

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 2023
VENICE ISLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025
10:00 P.M.
ENGINEER'S REPORT

John DiNapoil, Trustee
Joe Paper, Trustee

Secretary and Attorney:
Brett Baker
District Engineer:
Dominick Gulli, PLS, PE

I. 2024-2025 SUBVENTION CLAIM – CDFW IMPACTS

- A. The 2024-2025 Subventions Claim total: \$286,993.44
- B. Status of Mitigation Habitat Areas:
 - Mitigation and Long-Term Management Report was submitted to CCFW in July 2025
 - Impact of new mitigation site to approximate 4.13 acres. Approximately 447 Arroyo and Sandbar Willows were planted early in 2025.
 - Some of the habitat trees died over the summer and will need to be replaced. Tentatively schedule to be replanted in December 2025.

II. FEMA CLAIM

- A. Report on Status of Claim

III. PROPOSED PUMP STATION

- A. Discuss location, pump sizes, new pipe and PGE service upgrades.

IV. LEVEE VEGETATION REMOVAL

- A. Status of Levee Slopes.
- B. Greg Torlai (Daniel) is schedule to apply spray the levees within the next 2 weeks.

V. DRAINAGE CANALS

- A. Status of the Cleaning of the Canals. *PCA contribution.*

VI. LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS

- A. Three (3) different rocking projects took place since October 2024. Rip Rap was placed on the water side slope at approximately 20 sites thought out the District. Each project was less than \$25,000 in materials. District forces was the labor used.
- B. Numerous levee crown cracking occurred between station 361+00 to 398+00. The cracks were excavated, and bentonite was mixed into the existing fill as it was compacted back in. No additional cracking has been observed. Class 2 AB was placed on the levee crown.

- C. A steel siphons was replaced with HDPE pipe siphons at station 462+00. The siphon pipe was raised above the 100-flood level and was extend pass the levee tow. The project is elidable for Subventions. Class 2 AB was placed over the pipe to create a ramp.
- D. Chip Seal Project – Cost Estimates

VII. STATUS OF PGE LEANING/DAMAGED POWER POLES CORRECTIONS

- A. PGE replaced approximate 25 power poles throughout the District. Approximate 10 more power poles are scheduled to be replaced within current year 2025.

Reclamation District 2023 Venice Island

Mitigation and Long-Term Management Plan Delta Levees Subventions Maintenance Program 2022-2023 Mitigation Obligation



Prepared By
Green Mountain Engineering
July 2025



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Attachments

- A. Proposed Mitigation Habitat Areas Plan - Sheet 1 (Exhibit)
- B. Planting Plan – Sheet 2 (Exhibit)
- C. RD 2023 - 2022-2023 Mitigation Obligation Letter, dated January 24, 2025

Subventions Fiscal Years 2022-2023
Venice Island, RD 2023 Mitigation Plan and Long-Term Management Plan

1. Overview

Reclamation District 2023, Venice Island (District) commits to provide a minimum of 3.7-acres of scrub shrub habitat as required mitigation for California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) identified impacts to 1.85 acres of scrub-shrub habitat resulting from work performed under the Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Programs during the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

The mitigation plantings will be maintained and monitored by the District, or its designated agent, for a period of three years following implementation to ensure the success criteria are being met.

An annual report of regular site maintenance and monitoring of the habitat provided by the District will deliver updates on meeting the success criteria (as listed below) and determine if remedial actions are needed. The monitoring report will be submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) by December 15th of each year post planting. If monitoring determines that the success criteria are not met, remedial measures will be implemented to ensure continued survival and success of the habitat.

2. Planting Plan

The attached planting design plans and table included in this Plan are intended to be consistent with the mitigation requirements agreed upon by the District and CDFW. These requirements include:

- Planting a minimum of 447 trees and shrubs.
- Plantings will create a minimum of 3.7-acres of new SS habitat.
- Planting boundaries will be on two sites consisting of 4.13 acres total.
- Plantings will be native species that are acceptable to CDFW.

2.1. Plant Procurement

The District will plant a mixture of Sandbar Willows (*Salix exigua*) and Arroyo Willows (*Salix lasiolepis*) on a CDFW approved 4.13-acre site on Venice Island and will have the plantings in the ground by December 1, 2025. Species and numbers to be planted are included in Table 1.

Table 1. Plant species to be planted to satisfy the mitigation requirements

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Type
<i>Salix exigua</i>	sandbar willow	tree
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	arroyo willow	shrub
A mixture of 447 of the above species shall be planted		

2.2. Site Preparation

The District will remove weeds and debris from the planting areas to prepare for planting. Tasks may include herbicide application, mowing, weed whacking, disking and/or trash removal. The District will work to coordinate site preparation activities.

2.3. Plant Installation

District staff will install mixtures of the willows on two adjacent sites on the landside land between levee stations 450+00 to 460+00. A map of the planting locations is provided in the attached plans. Site 1 consists of 1.99 acres and Site 2 consists of 2.14 acres.

Potential activities involving established plants may include mulching, irrigating, and removing competing plants.

3. Success Criteria

The mitigation plantings will need to meet the following success criteria at the end of the required five-year maintenance and monitoring period. The District, or its designated agent, shall be responsible for achieving the following success criteria on the site for five years after the last planting. If success criteria aren't being met, then remedial actions will be necessary.

3.1. Percent Survival

The two Sites must have at least 80% of the total number of willows surviving at the end of the 5-year monitoring period. In addition, for each willow installed to count towards meeting the success criteria, they must show an annual or seasonal increase in root mass, overall plant size, consisting of new growth and foliage on most branches of the entire individual plant.

Individual willow shall show no signs of vandalism, soil nutrient deficiency, water saturation or stress, or evidence of disease or pathogens on the stems, branches, or foliage. Willows with any of the above adverse signs, not including normal seasonal foliage dormancy periods, shall not be counted toward percent survival. Willows pruned by herbivores that will sprout regrowth will be counted as successful.

Other factors to monitor, such as leaf and stem wilting or deformity, branch dieback, fire or sun scorching, insect infestation, fungus, mold or mildew, and competition from nearby plants may also lead to plant decline or mortality.

3.2. Remedial Actions

Depending on the causes of the plantings to fail to meet the success criteria, potential remedial actions may include, but are not limited to, replacement of willow with healthy stock, irrigating, pruning and disposal of diseased limbs, soil amendments, and control of invasive weeds and non-native plant species. CDFW shall be consulted to determine what remedial actions are necessary and appropriate. The District, or its designated agent, shall implement the identified remedial actions.

4. Maintenance, Monitoring and Long-Term Management Plan and Schedule

Maintenance practices of the site shall include adequate watering ensure survival. The watering schedule will be adjusted according to seasonal weather patterns as needed. The site shall be kept free of debris, trash, weeds, and competition from non-native vegetation.

4.1. Monitoring Methods

Monitoring of progress toward achieving the success criteria will occur annually for five years following installation or more often if required. Details to be included in the monitoring reports are listed in Section 4, Reporting.

4.2. Year 1 post-implementation

The District will continue watering within the planting site(s) on a schedule to be determined by weather and local site conditions.

The District will continue necessary weed control measures that may include hand removal, mechanical and/or chemical control.

The District will take measures to prevent rodent herbivory from large, and burrowing rodents, or other herbivorous species. The District will not use FGAR or SGAR-type rodenticides.

If the District determines through monitoring that its success criteria are not being met or are trending towards not meeting success criteria after 5 years, the District will seek CDFW's approval to conduct additional plantings as described in the planting plan.

The District will prepare an annual monitoring report summarizing the results of the monitoring and describing the maintenance and/or remedial activities that took place and submit it to CDFW (winter of Year 1).

4.3. Years 2 to 5 post-implementation

The District and CDFW will review the results of previous year's monitoring to determine if further maintenance of the habitat will be necessary. If it is found that the plants are sufficiently large to be self-sustaining, further watering will be curtailed.

If weeding in previous years has been successful, the District will only spot treat small infestations as necessary.

If the District determines through monitoring that its success criteria are not being met or are trending towards not meeting success criteria after 5 years, the District will seek CDFW's approval to conduct additional plantings as stated in the planting plan, typically in the fall/winter season.

The District will prepare an annual monitoring report summarizing the results of monitoring and describing the maintenance and/or any remedial activities.

If, at the end of Year 5, monitoring determines that the plantings do not meet the success criteria, the District shall consult with CDFW, and initiate an adaptive management plan, which may include remedial planting activities and extend the monitoring and maintenance by 3 years following the last remedial planting.

5. Reporting

The District will be responsible for submitting an annual report to CDFW by December 15th of each year for five years, or annually until the success criteria have been met if they are not met at the end of year three. The annual report will summarize ~~both the spring and fall~~ monitoring results, yearly maintenance activities, address any deficiencies, identify if success criteria are being met, and if needed, will develop recommendations for remedial actions for the mitigation site during the next monitoring season.

The annual report will include the following sections:

- Maintenance and/or remedial activities performed;
- Photographs of each planting zone, and representative examples of plants. Monitoring results (per plant, or per planting zone within the total planting area);
- Number of plants toward Success Criteria; and,
- Recommendations for adaptive management and/or remedial planting.

The District will prepare a final report once all success criteria have been met for their mitigation obligation with an 80% survival rate.

**RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 2023
(VENICE ISLAND)**

Trustees
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Dante John Nomellini
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January 24, 2025

Mr. Todd Gardner
Delta Levees Program
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
2109 Arch Airport Road, Suite 100
Stockton, CA 95206

Subject: Reclamation District No. 2023, Venice Island
Delta Levees Subventions Maintenance Program - 2022-2023 Mitigation Obligation

Dear Mr. Gardner:

By this letter, Reclamation District No. 2023 (District) commits to provide 3.7-acres of scrub shrub habitat as required mitigation for California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) identified impacts to 1.85 acres of scrub-shrub habitat resulting from work performed under the Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program during Fiscal Year 2022-2023.


The District will plant sandbar willows (*Salix exigua*) and arroyo willows (*Salix lasiolepis*) on a CDFW approved 4-acre site on Venice Island and have the plantings in the ground by December 1, 2025. The District further commits to provide the following items to CDFW for their approval by the date(s) below:

- Mitigation Plan which includes Planting and Monitoring Plans– August 1, 2025
- Long-Term Management Plan – August 1, 2025
- Mitigation Agreement – January 31, 2026

Our understanding is that upon CDFW accepting this commitment letter, they will inform the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) that payment of the above claim is consistent with net long-term habitat improvement and with a net benefit for aquatic species in the Delta as required by California Water Code Section 12980, et seq. pending habitat plantings in the ground and the above items being finalized by 1/31/2026. The District acknowledges that failure to satisfy the identified actions above may cause the District to be considered not in good standing with the Delta Levees Program and may result in CDFW not approving future reimbursement claims.

Please do not hesitate to contact the District if you have any questions, or need any additional information.

Thank you,



Brett G. Baker

Secretary & Counsel for Reclamation District 2023

cc: Green Mountain Engineering