# Oak Woodlands

The oak woodland habitat type is comprised of grassland interspersed with oak trees. Oak trees were historically probably not dense in any area around the delta, though there was likely substantial spatial variability, with thick groves of trees along natural levees close to rivers and on north facing slopes. The species composition in the grassland matrix around oak trees should be represented using the same species list as the grassland habitat packet. However, directly under oak trees, the vegetation would likely have been slightly different due to the differing shade and soil moisture conditions. I am providing a short list of species most likely to have occurred in the understory that can be placed directly under oaks in places where that could be useful.

There are two distinct areas around the delta where oak woodlands occurred historically: 1) the western central delta in the region south of Antioch intermixed with the stabilized interior dune habitat type, and 2) on the east side of the delta in the region from Stockton to the Cosumnes river.

1. Western central delta south of Antioch – This area was designated as oak savanna in the Eastern Contra Costa County historical ecology report. GLO surveys document relatively low density of oak trees (10-15%) in this region, especially in the low elevation plain areas that are part of our study area. This oak woodland is distinct from the eastern delta primarily due to species composition. Oaks should be a mix of Blue oak, coast live oak, and some valley oaks.
2. Eastern delta north of Stockton – in this area, coast live oak is not likely to have been present historically, and valley oak and blue oak were probably the dominant species. Oak densities should be represented as roughly 10-25% with more oaks along riparian corridors and natural levees.

Google earth locations

1. Los vaqueros watershed = scattered trees, more abundant on north facing slopes, and along water courses.
2. West Collierville – scattered trees away from river, denser oaks close to river