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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691
www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT****September 23, 2015**

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~**Ecosystem Restoration**

Proposition 1, Grant Program: The Prop. 1 solicitation opened on August 3rd. The first round of concept proposals was received on September 15th. A staff report listing the number of proposals received, the types of projects and the requested amounts is included in the board packet and will be discussed in Agenda Item 9.

Delta Restoration Network (DRN): The DRN has developed scopes of work to conduct regional restoration planning per the directive in the Governor's Eco Restore Program for both the NE Delta and Cache Slough Complex regions. A staff report with background information and requests for authority to enter into agreements to conduct the work are included in Agenda Item 10.

EcoAtlas – Habitat Restoration Project Tracking: Completed in September, this project significantly expanded EcoAtlas, the state's repository for wetland project data, to include hundreds of habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration projects throughout the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay-Delta regions, including 172 projects in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. Detailed project data, critical for natural resource managers, such as acres of distinct habitat types, species benefitted by project, project progress and status, and funding information, were added to the project tracking database. Additional functionality was added to EcoAtlas to allow for the visual display, querying and extraction of this tabular and spatial project data. As new projects are developed and existing projects enter new phases, information can be expanded and updated through the new data portal that allows project proponents to enter and update information displayed in EcoAtlas. Additional data layers such as modern Delta habitats were added to EcoAtlas to allow users to evaluate projects within the context of existing ecological resources and other landscape characteristics and uses. Going forward, the Conservancy will continue to reach out to project managers and assist in keeping information updated.

Arundo Control and Restoration Project: On September 2nd the Board approved the resolution adopting the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for Arundo Control and Restoration Project in the Cache Slough Complex and approved implementation of the project. Arundo control work will begin in September 2015. All permit applications have been submitted for the Ulatis Creek restoration site. Due to the timeline to acquire all the necessary permits, restoration at the Ulatis Creek site will not begin until May 2016.

Water Quality

Delta Environmental Data for the Understanding of a California Estuary (DEDUCE): This project is a component of the Delta Watershed Initiative Network (Delta WIN) and is building on the 2014 Data Summit to improve data

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management. The DEDUCE workgroup met on July 21st to continue working to expand the San Francisco Regional Data Center to include Delta water quality data. The workgroup discussed the status of priority datasets for inclusion into the estuary-wide data repository. The Conservancy is working to upload data to the estuary-wide data repository and ensure data integrity for all collected data. . The workgroup will reconvene in November to discuss the state of data processing and uploading.

Economic Development

Delta Awareness Campaign: The Conservancy and the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) continue to partner on the development of a Delta gateway web site and 5-year marketing plan. Much of the summer has been focused on developing content for the website and preparing it for review by the Delta Marketing Team (expected September 2015). Conservancy and Commission staff have also been working with the Marketing Team to develop a focus for the marketing plan and to provide the marketing firm with guidance on the development of the plan.

Education and Outreach

Waterway Cleanup: The International Coastal Cleanup, led by the California Coastal Commission and Ocean Conservancy, is September 19th. The Conservancy is coordinating with the Rio Vista Windsurfing Association and Sherman Island Kiteboarding Organization to host a cleanup on Sherman Island. The Conservancy has also provided logistical support to assist a local cleanup at the San Joaquin Yacht Club on Bethel Island.

Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP): Delta MERP was invited by the Asian Pacific Self Development and Residential Association (APSARA) to participate in a meeting with the residents of Park Village Apartments on August 28th, in Stockton. Park Village, a housing complex known as the epicenter of Stockton's Cambodian community, is a unique model of affordable housing ownership and is a partnership between APSARA and the Rural California Housing Corporation. Conservancy staff provided an overview of the Delta MERP program, with an emphasis on the public health aspects of mercury contamination in fish and the individual and community-level interventions needed to reduce exposure to mercury in fish and the ways the community can partner with the program to disseminate the message and educate affected populations. Over 50 residents and staff attended and engaged in the dialogue that followed the presentation.

The Conservancy is continuing to work closely with three community based organizations which received small grants from the California Department of Public Health Delta MERP small grants program as project implementation begins. Projects include developing educational materials, providing education, and raising awareness about fish contamination issues among South-East Asian communities, WIC clinic providers and other health care providers as well as individuals accessing services at local clinics. The Delta MERP team is nearing the final design for a sign with advisory information about safely consuming fish caught from the Delta. The sign is expected to be ready for posting at fishing access locations in 2016. Translation of Delta MERP materials to Chinese, Khmer, Lao, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Hmong is set to be complete by early 2016.

Coordination and Collaboration

Invasive Species Coordination (ISC): The ISC work group met for its quarterly meeting on Aug 13th. The

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workgroup reviewed suggested research topics and prioritized the topics using a scoring criteria developed by this workgroup for potential funding opportunities. The next ISC meeting is scheduled in November.

Aquatic Weed Science Symposium: In coordination with the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Science Program and UC Davis, the Conservancy participated in the planning of a one-day science symposium on Invasive Aquatic Vegetation held on September 15th at U.C. Davis. Presentations explored new developments in surveillance, the monitoring of aquatic vegetation to facilitate management and control, advances in knowledge that could lead to better management and control practices, and advances in risk assessment and reduction. Over 100 participants from state, federal, academic, and private entities attended this workshop.

Land Management Work Group: Conservancy staff with assistance from the Center for Collaborative Policy, has been meeting with stakeholders in the western Delta to discuss near term flood protection, habitat, water quality, water supply reliability, and recreation objectives and opportunities. This information is being used to draft a framework document that identifies a high level vision for the western Delta islands and lists projects that are consistent with that vision. The work group will be meeting again in September to review the current draft of the framework document. This project is linked to the regional planning efforts identified in California Eco Restore.

Delta Dialogues: A sub-group of Delta Dialogues has been meeting regularly to develop a vision for the south Delta that addresses flood protection, ecosystem, and other priorities. The group met on September 27th to review extensive modeling results for analyses of a Paradise Cut bypass expansion. The modeling was conducted in coordination with the development of DWR's San Joaquin Basin Wide Feasibility Study and indicated significant benefits to flood control in the region. For next steps the group will focus on refining the project description and outreach to more local interests. The group discussed the possibility to expand the focus of the group to include more regionally focused planning.

March 25, 2015 - BOARD MEETING DIRECTIVES AND RESPONSES

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

1. Staff will present a final grant cycle and staffing update at the July 15, 2015 Program and Policy Subcommittee Meeting.

Staff Response: Staff presented the final grant cycle and staffing update at the July 15, 2015 Program and Policy Subcommittee Meeting. The Subcommittee approved the grant cycle timeline, acknowledging that changes might be made if a large number of concept proposals are received.

2. Staff will revise the Implementation Plan per the Board's discussion and post the plan on the Conservancy's web site.

Staff Response: The Implementation Plan was revised per the Board's discussion and posted on the Conservancy's website.

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DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 7.2: Delta Conservancy FY 2015-16 Budget Plan and Update

STAFFING UPDATE

Staff will provide a verbal up-date during the Board meeting.

OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 7.3: Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix including most recent events and key dates of future meetings

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