

Meeting Date: November 4, 2015
Page 1



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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT November 4, 2015

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

Ecosystem Restoration

Proposition 1, Grant Program: The Conservancy is receiving \$50,000,000 for the Proposition 1 Grant Program. The first round of concept proposals was received on September 15th. Conservancy staff has reviewed the 17 submitted concept proposals. A staff report for discussing potential next steps is included in Agenda Item 8.

Delta Restoration Network (DRN): The DRN has developed scopes of work to conduct regional restoration planning per the directive in the Governor's Eco Restore Program for both the NE Delta and Cache Slough Complex regions. A staff report with background information and requests for authority to develop agreements to conduct the work are included in Agenda Item 11.

Arundo Control and Restoration Project: Following the Board's September 2nd approval of the resolution adopting the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for Arundo Control and Restoration Project in the Cache Slough Complex, control work of Arundo commenced and will continue into October. Approximately 6 acres of Arundo will be treated this year.

Water Quality

Delta Environmental Data for the Understanding of a California Estuary (DEDUCE): The white paper, *Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information*, was released on October 2nd. This paper is a synthesis of ideas explored during the June 2014 Data Summit and was developed with participation from the Conservancy (and co-authored by Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon). This paper is the product of a broad, collective effort in the effective management of environmental data and includes a list of key recommendations. The primary goals include supporting and advancing California's existing data systems, ensuring alignment with national technology trends, and laying the foundation for more consistent and robust access to data and metadata across organizational boundaries. As part of the Conservancy's Watershed Initiative, the Conservancy is advancing this vision for managing California's environmental information. DEDUCE is implementing the vision laid out in the white paper by integrating silos of data that have resulted in separate and compartmentalized science which currently impede science-based decision-making. By expanding the existing San Francisco Bay Regional Data Center to include water quality data from the Delta this effort is integrating legacy water quality data and data that has not yet been shared or connected to the state's infrastructure for a broader use of data. Through this effort, the Conservancy is integrating Delta science in a transparent manner, and enhancing communication and access of environmental data.

Meeting Date: November 4, 2015

Page 2

Economic Development

Delta Awareness Campaign: The Delta Marketing website and marketing plan are the second phase in the Delta Awareness Campaign. Phase one was the development of the Delta logo, which was completed by the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) last year. Conservancy staff has been working closely with DPC staff and the marketing consultant to develop the marketing website and initial concepts for the marketing plan. This project is on hold for the next month while Conservancy staff re-evaluates next steps.

Education and Outreach

Waterway Cleanup: The Conservancy celebrated the California Coastal and International Cleanup Day on September 19th by hosting a Delta Waterway Cleanup on Sherman Island with the Rio Vista Windsurfers Association and Sherman Island Kiteboarding Organization. Volunteers cleaned up over a mile along the waterway and anglers in the area joined in to pick up an estimated two tons of trash (one full dumpster). The Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps participated in the cleanup and hauled away 68 tires that were found near the waterway. The next Delta Waterway Cleanup is scheduled for spring 2016 as a part of Sacramento's Creek Week.

Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP): The Delta fish safe advisory sign is currently in the testing phase, which is conducted using two rounds of in-depth individual interviews with community members who are over 18 and who fish and consume the fish they catch. The qualitative data gathered from all interviews will be analyzed and the results will be incorporated into the final design of the Delta fish safe advisory sign. In December, the Delta MERP Community Stakeholder Group will be presented with preliminary findings from the sign testing and discuss suggested sign changes and generate the final sign recommendations that will be used to generate the final Delta Advisory sign design. The Conservancy is developing a database of potential sign posting locations for the advisory signs. The Conservancy is coordinating with Delta Counties, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Lands Commission, State Parks, and others to identify and prioritize locations as well as assist with sign posting logistics. The sign is expected to be ready for posting in early 2016. The Delta MERP team anticipates posting 100 to 150 signs.

The Delta MERP team met with CDFW public information staff on October 1st. The meeting aligns with the program's efforts to expand its partnerships with state agencies in order to reduce human exposure to mercury from consuming contaminated fish caught in the Delta. Multiple areas of collaboration were discussed, and a list of next steps was created based on several areas that were identified as having the potential to generate future collaborations. Following the feasibility review of the document created as a result of the meeting, a road map that includes specific action items, deliverables, timelines, and the resources to advance the MERP priorities, will be developed in consultation with CDFW.

Flood Contaminant Outreach: California Flood Preparedness Week took place October 19-24th. The Conservancy's Brochure, "Preventing Flood Contamination in the Delta", was distributed at the event. The brochure was developed under an environmental education grant from the Bureau of Reclamation and provides information for the public about the steps they can take to protect their health, the health of the ecosystem, and water supply.

Meeting Date: November 4, 2015
Page 3

September 23, 2015 - BOARD MEETING DIRECTIVES AND RESPONSES

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

1. Staff will provide a budget update with more details regarding how the operating budget is spent.

Staff Response: Staff developed a budget update with more details and included it in the November 4, 2015 Board Packet.

2. Staff will provide more information regarding the regional planning effort in the northeast Delta, specifically, the Conservancy's authority to use Prop. 1 funds in this manner; how this effort links to the Conservancy's enabling legislation, strategic plan and current Implementation Plan; specific information on how funding will be spent; and, how other agencies are contributing to this effort.

Staff Response: Staff will be responding to these questions at the November 4, 2015 Board meeting.

3. Staff will work with Deputy Attorney General Rinke to develop a conflict of interest training for Board members.

Staff Response: Deputy Attorney General Rinke will provide a conflict of interest training at the November 4, 2015 Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 6.2: Delta Conservancy FY 2015-16 Budget Plan and Update

STAFFING UPDATE

The Conservancy welcomed two new staff members in October:

Laura Jensen – Program Manager I

Laura comes to the Delta Conservancy with over 8 years of conservation experience in California's Central Valley. Prior to working for the Conservancy, Laura worked on Delta ecosystem enhancement at the Department of Water Resources, and previously, for The Nature Conservancy's Migratory Bird Initiative, where she directed the implementation of the BirdReturns program. Laura's expertise includes habitat creation in agriculture-dominated landscapes, conservation of freshwater resources and river systems, partnership development, strategic planning, and program delivery. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Barbara and a Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Meeting Date: November 4, 2015
Page 4

Jessica O'Connor – Staff Services Manager I

Jessica brings a wide range of professional civil service experience to the Delta Conservancy. Over the last 9 years, she was dedicated to the Delta Stewardship Council's mission to further the state's coequal goals for the Delta by serving in multiple roles including supporting the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee, the Delta Science Program team, and with the implementation of grant funds to support ecosystem restoration. She was instrumental in the development of the Delta Plan and the Covered Actions on-line certification system as required by the 2009 Delta Reform Act. Prior to working at Delta Stewardship Council, Jessica worked at the Department of Rehabilitation, where she developed a new streamlined hiring and recruiting system for the Department.

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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