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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT May 28, 2014

PROGRAM UPDATE

Ecosystem Restoration

Delta Restoration Network (DRN): The DRN last met on May 23, 2014. Topics included an overview of recent efforts to define the organization, tasks, and costs associated with a pilot Restoration Hub, an update by Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) staff on efforts to develop a coordinated monitoring framework for tidal wetlands, and a report on the first Land Management Workgroup.

The Conservancy has applied for a grant from the US EPA 2014 Wetland Grant Program. The total project cost is \$333,500. Of this amount, \$250,000 was requested in the US EPA grant, and \$83,500 provided in matching funds as in-kind services from the State Water Board, San Francisco Estuary Institute, and the Conservancy. If awarded, these funds will be used to standardize and share data through EcoAtlas. The Conservancy should hear by late July 2014 if the proposal has been selected for award.

Arundo Control and Restoration Program: The Conservancy and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) have entered into an interagency agreement to implement the Arundo Control and Restoration Program. The first phase of this program is being funded by the FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resource Office (FESSRO) within DWR.

Delta Watershed Initiative Network (Delta WIN): Delta WIN is an information platform that connects projects and expertise to maximize the ecological benefits of healthy watersheds. Through this initiative, Delta WIN—in collaboration with watershed partners—will enhance, expand, and create opportunities for greater watershed health.

The Conservancy submitted a concept proposal to the US EPA Region 9 Water Quality Improvement Fund. The total project cost is approximately \$500,000. Of this amount, approximately \$250,000 was requested from the US EPA and \$250,000 provided in matching funds from the Conservancy, and Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed. If awarded, these funds will be used to reduce pesticides in the surface waters of the Marsh Creek watershed through the implementation of best management practices (BMP). The Conservancy should hear by early July 2014 if a full proposal will be requested.

The Conservancy and the Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF) submitted a grant proposal for \$7,000 to the Lawrence Foundation to establish water quality monitoring and educational outreach efforts at the El Macero Channel, which conveys south Davis storm water and agricultural tail water runoff from to the Yolo Bypass. These funds will help with developing BMP options for watershed improvements.

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Land Management: On May 2, 2014, the Conservancy convened a workgroup to identify issues related to land management in the Delta in the near and long-term. The objective of the meeting was to bring together multiple perspectives for the benefit of shared learning and collective problem solving. Between the restoration requirements of the Biological Opinion and the potential restoration requirements of the BDCP, much coordination needs to occur to develop a streamlined and better understood process. Workgroup participants included various programs within Department of Water Resources (DWR), Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), State and Federal Water Contractors, Metropolitan Water District, Suisun Resource Conservation District, the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC), and the Delta Protection Commission (DPC). The top issues identified were long-term ownership and operations and management issues, and land valuation. Conservancy staff is drafting a white paper that summarizes these issues and begins to look at ways to address these concerns. The next workgroup meeting is anticipated to occur in early June 2014.

Economic Development

Branding and Marketing: Logo alternatives and tag lines have been released and the branding consultant is currently soliciting feedback to assist in developing the final logo. The Board will receive a presentation on the logos at the May 28, 2014 meeting. The Conservancy is in the process of contracting with a marketing consultant to manage the next phases: marketing plan development and implementation. Conservancy staff—in partnership with the Delta Protection Commission (DPC)—is forming the Delta Marketing Team to work with the marketing consultant on the marketing plan and to identify solutions for managing Delta marketing in the long-term.

Agri-Tourism: The Conservancy is working with Sacramento River Delta Grown (SRDG) and Brentwood Harvest Time agri-tourism associations to increase the administrative and marketing capacity of both organizations. The Conservancy coordinated outreach to recruit student interns to work with the organizations. The Conservancy is also overseeing the interns' work, as necessary. The SRDG intern started in early May 2014 and is assisting SRDG in marketing its annual Passport Weekend. Interviews are still underway for the Brentwood intern.

Economic Indicators: Conservancy Staff researched the production of a Delta Economic Indicators (DEI) report that would track a group of indicators that reflect the overall well-being of the Delta region in terms of economic, social, and environmental health. A DEI report can be a way of describing current conditions, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of the Conservancy, or various other local, State, and Federal, programs to improve the economy of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Region. A draft white paper describing background, purpose, and objectives was developed. The white paper also discusses process strategies, challenges, and draft recommendations for the creation of a formal DEI report. Staff has shared the white paper with DPC staff and will be meeting with them to solicit input, identify next steps, and determine potential ways to move forward.

Delta Stories: Conservancy staff is in discussions with Restore the Delta, DPC, CSUS, UC Davis faculty, and Capital Public Radio staff to develop a Delta stories project that collects stories, shares them in a compelling way, and educates the public about the communities and people of the Delta.

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Education and Outreach

Water Education through Public Outreach: Under a grant received from the Bureau of Reclamation, the Conservancy will be developing outreach materials to educate the public on contaminants that could be released into the waterways after a flood event. The outreach materials will include information on how to prepare prior to a flood event and local resources to assist the Delta community to reduce the likelihood of contaminants being released during post flood events.

Delta Dialogues: Phase III of the Delta Dialogues began on March 28, 2014, as the Conservancy took on a new role of facilitating the meetings. The group received a presentation about the State Water Action Plan and discussed ways to help in integrating the Action Plan into existing water management actions. As the Delta Dialogues enter into the third phase, the group discussed returning to the four-hour format rather than an all-day meeting. The next meeting of the Dialogues is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 27, 2014.

Holland Union Gakuen Charrette: The Conservancy, in partnership with DPC, is sponsoring a charrette for community members to help develop potential reuse and renewal for the Holland Union Gakuen. The Holland Union Gakuen—also known as the Clarksburg Japanese School—is one of the few remaining pre-World War II Japanese schools in the State. A Charrette is an intensive planning meeting to discuss various scenarios for an area or building

Delta Waterway Cleanup:

Waterway Cleanup: The Spring Cleanup was held on April 12, 2014 at three sites, attracting nearly 80 community volunteers that removed more than 2 tons of trash and 326 tires from Delta Waterways. A broad range of volunteers from State agencies, local organizations, banks and local schools participated in this event. Conservancy partner, Bridgestone America, recycled all the tires and covered recycling fees. A total of 90 tires were removed from the waterways and local farmers brought more than 236 tires illegally dumped on their private property.

Water Quality Monitoring: As part of the Delta WIN's environmental education component, the Conservancy visited 180 students at Clarksburg Middle School, and Rio Vista High School. Clarksburg students learned about their local watershed, water quality, and attended a water quality monitoring field trip to Elk Slough. Students at Rio Vista High School learned how trash in water impacts the wildlife food chain and enjoyed visits from a Peregrine Falcon, a Red Tail Hawk, and two Owls.

Walk on the Wildside: On May 17, 2014, Conservancy staff and volunteers provided water quality education and outreach to the community at the Walk on the Wildside community event at the Beach Lake Preserve in Freeport. The event attracted new volunteers for the Delta WIN Program to help with the Delta Waterway Cleanups, and the Citizen Water Quality Monitoring activities.

Community Training Program: On May 6, 2014, the Conservancy held a workshop entitled, *Revealing the Delta's Treasures*. The workshop was designed to support the Delta Branding and Marketing project, encouraged businesses to collaborate and develop cross-promotional strategies with non-traditional partners. On May 13, 2014, the Conservancy, in partnership with the Brentwood Library, offered a Grant Research

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Workshop. Delta-based nonprofits learned how to use the library's new Online Foundation Directory, which is available to the public during the library's open hours.

Coordination and Collaboration

Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee: The first meeting of the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee was held on April 9, 2014. The committee is a requirement of the Delta Reform Act and is anticipated to be a forum to discuss, consider, and orchestrate the timely and orderly implementation of actions consistent with the policies and recommendations outlined in the Delta Plan, and the annual priorities set by DSC. The committee is expected to meet semiannually, and is comprised of the membership listed below.

The Conservancy was requested to provide an overview of the Delta Restoration Network (DRN) and our efforts to develop a pilot Restoration Hub as one of three implementation highlights. The presentation was well received and is available on the DSC website. We anticipate that this will be an excellent forum to continue to showcase the good work the Conservancy is doing and resolve impediments to our efforts.

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL DELTA PLAN INTERAGENCY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

State/Delta Agencies:

Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Chair, Delta Stewardship Council (DPIIC Chair)
Vice Chair, Delta Protection Commission
Director, Department of Water Resources
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Executive Officer, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
President, Central Valley Flood Protection Board

Federal Agencies:

Deputy Secretary, US Department of the Interior
Regional Director, Mid-Pacific, Bureau of Reclamation
Regional Director, Pacific Southwest, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Regional Administrator, West Coast, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Regional Administrator, Pacific Southwest, US Environmental Protection Agency
South Pacific Division Director of Programs, US Army Corps of Engineers

Coordination with Yolo County Staff: At the request of Supervisor Provenza, Conservancy staff met with Yolo County staff on April 24, 2014 to discuss our respective efforts. The goals of the meeting were to develop a better understanding of each other's authorities and programs, explore ways in which we can mutually support each other's efforts, and look for opportunities to partner. This was a great opportunity to better understand the related work Yolo County is doing and we were able to identify several areas where increased coordination and partnership could benefit both organizations. Conservancy staff welcomes the opportunity to have similar

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meetings with staff from the other Delta Counties. Ideally these meetings would be initiated by our County Supervisor Board members for their respective counties.

MARCH 12, 2014 - BOARD MEETING DIRECTIVES AND RESPONSES

1. Staff will coordinate with board members in reaching out to establish a working relationship with Restore the Delta staff.

Response: Staff has attempted to schedule a meeting with Restore the Delta.

2. Staff will document in a letter to Assemblymember Rendon, the Conservancy's conversation with Rendon's staff regarding the Conservancy's exclusion from the Public Records Act Request recently faxed to other state conservancies. The letter will reiterate our willingness to assist in any way.

Response: Campbell Ingram sent an email to Alf Brandt regarding the Conservancy's exclusion from the Public Records Act request.

3. Staff will include attendance in future Program and Policy Subcommittee (PPS) updates. Staff will discuss with PPS their membership and participation and will report at the May board meeting.

Response: PPS membership and participation was discussed at the PPS meeting on April 16, 2014. The meeting outcome is included in the PPS Report.

4. Staff will revise the Conservancy Three-Year Work Plan and Implementation Plan as discussed in the March Board meeting. A summary of the revisions will be included at the next board meeting.

Response: The revised Three-Year Work Plan and Implementation Plan is posted on the Website. A summary of the revisions that highlight the changes is included in the Executive Officer Report Attachment 1.1.

5. Staff will discuss potential revisions to the draft BDCP comment letter and attachments at the April Program and Policy Subcommittee, and present a revised draft at the May board meeting. Revisions will include a notice that the Resources Agency and Department of Finance will abstain from signing the letter.

Response: The BDCP comment letter was discussed at the PPS meeting on April 16, 2014. The meeting outcome is included in the PPS Report.

6. Staff will identify future draft letters as "draft" to clarify for board members that they are reviewing a draft document.

Response: Staff will identify future draft letters as "draft" to clarify that it is not a final document.

7. Staff will include an update from DWR on the Dutch Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration Project at the May board meeting.

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Response: Staff invited the DWR Staff to provide an update on Dough Slough project at the May's Board meeting.

8. Staff will include an update from DWR on the proposed barriers scheduled to be placed in the Delta to reduce drought impacts.

Response: DWR has decided not to install the temporary barriers, so scheduling an update was not necessary.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 6:2: The attached Delta Conservancy FY 2013-14 Budget Update summarizes the budget plan and expenditure for this fiscal year.

CORRESPONDENCE

Agenda Item 6:3: The attached correspondence letters for Delta Conservancy.

OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 6.4: The attached Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix summarizes the most recent events and lists the key dates of future meetings.

Contact Person:

Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Assistant Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
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Attachment:

Conservancy Three-Year Work Plan and Implementation Plan, Summary of Revisions



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Conservancy Three-Year Work Plan and Implementation Plan Summary of Revisions

(see Economic Development Program/Delta Branding and Marketing/Program Activities, page 7)

Assessing Impact of Increased Tourism Usage in the Delta

Project Description: As the Delta Branding and Marketing project moves forward, the Delta increasingly will be seen as a tourist destination. Residents’ concerns likely will increase about the potential for crime to proliferate in the area as a result. Delta residents are particularly concerned about trespassing, illegal dumping, vandalism, increased liability as a result of trespassing, and theft. Concerns regarding the negative impacts of tourism have been heard at Delta branding workshops, Delta Trail outreach meetings and Delta NHA public meetings. The goal of this project is to help to alleviate the impacts of increased tourism on Delta residents and farmers. A Tourism Impact Management Subcommittee, as part of the Delta Marketing Team created through the Delta Branding and Marketing Project, will address this concern. ED-Table 2 outlines specific project elements. Current staff levels are sufficient for this task for FY 13-14.

Connection to Conservancy Strategic Plan: Objective 2.2 directly addresses this project by requiring the Conservancy to, “Investigate mechanisms for mitigating impacts to agriculture from projects that enhance recreation and tourism or habitat restoration.” The Conservancy will be working with Delta farmers to identify best practices for mitigating impacts.

Connection to Delta Plan: Multiple Delta Plan recommendations address the nexus of recreation, tourism, and farming, including DP R9, DP R11, DP R12, DP R13, DP R14, and DP R16. Specific recommendations range from agri-tourism to wildlife friendly farming to state recreation areas. This project addresses each of these recommendations by requiring a broad look at the affects of increased tourism on agriculture.

Connection to Other Plans: The ESP identifies this issue, stating on page 160, “Another serious and common problem is trespass on private property. Frequently, trespass violations stem from recreationists’ misunderstanding of what property is public and what is private. Clear signage, however, does not deter some who desire to use a specific area.” Chapter 10 of the NHA Feasibility Study discusses concerns that had been brought up by private property owners regarding increased tourism in the Delta, and approaches to address these concerns. Additionally, Chapter 4 of the Delta Trail Blueprint for Contra Costa and Solano Counties discusses challenges and potential solutions.

ED-Table 2: Recreation and Tourism Impacts

Project Elements (Planning Steps)	Timeline
Develop and engage a Tourism Impact Subcommittee of the Delta Marketing Team to explore next steps	FY 13-14
Prioritize and develop recommendations based on next steps	FY 13-14
Develop strategy for moving forward including projects and resources to implement recommendations	FY 14-15 and beyond

Funding needs: Existing staff resources are sufficient for this project at this time.

13-14 Implementation Plan: Building on research conducted by Executive Fellows in 2012 and the Delta Trails Blueprint study, the Conservancy will engage the Delta Marketing Team to identify the next steps. **Performance Measures:** list of Tourism Impact Management Subcommittee members of the Delta Marketing Team members; meeting notes; recommendations; strategy for moving forward for FY 14-15.

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(see Education and Outreach Program/ Projects and Activities, page 23-24)

Delta Waterways Cleanups

Project Description: The Conservancy, in partnership with the State Parks Department, Sacramento Area Creeks Council, and California Coastal Commission, co-sponsors two Delta waterway cleanups during the year. The first is in April and the second is in September. The project goals are: (1) to protect and improve water quality of the Delta ecosystem, (2) to raise awareness and understanding of good stewardship practices, (3) and to provide the community opportunities to implement stewardship practices in the Delta. EO-Table 2 lists the planning steps for this project; funding needs are \$6,000 annually. Existing staffing resources are sufficient for this project.

The Delta Waterway Cleanup project is a component of the larger Delta Watershed Initiative Network (Delta WIN), an emerging Conservancy project. The cleanup begins to address the Delta Community’s growing concern of illegally dumped trash which has negative impacts on the economy. Currently, landowners are responsible for removing and recycling illegally dumped trash which can create undue burden. More resources are needed to identify how trash impacts individual landowners and how to create, review, and implement alternatives to address those impacts. The Conservancy can engage in an exploratory effort with the communities and counties to better define issues and opportunities to address illegal dumping at a larger scale. Estimated costs are \$60,000 to explore and fund initial efforts. Managing illegally dumped trash is also one of the issues identified in the Delta Branding and Marketing Project. (See “Assessing Impact of Increased Tourism Usage in the Delta” above.)

EO-Table 2 lists the planning steps for this project; funding needs for the cleanup are \$6,000 annually. Existing staffing resources are sufficient for that project. To address the larger issues of illegally dumped trash would require funding needs of \$60,000.

Connection to the Conservancy Strategic Plan: This project meets Objective 1.3 to aid in protecting and improving water quality to protect the Delta ecosystem and economy.

EO-Table 2: Delta Waterways Cleanups

Project Element(Planning Steps)	Timeline
Increase the number of site volunteers from 200 to 250	FY 13-14
Increase the number of sites from four to six	FY 14-15
Explore efforts with communities and counties to define issues and opportunities	FY 14-15
Funding Needs: \$6,000 annually for Waterway Cleanups; \$60,000 annually for Illegally Dumped Trash project.	
<i>FY 13-14 Implementation: The Conservancy will continue to work with its partners in carrying out the bi-annual Delta Waterway Cleanup. Performance Measures: completing cleanups, increase in site volunteers.</i>	