

Meeting Date: September 24, 2014
Page 1



1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691
www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT September 24, 2014

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

Ecosystem Restoration

Delta Restoration Network (DRN): The Delta Restoration Network continues to develop the Restoration Hub concept and work with Network members to gain support for moving a three-year pilot project forward.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): The Conservancy's concept proposals have been accepted for two RCPP grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). If funded, the grants would:

- Create an incentive for producers and landowners in the Delta to convert farmland into managed wetlands. The total project cost is \$6 million. The Conservancy requested \$3 million from NRCS and another \$3 million is being provided in matching funds by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This project would increase wetlands habitat in the Delta while providing multiple benefits, including reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, carbon sequestration, subsidence reversal, and improved water quality.
- Control invasive weeds in riparian zones and along irrigation ditches and replace invasive weeds with native, riparian vegetation where appropriate. The Conservancy requested \$1,100,000 from the RCPP program. The Conservancy is providing \$1,500,000 in matching funds from current funding from the Department of Water Resources and expected future funding.

The RCPP program considers the California Bay Delta as a Critical Conservation Area. These projects will address the program's primary resource concerns of water quality degradation and inadequate fish and wildlife habitat. The full proposals are due to NRCS by October 2, 2014.

Delta Watershed Initiative Network (Delta WIN): Conservancy staff recently met with the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge to coordinate water quality monitoring for Sacramento River tributaries near Elk Grove. There is historical data for these tributaries but some of the monitoring is not currently occurring due to funding constraints.

The Conservancy has been selected to receive a \$300,000 grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency 2014 National Environmental Information Exchange Network Program. This project will expand the existing San Francisco Bay Regional Data Center to an estuary-wide repository which includes environmental data from the Delta. The Conservancy—working with federal, State, and local agencies—will prioritize and assemble data while ensuring data integrity and facilitating the public dissemination of the data to stakeholders.

Meeting Date: September 24, 2014**Page 2**

The Conservancy—in partnership with the Delta Science Center in Oakley—submitted a concept proposal for a grant to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. These funds would provide water quality education and monitoring experiences to middle school science students in disadvantaged communities. The grant will be between \$8,000 and \$19,500. If selected, the Conservancy and the Delta Science Center will submit a full grant proposal by October 15, 2014. The grant is part of the regional board's larger Central Valley Disadvantaged Communities Water Quality grants program.

Delta Land Management Work Group: Working with participants of the Delta Dialogue process, the Land Management Workgroup met in late June and again in late August to focus on publically owned or financed lands in the Delta and how they relate to restoration objectives. The group's current focus is to develop a better understanding of publicly owned lands and lands purchased with public funds as well as the overlapping restoration objectives of the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and surrounding Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP)/Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCP); and the resources needed for the long term management of publicly owned lands. Another meeting is scheduled for late September to continue discussions of issues.

Economic Development

Branding and Marketing: A final logo and tag line has been selected using feedback from three on-line surveys and input from Conservancy and the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) board meetings. (The final logo is attached at the end of this report). The Commission is now working with the consultant to develop a similar logo for the Great California Delta Trail. A brand standards handbook is also being developed which will provide guidance on how to use the logos moving forward. The Conservancy will be releasing a Request for Offer (RFO) by the end of September to find a consultant to manage the Delta marketing efforts.

Economic Indicators: Staff has had initial discussions with DPC regarding collaborating on an Economic Indicators report and how a potential report would be coordinated with the update and the Economic Sustainability Plan. Staff will be meeting with DPC again in October to continue exploring this concept.

Education and Outreach

Delta Dialogues: The next Delta Dialogues meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 26, 2014. A survey is currently being conducted to define the focus of Phase III.

Delta Waterway Cleanup and Tire Recycling: The fall cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Partnering with DPC, the Conservancy is hosting eight public sites throughout the Delta. The Tire Recycling has been expanded to include three locations. To thank our volunteers, the cleanup will include a Fun in the Delta Celebration at R. Kelley Farms from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. For more information on locations, visit the Conservancy's website at www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

Coordination and Collaboration

Invasive Species Coordination: The Conservancy was asked by State and federal agency partners, and other organizations to coordinate an effort for the control of invasive species in the Delta. The Conservancy's first coordination meeting was held on August 14, 2014. The objective of this invasive species coordination effort is to establish a framework for strategic planning and coordinated implementation, education and outreach, data

Meeting Date: September 24, 2014
Page 3

management, research, and funding. Federal and State agencies responsible for managing or controlling invasive species participated in this meeting. Invasive species are one of the five general categories of stressors harming native fish populations in the Delta ecosystem. The Invasive Species Council of California—California’s lead invasive species agency—supports this coordination effort. The next meeting will be held in November 2014 to discuss invasive species data management.

Coordination with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy: The Conservancy and Sierra Nevada Conservancy staff are presenting a poster at the 2014 International Water Association Watershed and River Basin Management Conference in San Francisco in September 2014. This effort supports the “Sierra to the Sea” joint resolution between the Conservancy and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy signed in March 2014.

Working Landscapes: The Habitat Enhancement of Working Landscapes work group met in mid-July to discuss marketing efforts for the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program. The Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) is expanding the program into the Delta. The program provides incentives to farmers for voluntarily modifying their agricultural land management practices in small ways known to benefit migratory birds without taking land out of production. MBCP will be making a presentation at the board meeting to further introduce and describe this program.

July 23, 2014 - BOARD MEETING DIRECTIVES AND RESPONSES

1. Staff will include an annual project summary at the September board meeting.
Response: A project summary with budget and timeline has been prepared and included in the Executive Officer’s Report.
2. Staff will include an update on the Land Acquisitions Work Group at a future board meeting.
Response: An update for the Land Acquisitions Work Group is included in the Executive Officer Report.
3. Staff will coordinate with DPC and include an update on the Conservancy’s Economic Indicators Report at the September board meeting.
Response: Conservancy staff is meeting with DPC in October.
4. Staff will show the video on the Holland Union Gakuen project at a future board meeting.
Response: The video will be played at the September board meeting.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

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

ANNUAL PROJECT SUMMARY

Agenda Item 6.3: Draft Delta Conservancy Project Summary for FY 13-14 and two-year projections

Meeting Date: September 24, 2014
Page 4

CORRESPONDENCE

Agenda Item 6.4: Correspondence Letters for the Delta Conservancy

OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 6.5: Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix including most recent events and key dates of future meetings

Contact Person:

Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Assistant Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Phone: (916) 375-2086

Delta Logo

