

Meeting Date: September 28, 2016
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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT August 24, 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). On September 1st, the Conservancy opened its concept proposal solicitation for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Concept proposals are due on September 30th and will be brought before the Board at the November Board meeting. For the 2015-2016 funding cycle, the Conservancy has approved, conditionally approved, or reserved funding for 9 projects that have requested approximately \$6.3 million in grant funding. To date, program staff has completed four draft grant agreements, two of which have been sent to the grantee for execution.

Arundo Control and Restoration Project: The Arundo Control and Restoration Program permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Ulatis Creek restoration site are still in progress. This process has been delayed due to comments from the Yocha Dehe tribe to the US Army Corps of Engineers, and is now in review by the State Historic Preservation Office. Once issued, these permits 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. The timelines for the SHPO review process, the final process to receive signatures from the Army Corps, and the final issuance of the encroachment permit from the CVFPB will extend beyond the October first deadline for work to begin this year imposed to avoid take of Giant Garter snakes. This means that we will have to wait until May of 2017 when the Giant Garter snake work season opens to begin ground preparation and plant installation at this site.

Delta Conservation Framework: The second Delta Conservation Framework outreach workshop was held on September 21, 2016 at the Jean Harvie Center in Walnut Grove. The workshop built on the purpose, principles and challenges that were developed in the first workshop, to develop high level goals and strategies for Delta restoration. The next workshops are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- Thursday October 20th, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Jean Harvie Community Center
- Wednesday November 30th, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Jean Harvie Community Center

Economic Development

Delta Marketing Program: 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) in 2014. Conservancy staff has been working closely with DPC staff on the project.

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The Conservancy has selected Design Media, Inc. as the Marketing Consultant for the project. Design Media will be continuing the work done up to this point and will be working collaboratively with the Delta Marketing Task Force to develop a Delta awareness website and 5-year marketing plan for the Delta.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – August 28th

1. Staff will look into whether the new checklist should be used to gather the required information and documents needed to execute the conditionally-approved land acquisition grant from the 2015-2016 grant cycle.

Staff Response: The new checklist outlines a clearer process for grantees pursuing land acquisitions; it requests items not referenced on the old checklist and provides an improved sequencing for when materials are required to be submitted to the Conservancy. Asking the project proponents for the Paradise Cut easement project, the existing conditionally approved land acquisition grant from the 2015-2016 cycle, to adhere to the new checklist will ensure that staff is following the most complete, clear, and up-to-date process for collecting information from the grantee before dispersing money into escrow. Staff proposes to ask project proponents to provide the information in step 1 of the new checklist as a condition of their approval. When these materials are brought before the Board, staff will request that the Board formally transition the project to the new checklist.

2. Staff will add a citation to the applicable statute, and the Department of General Services Guidelines on land acquisition appraisal requirements, be added to the Grant Guidelines. Legal Counsel Rinke also requested a wording change to a passage referencing CEQA on page 11 of the document.

Staff Response: The requested changes have been made. See pages 11 and 18 of the final 2016-2107 Grant Guidelines.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 6.2: Expenditure Report

OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 6.3: Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix

CORRESPONDENCE

Agenda Item 6.4: None

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