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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT June 27, 2016

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

Ecosystem Restoration

Proposition 1 Grant Program: The Conservancy's Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program (Grant Program) focuses on the restoration of important species and habitat, on improving water quality, and on agricultural sustainability. The Grant Program identifies projects to protect and restore California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds that may be funded with Prop. 1 funding (Sec. 79732 et seq). The Conservancy has completed its first grant cycle, and has approved, conditionally approved, or reserved funding for 8 projects that advance ecosystem restoration, water quality, and agricultural sustainability in the Delta. These projects have requested approximately \$5.9 million in grant funding. Staff sent all applicants a letter regarding their funding status, and is tracking all active projects. Currently, no grant agreements have been fully executed. Staff has revised the Grant Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Packet for the FY 16-17 grant cycle, in preparation for Board review and public comment.

Arundo Control and Restoration Project: The Arundo Control and Restoration Program permits for the Ulatis Creek site are still in progress. The US Army Corps of Engineers is currently insuring compliance with cultural resource guidelines for the 408 permit. This permit is required for completion of the US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit. The rest of the 404 permit has been completed and staff is awaiting completion of the 408. Once issued, the combined 404 and 408 will be sent to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) which will allow CVFPB to issue an encroachment permit. This will be the final permit required for the habitat restoration work at Ulatis Creek, and it is anticipated that the Conservancy will be issued an encroachment permit in mid-August.

Meanwhile, staff is drafting a cover letter to be sent to the CVFPB informing them of the Arundo control treatment activities the Conservancy is planning. These activities are considered to be general maintenance. Once the CVFPB approves the maintenance activities outlined in the cover letter, the Conservancy will be able to move ahead with the treatment of the Arundo at the Ulatis Creek site. The cover letter and approval is anticipated to be complete in mid-July.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – May 25th

1. Staff will determine if a conflict with the "separation of duties" exists for the signing of any Proposition 1 Grant Program grants agreements while the Deputy Executive Officer position is vacant and will explore using the Natural Resources Agency to execute contracts, and invoices if necessary.

Staff Response: Research indicates that there is no conflict if the EO signs the grant agreements and the SSMI signs related invoices. We are still verifying this and will report back if there is new information.

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2. Staff will explore the timeline for encumbering funds for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Staff Response: Staff determined that any remaining funds for the 2015-2016 fiscal year must be encumbered by June 30, 2016. A Request for Proposal for services to support updating the Conservancy's Strategic Plan is currently being processed.

3. Staff will provide updates to the Board on all Proposition 1 Grant Program projects at each subsequent Board Meeting.

Staff Response: Staff will make a Proposition 1 Grant Program Update as a standard part of future Board Meeting agendas.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 6.2: An update to the Delta Conservancy Expenditure Report will be provided at the next Board meeting on July 27, 2016.

OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 6.3: Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix including most recent events and key dates of future meetings

CORRESPONDENCE

Agenda Item 6.4: Correspondence

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