. SRCD Water Managers provide guidance to landowners for leaching cycles.
- Portable pumps can also be considered for use during construction if they provide a direct benefit to the overall improvement of the individual managed wetland.



Tow pump by Pumpmaster: *specific conditions required*

3,000-4,000 gpm or ~0.70 acre feet/hr.

Consumes ~ 0.85-1.30 gal/hr. of fuel



Trash pump by Pioneer: *can deploy almost anywhere*

3,500-4,500 gpm or ~0.85 acre feet/hr.

Consumes ~ 1.80-2.00 gal/hr. of fuel



SRCD Programs

Fish screen operational support

- SRCD supports the operation of 14 fish screens along Montezuma Slough to allow water diversion while protecting fish from entrapment.
- The Water Managers remove the fish screens each summer, allowing them to dry in order to remove algal growth that reduces their performance.
- The fish screens are serviced and replaced each summer before the wetlands are re-flooded in the fall.



SRCD Programs

Drought Response Fund and Annual Diversion Reporting

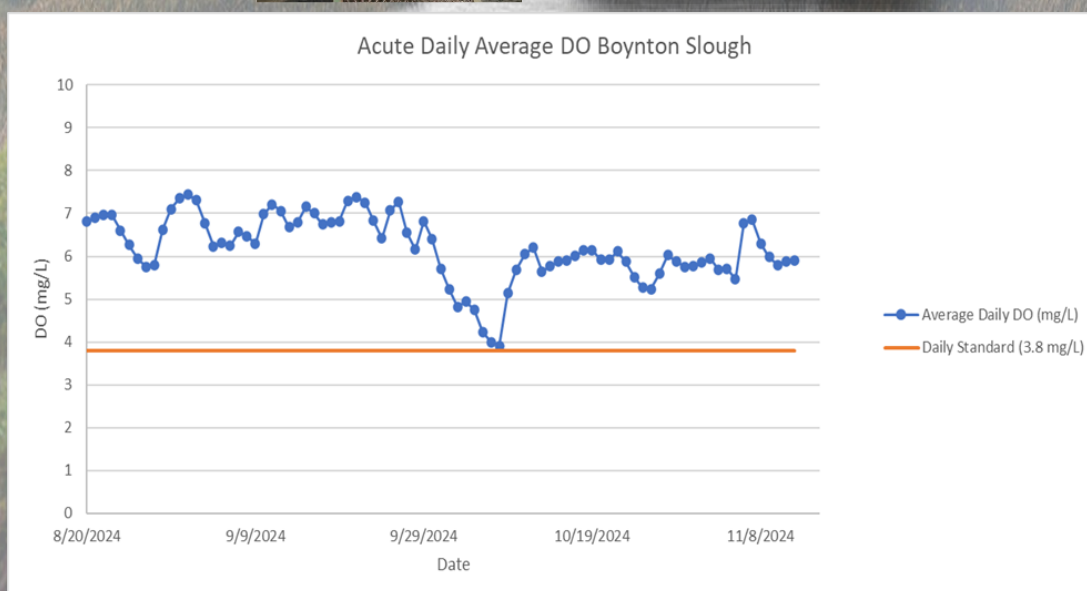
- Properties west of Suisun Slough must manage their lands more intensively during severe drought due to increased salinity in the estuary. These clubs could potentially be eligible for the Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement Drought Response Program to fund improvements to water management.
- Trigger criteria for funding: Salinity standards are exceeded 2 out of 5 months (during Oct, Feb, Mar, Apr, May) in one control season by an average of 1.0 mS/cm above the progressive daily mean (PDM). Salinity is measured at specific compliance/monitoring stations in the Marsh.
- Compensation example: During 2023, \$135,181/year for drought response on privately managed lands and \$21,787 for DFW lands. The compensation is distributed for the year of the drought and again the following year. Amount distributed per acre depends on the total area of marsh above the progressive daily mean.
- The extent of area effected is determined at the end of May by DWR.
- Program has triggered in 2015-2016, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 for ~\$20-\$25/acre.



SRCD Programs

Fall Flood-up Program

- Joint Use Facilities: Since multiple clubs often use a single primary water source to flood up to desired water levels in the fall, SRCD Water Managers coordinate flooding regimes between landowners to provide timely water supplies to support wildlife and to prevent low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in sloughs.
- The Fall Flood-Up Program is a facilitated program between landowners, Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD), and SRCD. The goal is to provide adequate water for fall flood up, maintain water quality, and reduce the production of mosquitos. SRCD assists with flood-up scheduling among different clubs and provides landowners with information regarding flood-up techniques and procedures.
- Landowners contact SCMAD and SRCD with their proposed dates for flooding their properties. SCMAD technicians inspect the property after the initial opening of the intake structures, following the life cycle of the mosquito larvae. SCMAD will spray any properties that produce large quantities of mosquitoes, and cost share is provided when available.



Suisun Resource Conservation District Partners

