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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT December 3, 2014

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

Ecosystem Restoration

Delta Restoration Network (DRN): Conservancy staff continue to meet with the Restoration Hub design team to refine the concepts and proposed structure of the Hub and to meet with key organizations to help them understand the concept. The Executive Officer provided an overview of the Hub at the Bay-Delta Science Conference, the California Biodiversity Council – Interagency Alignment Team meeting, and the California Wetland Monitoring Work Group.

8th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference: The Conservancy organized a session on implementing the Delta Science Plan at the 8th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference held October 28-30, 2014. The Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference is a forum for presenting technical analyses and results on water and environmental decision-making in the Bay-Delta system. The goal of the conference is to provide new information and syntheses to the broad community of scientists, engineers, resource managers, and stakeholders working on Bay-Delta issues. Staff from the Delta Science Program, the Conservancy, and the Aquatic Science Center presented highlights on the progress made toward achieving a vision of shared implementation of the Delta Science Plan including the Interim Science Action Agenda, outcomes of the Environmental Data Summit, and the Delta Restoration Network's Restoration Hub for the Delta.

Delta Watershed Initiative Network (Delta WIN): On November 6, 2014, the Conservancy convened the first planning meeting for the Delta Environmental Data for the Understanding of a California Estuary (DEDUCE), a project of the Delta Watershed Initiative Network. This project is funded by the US EPA 2014 National Environmental Information Exchange Network Program. The goal is to expand the San Francisco Regional Data Center to include Delta water quality data. Data providers and data users discussed prioritizing available water quality data for use in the Regional Data Center.

Delta Land Management Work Group: The Land Management Work Group met October 2nd and November 6th to continue discussions regarding long-term Delta land management issues. During the October 2nd meeting, an overview of specific restoration objectives was provided and concerns over various uncertainties related to Bay Delta Conservation Plan's (BDCP) restoration objectives were discussed. The November 6th meeting focused on good neighbor policies, some of the key points of disagreement with the public lands, and issues related to the passage of the water bond.

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Economic Development

Delta Branding and Marketing: The Conservancy is currently interviewing marketing firms to coordinate the Delta marketing efforts. The marketing firm that is selected will work with the Conservancy, Delta Protection Commission (DPC), and community members to develop and implement a 5-year marketing plan, utilizing the Delta brand that was recently developed.

Delta Economic Indicators: Staff is meeting with DPC in December 2014 to discuss the development of a Delta Economic Indicators report.

Education and Outreach

Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP): The Delta MERP is a multi-year, collaborative effort of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Delta Conservancy, and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to raise awareness about fish contamination issues in the Delta and encourage actions to reduce human exposure to mercury.

The first community stakeholder meetings were held on October 22nd in Stockton and on October 23rd in Walnut Grove. The goal of these meetings was to receive the public's input on program activities and announce a small grant program offered by the Central Valley Water Board and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to fund community-based education projects. There was strong support for multilingual educational materials which are easier for participants to disseminate rather than develop, as well as for new warning signs that could be placed in high-traffic fishing areas in the Delta. Participants stressed the importance of utilizing social media or video materials to reach target groups. During a break-out group activity, participants brainstormed a wide variety of new target groups that MERP could reach as well as potential new activities to be considered. The next meeting will be in Solano County in February 2015.

Delta Waterway Cleanup: More than 200 volunteers attended the September 2014 cleanup and removed 1,258 tires and 33,400 pounds of trash from the Delta waterways. The cleanup included training volunteers to be citizen scientists to record the type and amounts of trash removed. Data collected was entered into the Ocean Conservancy's database as part of a worldwide effort to identify and reduce trash at its source. Following the cleanup, 35 volunteers attended the Fun in the Delta Celebration. The celebration was funded by donations from multiple entities in the Delta.

Delta Dialogues: The Delta Dialogues met on September 26th and November 7th. The discussion at the September meeting focused on next steps and in particular how to make the Dialogues relevant and successful. Based on the discussion at the September meeting, the November meeting focused on developing a scenario/vision for the south Delta that meets ecological, flood management, water supply, and landowner/local objectives. The Dialogues will meet again after the first of the year to continue developing the scenario/vision discussion.

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Coordination and Collaboration

Coordination with Delta Counties: At the suggestion of Conservancy Board and Program and Policy Subcommittee, Conservancy staff met with key members of the Delta counties to discuss respective programs and potential opportunities for collaboration. Staff met with Yolo County earlier this year and a summary of the meeting was reported in the June Executive Officer's Report. This Report summarizes meetings with Sacramento, Solano, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin Counties.

Staff from each county gave brief background information about their respective programs and projects. The Conservancy discussed the planning efforts in developing criteria for the Conservancy's grant program, types of projects that could be funded through a grant program and approximate funding levels. Conservancy staff outlined the agencies various projects including coordinating invasive species management in the Delta, the Delta Restoration Hub, Delta marketing efforts, Delta Watershed Initiatives, and MERP.

September 24, 2014 - BOARD MEETING DIRECTIVES AND RESPONSES

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

1. Staff will work with Counsel to ensure that new member Dolly Sandoval is appropriately sworn in and can serve at the next Board meeting.

Response: Ms. Sandoval will be sworn in at the December 3rd board meeting.

2. Staff will invite the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to the next Conservancy board meeting to brief the Board on SNC's organizational structure for their grant program.

Response: Delta Conservancy executive management met with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy, and Tahoe Conservancy to receive input on their grant administration program. The conservancies shared their experience in managing the bond grant funds and provided input on grant management, human resource needs, and bond program delivery. Campbell Ingram will be presenting a summary of the discussions with the three conservancies at the December 3rd Board meeting.

3. Staff will provide a link to the Delta Stewardship Council's document entitled, "Delta Levee Investment Strategy Update" which provides background information in support of the Delta levee investment study.

Response: The link was sent to the Board Representatives on October 3, 2014.

4. Staff will provide a link to the final report of the Holland Union Gakuen Charrette.

Response: The link was sent to the Board Representatives on November 3, 2014.

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5. Staff will send an email with proposed changes to the Conservancy board meeting schedule for the remainder of 2014 and all of 2015.

Response: Staff sent the board the meeting schedule for the remaining 2014 and all 2015 on September 24, 2014.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 6.2: Delta Conservancy FY 2014-15 Budget Plan and Update

OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 6.3: Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix including most recent events and key dates of future meetings

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