

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
January 20, 2022**

AGENDA ITEM 11: Delta Drought Response Pilot Program

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Campbell Ingram,
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Requested Action: **Receive report**

Type of Action: Information

Background: As California continues to experience severe drought conditions and reservoir levels at historic lows prior to early winter storms, the state is exploring options for minimizing agricultural water consumption in the Delta to enhance Delta water quality.

The Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (Pilot Program), spearheaded by California Department of Water Resources and to be administered by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, will provide funding from the state to create an incentive for agricultural water users in the Legal Delta to reduce crop consumptive water use in the 2022 growing season. This will be accomplished by water-reducing actions on Delta farmland, whether through changes in crop choices or altering irrigation practices to reduce water consumption. Water conserved through actions in the Pilot Program will be allocated to protecting Delta water quality and will not be available for diversion or exports. By rigorously monitoring the outcomes and impacts of a variety of actions in different settings throughout the Legal Delta, the Pilot Program will provide data to support targeted water conservation and water quality protection responses to sustained and/or future droughts.

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, will describe the proposed structure of the Pilot Program.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan):

Education and Outreach (Strategic Theme)

0.1 Ensure consistent, proactive communications between and among Delta interests and decision makers.

1.3 Foster two-way communication throughout the Delta.