



Jersey Island Acquisition: Critical for Restoring Native Habitat

SEPTEMBER 2025

Why this Project Matters

Diablo Water District (District) is a community-focused water provider dedicated to protecting water resources, the environment, and the quality of life for our community.

To achieve its ambitious goal of 100% carbon neutrality by 2027, the District recognizes that pumping and treating drinking water requires a significant amount of energy.

A key step towards these goals is investing in a project on neighboring Jersey Island to reduce carbon emissions by restoring native habitat. This project will dramatically reduce oxidation of the island's highly organic peat soil, lowering emissions and helping the District to achieve carbon neutrality.

Acquiring Jersey Island is a rare opportunity to restore 3,500 acres of habitat critical to Delta health while maximizing ecological benefits and public access

Project Benefits at a Glance

- Restores a key part of the Pacific Flyway
- Reduces significant carbon emissions
- Provides public access near a large population center, including a campground
- Reduces risk to the state's water delivery system



The Great Egret has special conservation status in the Delta.

Delta Concerns & Project Benefits

Vulnerability to California's Water Delivery System

Parts of Jersey Island, one of eight islands critical to preserving fresh water in the Delta, sit 20 feet below sea level, placing serious strain on its levees and risking saltwater intrusion into the state's water system.

- ✓ *Restoring most of Jersey Island to wetlands will reverse subsidence through soil accretion.*

Carbon Emissions

Jersey Island emits an estimated 24,000 tons of carbon annually from soil oxidation—more than 5,000 cars' worth of emissions—and lacks biodiversity.

- ✓ *This project's land-use plan will cut emissions by 75%, preventing 18,000 tons of carbon from entering the atmosphere each year.*

Loss of Wetlands and Natural Habitat

Over 98% of the Delta's historic wetlands have been lost, leading to a dramatic decline in regional species diversity and population sizes. Jersey Island sits on a key part of the Pacific Flyway.

- ✓ *Restoring the island to its native habitat supports California's wildlife conservation and protects water availability in a changing climate.*

The acquisition of Jersey Island:

- Creates a **new environmental market** by bundling carbon and nature credits to scale ecosystem restoration.
- Demonstrates a **public-private partnership** where a municipal utility secures future water supply while advancing state conservation objectives.
- Demonstrates the **viability of a bundled carbon & nature credit market**, leading to wetland restoration in the Delta region.



The District has secured 60% of the necessary funding to acquire Jersey Island.

It is seeking an additional \$5M to create a new environmental market to scale wetland restoration.

For project status and funding information, please contact Jim Smith at (925) 625-3798 or jsmith@diablowater.org.