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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

July 23, 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 3 year pilot project forward. Upcoming meetings include an overview and demonstration on August 14th for the leadership of the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the water contractors. (A full overview of the Hub will be presented later in the agenda.)

EcoAtlas: The Conservancy has been selected to receive a \$250,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Wetland Program Development Grant. This funding will build on the Conservancy's current work to enhance the functionality of EcoAtlas for tracking Delta restoration projects under a FY 2013 Wetland Program Development Grant. The project will develop better data standardization, visualization and sharing tools to provide greater insight into and tracking of the environmental benefits of projects at local and regional scales.

Delta Watershed Initiative Network (Delta WIN): Delta WIN is continuing to coordinate with the local watersheds in efforts to support and enhance watershed health. The Conservancy is working with watershed partners to compile existing water quality monitoring data from the Sacramento River at Freeport, in the Yolo Basin, and in the Marsh Creek Watershed and have initiated discussions for potential coordination with Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Delta WIN will use this data to identify data gaps to help focus future data collection for improving watershed health.

Additionally, the Conservancy recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Teichert Foundation to support water quality monitoring. Funds will be used to purchase water quality testing equipment and provide 60-90 school children two classroom visits, as well as two field trips to conduct water quality monitoring at the Freeport site.

Delta Land Management Workgroup: The Conservancy held a second meeting of the workgroup on June 6th and received feedback from the participants on a draft white paper intended to clarify land management roles, expectations of future land ownership, and criteria for making land management decisions in the Delta. At the request of the group the white paper was re-characterized as a staff report to the Conservancy Board. (The Staff Report will be addressed as a separate agenda item.)

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There was concern within the Delta community that the workgroup didn't include local participation. To help address this issue, the Conservancy held a special session of the Delta Dialogue on June 27th to address land acquisition issues. (Please see the Delta Dialogues summary under the Education and Outreach section of this report.)

Economic Development

Branding and Marketing: The Conservancy and the Commission have been working to gather community feedback to help determine the final Delta logo. A survey was released in mid-June asking whether the logo should say "California Delta" or "Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." The majority of respondents voted for "Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." Using the decision regarding the name, as well as feedback from the initial logo survey and Conservancy and Commission board meetings, the brand consultants developed two final Delta logos. These logos will be vetted by a third community survey. The final logo will be selected using the responses from the third survey and is expected in August. (An overview of the Branding and Marketing project will be presented later in the agenda.)

Economic Indicators: Staff prepared a white paper exploring the potential of developing a suite of economic indicators for the Delta. The paper was shared with the DPC and subsequently presented to the Program and Policy Subcommittee, which recommended a presentation to the full Board. (An overview of the Proposed Economic Indicators Report will be presented later in the agenda.)

Education and Outreach

Delta Dialogues: The Delta Dialogues resumed in June after a two month hiatus. The main topics for the June meeting included 1) revision of a cover letter for and distribution of the final Phase 2 report (available soon); and 2) discussion of localized drought impacts. In the afternoon, a special session of the Dialogues was held. The purpose of the special session was to include more in-Delta participants in a discussion of how publically owned land, or land that has been acquired with public funds can be used to meet Delta/Suisun restoration objectives. The group identified three key areas where more work/dialogue should ensue: 1) better inventory of publically owned or funded lands; 2) an assessment of overlapping restoration and mitigation requirements; and 3) interim and long-term land management and good neighbor policies. Conservancy staff will work with a subset of the Dialogues participants to design the next meeting.

Holland Union Gakuen Charrette: More than 50 people—including several former students, north Delta residents, and preservation experts—attended a one-day planning session about the possible reuse and restoration of the Holland Union Gakuen in Clarksburg. This historic site, one of the few remaining pre-World War II Japanese language schools, is in relatively good condition. The group toured restored historic sites important to the Japanese experience in the Delta, including the Locke Boarding House (owned by State Parks), the Miyazaki Bathhouse (privately owned), and the Buddhist Temple. After the tour, the group developed several options under four different ownership scenarios. The ownership scenarios were: (1) community-based non-profit organization; (2) state or other government agency; (3) for-profit company or individual; and (4) public/private partnership group. Key themes discussed under all ownership scenarios included incorporating aspects of the site's history and Delta agriculture.

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The Conservancy partnered with the DPC to host the event. Staff is writing the final report for the charrette. The Conservancy will continue to work with an ad hoc committee as it develops next steps based upon the outcome of the charrette.

Waterways Cleanup: The fall cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 9am-12pm. Conservancy staff is currently identifying collection sites and will provide more information through standard outreach efforts and as part of the August Board meeting packet. This fall the Conservancy will expand collection procedures to include documenting the number of items removed from the waterways. The data collected will be used to track the number and type of items collected to develop a clearer picture of the waste being left in the Delta's waterways.

Coordination and Collaboration

Delta Data Summit: The Delta Science Program hosted a data summit on June 5th and 6th. Conservancy staff participated in the summit's planning committee. The goal of this summit was to bring together scientists, resource managers, decision makers, academia, stakeholders and interested citizens to discuss a new era in information management and knowledge discovery. The expected long-term outcome of the summit is to develop an overarching vision and strategy to sustain data integration efforts while taking advantage of constantly evolving technology. Science programs, agencies, and researchers collect data designed to meet their respective requirements, mandates, or questions, but data is only useful when it can be accessed, analyzed, and transformed into knowledge and understanding. Speakers with national and international experience discussed how we can build on existing and emerging data management and exchange systems to enable the Bay-Delta region's environmental and project data to be easily accessed, processed, and visualized from diverse data management systems housed in public agencies, academic, non-profit, and private institutions as well as on "citizen-scientist" desktops. The resulting vision document is currently being developed and should be available by late fall, and will be posted on the Conservancy's web site.

Sierra Water Workgroup Summit: Conservancy staff organized a special session panel for the Sierra Water Workgroup Summit focused on the Delta-Sierra connection. This effort supports the "Sierra to the Sea" joint resolution between the Conservancy and Sierra Nevada Conservancy signed in March 2014. Conservancy staff emphasized the challenges in working to protect and restore these ecosystems and their benefits and how they link to provide essential ecosystem services. Topics covered included the California Water Plan, the Sierra Fund's efforts related to mercury mines, and the State Water Resource Control Board's efforts in developing flow objectives. The session was well received, and the importance of partnerships and collaborative approaches was emphasized as was the importance of considering issues holistically instead of in silos. Other topics included connecting land use planning and water management, managing groundwater and surface water, and the state of sediment transport from the Sierra to the Delta.

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May 28, 2014 - BOARD MEETING DIRECTIVES AND RESPONSES

1. Staff will include an overview on the Conservancy's Economic Indicators Report at the July board meeting.
Response: A report for the Economic Indicators is included in the Board agenda
2. Staff will send board members and liaison advisors the Delta Branding and Marketing questionnaire for input on the draft Delta Brand Logos.
Response: Board members and liaison advisors have received links to subsequent surveys for the draft Delta Brand logos.
3. Staff will have the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Comment Letter signed as "Ken Vogel, Delta Conservancy Board Chair."
Response: Staff edited the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Letter and forwarded for signature.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 7.2: The attached Delta Conservancy FY 2013-14 Budget Update summarizes the budget plan and expenditures for this fiscal year.

CORRESPONDENCE

Agenda Item 7.3: The attached correspondence letters for the Delta Conservancy.

OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 7.4: The attached Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix summarizes the most recent events and lists the key dates of future meetings.

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