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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT November 20, 2017

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

Delta Carbon Projects:

The Delta Conservancy continues to meet with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop a pilot project on existing DWR managed wetlands on Sherman and Twitchell Islands as a way to demonstrate the newly adopted California Wetland protocol. The Delta Conservancy has entered into a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to work on their behalf to continue to explore these opportunities, which can be found [here](#). The next step is to open an American Carbon Registry account on DWR's behalf and list the potential projects with the registry. Additionally, the Delta Conservancy and our partners are meeting with other interested parties including other private land owners and investors who have expressed willingness to fund carbon projects.

Regional Planning to Identify Effective Investments of Proposition 1 Funding

Cache Slough Regional Planning:

The group has completed Phase 1 of the planning effort and has a draft final report that is available online at <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/planning-efforts-related-ecosystem-restoration/>. The group will continue to meet to develop a scope of work for Phase 2 of the effort. An overview of the project and draft final report is included in Agenda Item 9.

Central Delta Corridor Partnership:

The Delta Conservancy continues to convene this group of owners of publically financed and publically owned lands to discuss coordinated management and restoration opportunities. At meetings in September and October, the corridor land-owners (Department of Water Resources, Metropolitan Water District, the Nature Conservancy, California Waterfowl Association, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) began to develop a scope of work and outreach strategy for the development of a Corridor Strategy that will identify restoration, sustainability and coordinated land management opportunities.

Invasive Species Coordination, Control, and Restoration

Arundo Control and Restoration Project:

Construction continued at the Ulati Creek restoration site with ground preparation activities, installation and operation of an area-wide irrigation system, non-native weed control, and native grass

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and forb seed broadcasting (see Figures 1, 2, and 3). The Delta Conservancy's partners, Sonoma Ecology Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), have begun treatments of integrated chemical (herbicide spraying) and biological control (release of Arundo Wasps) at Brannan Island State Recreational Area. The USDA approved an additional \$43,511 in funds and a 1-year time extension to complete the project. The Department of Water Resources is reviewing the Delta Conservancy's proposal for funding Phase 2 of this project, which would expand the resources, and scope of the existing program.



Figure 1. Ulatis Creek habitat restoration site showing baseline conditions. Nonnative grasses are in the foreground and some Arundo is visible in the background.



Figure 2. Ulatis Creek habitat restoration site after ground preparation activities.



Figure 3. Ulatis Creek habitat restoration site during irrigation to control nonnatives and support native plants seeded in September and October.

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WATERSHED PROGRAM

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Water Quality Monitoring:

The Delta Conservancy is collaborating with the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (SLNWR) and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) to develop a three-year water quality monitoring program to assess the effects of non-point sources of pollution entering the SLNWR. The Delta Conservancy will be conducting the field monitoring and the SRCSD Environmental Laboratory will provide in-kind services for environmental analytical services. This project will be jointly supported by SLNWR, SRCSD, and the Delta Conservancy. The Delta Conservancy will provide staff and in-kind use of its field monitoring equipment. The SLNWR will provide \$5,000 for Delta Conservancy staff time to conduct the field monitoring. The SRCSD will provide analytical services which the cost will be determined after the specific laboratory analyses are finalized in December 2017.

Yolo Basin Water Quality Monitoring and Education and Outreach:

The Delta Conservancy is collaborating with the Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF) on a Water Quality Monitoring Classroom and Field Trip Program. This project is an extension of the YBF's *Discover the Flyway* field trips program, combining in-class lectures with hands-on field learning. The water quality monitoring includes monitoring for conventional pollutants 3-4 times during the wet and dry seasons for two years. This project supports existing efforts of the Foundation and introduces students to important issues of water quality, healthy communities, and climate change. The Delta Conservancy's Bureau of Reclamation Grant funds the project. The total cost for the project is \$4,991 and will be completed by the end of June 2018.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Delta Marketing:

The Delta Conservancy has selected a contractor to develop the Delta Signage Plan and provide draft designs for new signs. There will be a series of public meetings over the next few months to gather community input on the best locations and sign design. The first public meeting will occur on November 27 from 3-5 p.m. at the Big Break Center in Oakley, and the second public meeting will occur on December 12 from 5-7 p.m. at the Jean Harvie Center in Walnut Grove. Both will focus on desired sign locations. The third meeting will focus on design concepts for new signs and will occur in early January, likely in Rio Vista. A public comment period on the draft Signage Plan and draft sign designs, along with two additional public meetings for input, will take place in early spring.

The Delta Conservancy continues working with the Delta Protection Commission to procure a contractor for the development of a map of recreation opportunities in the Delta. The Delta Conservancy and Delta Protection Commission expect to complete the map and make it available to the public by the 2018 Delta Summer season.

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BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – September 27, 2017

- 1) The Board requested that staff provide the final reports and presentations on the Cache Slough and Suisun Marsh Improvements Assessment when complete.

Staff Response: Staff will provide the reports for both restoration strategies when finalized.

- 2) The Board requested to receive a copy of the final Delta Conservancy Climate Change Policy – 2017 Update, with the approved additional references, at the November 2017 Board meeting.

Staff Response: Staff incorporated comments from the Board into the Delta Conservancy Climate Change Policy – 2017 Update. The final version is included as an attachment to this agenda item and available online at <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/strategic-plan/>.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 6 (Attachment 2): Expenditure Report

OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 6 (Attachment 3): Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix

CORRESPONDENCE

None

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