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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT January 28, 2015

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

Ecosystem Restoration

Delta Restoration Network (DRN): The DRN met on January 8th to discuss the ongoing development of the Restoration Hub and the potential to utilize a Hub style process to develop a Landscape Vision and Strategy for the Cosumnes River Corridor in 2015. The Conservancy, San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), Delta Science Program, and The Nature Conservancy are working on a proposal to fund the effort.

Conservancy staff and partnering agencies and organizations have been meeting monthly to finalize the restoration tracking database structure. Conservancy staff is contacting managers of habitat projects and requesting verification and updates in the habitat project tracking database. SFEI has begun programming changes to EcoAtlas. The updated restoration tracking database will be incorporated into EcoAtlas in February 2015.

Delta Watershed Initiative Network (Delta WIN): The Conservancy held an initial meeting to introduce the Delta WIN program and open communication with water cleanup coordinators in Delta counties. The Conservancy received input regarding how to improve the reporting of waterways cleanup data and increase public awareness of the Delta watershed. There was interest in the Conservancy adapting the Ocean Conservancy's Report Card used for beach cleanups for the Delta; volunteers can act as citizen scientists, reporting data on the types and amount of trash found during a waterway cleanup. Staff is seeking funding to support future projects.

Arundo Eradication and Restoration Project: Conservancy staff is working on an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration document for the Arundo Project for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. Staff posted the document for the 30-day public review period in February. Staff and partner Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC), gave a presentation on the project to the Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee on December 5, 2014. SEC has begun the mapping of Arundo infestations throughout the Delta. On December 18, 2014, Conservancy staff and partner Solano Resource Conservation District (SRCD), consulted with staff from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board on encroachment permits. SRCD has been conducting outreach in the Cache Slough Complex and has identified sites and willing landowners for Arundo control in fall 2015.

Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Grant Program: The Conservancy submitted a grant application to the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wetlands Restoration for GHG Reduction Grant Program for \$7 million to construct managed wetlands for GHG emissions reductions in the Delta. The Conservancy also has a pending grant application with the National Resource Conservation Service for \$3 million to support the project. If the grants are awarded, the Conservancy will work with private landowners in the Delta to construct 1,000 acres of managed wetlands and develop a Delta-wide GHG accounting framework.

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Delta Land Management Work Group: The Land Management Work Group met January 13th to discuss current and past restoration projects in the central and western Delta and how future restoration projects and objectives could build off of these successes and challenges. The group has been working to reduce the disconnect between local's understanding of restoration objectives and public agencies' understanding. Participants were asked to submit restoration projects and opportunities for discussion and identification of common ground. The work group will be meeting again in late February to continue this discussion.

Economic Development

Delta Economic Indicators: Staff will be meeting with the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) in February to discuss the development of a Delta Economic Indicators report.

Recreation Survey: DPC—working with State Parks—is surveying Delta recreation providers as part of an up-date of the Delta Recreation Survey. The survey is designed to understand the current state of recreation facilities and opportunities in the Delta and identify trends and needs. Conservancy staff reviewed drafts of the survey and provided input for the final survey.

Delta Awareness Campaign, Marketing: The Conservancy has contracted with Jungle Communications, a Berkeley based marketing firm, to develop and implement a marketing campaign for the Delta. The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness of the Delta and increase its use as a tourism destination. This multi-year campaign will work closely with Delta business owners and community members to develop a Delta wide marketing strategy and utilize the internet and social media as well as marketing opportunities with Visit California. The Conservancy is continuing to partner with DPC on this project.

Education and Outreach

Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP): Delta MERP offered a small grant program funded by multiple organizations for implementation of TMDL and in support community-based organizations conducting projects that increase the public's awareness and understanding of fish contamination issues. A total of \$60,000 was available for this solicitation with each applicant able to apply for funding up to \$15,000.

The next MERP Community Stakeholder Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th, 2015 from 10:00-12:30pm at the Solano County Resource Management office in Fairfield

Flood Preparedness: Under the Conservancy's contract with the Water Education Foundation—funded by the Bureau of Reclamation—the Conservancy commissioned a video on flood preparedness. The video includes several Delta community members sharing their on-farm flood preparedness efforts. The video is expected to be released in early 2015.

The Conservancy has also developed a flood preparedness brochure that outlines the steps to take to prevent potential contaminants from entering the water during a flood. The brochure was sent via email to over 700 email addresses and mailed to 450 physical addresses. Approximately 1,000 brochures were also delivered throughout the Delta to post offices, libraries, Chambers of Commerce, and markets. The brochure can also be found on the Conservancy's web site.

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Delta Waterway Cleanup: The Conservancy will hold the spring Delta Waterway Cleanup on April 18, 2015 in celebration of Creek Week. The Conservancy plans to host two cleanup sites in cooperation with local organizations. The Bufferlands site—a nature area near Freeport, managed by the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District—will focus on a stretch of Morrison Creek that has been neglected in past cleanups. The second site is located along the shores of the Sacramento River near Sherman Island County Park. The Conservancy will partner with the Rio Vista Windsurfing Association and a Sherman Island kiteboarding organization. In addition to the cleanup, Conservancy staff is working with local partners to provide extra incentives for public volunteers to attend, including a windsurfing demo at Sherman Island and a guided nature walk in the Bufferlands. The Conservancy plans to recruit public volunteers through Facebook, by networking with community organizations, and via promotional materials spearheaded by Creek Week organizers.

The cleanup is part of the Sacramento County-wide Creek Week cleanup event organized by the Sacramento Area Creeks Council. The Conservancy will also partner with Bridgestone Tires to offer Delta residents a chance to properly recycle illegally-dumped tires.

Delta Dialogues: The Delta Dialogues will meet next in February to continue discussing South Delta scenarios that can meet multiple objectives of habitat, flood management, water supply, and landowner/local support. An active planning group has been working to collect and organize the information needed for the entire Delta Dialogues group to have a robust and productive discussion at its upcoming meeting.

Coordination and Collaboration

Habitat Enhancement of Working Landscapes: The work group met for its quarterly meeting on December 18th. The purpose of the work group is to exchange information and look for opportunities to collaborate. The December meeting focused on organizational and programmatic updates including the upcoming roll out of the Wetland Habitat Enhancement Program and the Conservancy's grant program. Participants included DPC, SRCD, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Audubon, Point Blue Conservation Science, Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, and Ducks Unlimited.

December 3, 2014 - BOARD MEETING DIRECTIVES AND RESPONSES

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

1. Staff will post the Central Valley Business Times' audio of the Conservancy's December 2, 2014 Public Workshop: In-stream Flow in Delta Tributaries on the Conservancy website and send the board a link.

Staff Response: Staff has posted a summary of the workshop and presentation slides to the Conservancy's website.

2. Staff will present grant guidelines at the December 17, 2014 Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting. These guidelines will include the board's comments from the December board meeting discussion.

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Staff Response: The Draft Grant Guidelines and Application Packet have been submitted to the Program and Policy Subcommittee (presented at the December 17th meeting) and the Conservancy Board for review and comments. The revised draft guidelines will be presented at the January 28th board meeting.

3. Staff will coordinate Proposition 1 Grant Program planning and implementation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and will provide the board with regular briefings regarding interagency coordination.

Staff Response: Two meetings with DWR and CDFW management have occurred. Staff will report on the coordination effort at the January 28th board meeting

FEASIBILITY REVIEW REGARDING CONSERVANCY WEBSITE TRANSITION

Agenda Item 6.2 Feasibility Review Regarding Conservancy Website Translation into Spanish and other languages

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 6.3: Delta Conservancy FY 2014-15 Budget Plan and Update

OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 6.4: Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix including most recent events and key dates of future meetings

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