

Environmentalists criticize changes to California delta project proposed by governor

California Delta restoration

Officials have dramatically scaled back habitat restoration planned during construction of two massive tunnels under the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.



SOURCES: Calif. Dept. of Water Resources; Calif. Natural Resources Agency; Maps4News/HERE

AP

Graphic shows locates the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and areas of restoration;

Bonham said the scaled-back habitat restoration is more realistic to achieve in the remaining four years of the governor's term. He said it is unclear who will be leading the effort decades from now and what impact climate change will have on California's water picture or environmental regulations.



Jay Ziegler, director of external affairs and policy at the Nature Conservancy, said 30,000 acres of habitat restoration won't rescue the delta, but he called it an aggressive first step.

"We should all look at this as a starting place for a wider science-driven restoration effort of the years to come," Ziegler said. "Whether or not the tunnels are ultimately built, we know the Delta is a crashing ecological system."

Funds for the restoration effort will come from a variety of sources, with \$75 million from a water bond voters approved in November, officials said. Between \$20 million and \$30 million will come from cap-and-trade funds, and the rest will come through state budget allocations.

Smith reported from Fresno.

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