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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT January 25, 2017

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

Ecosystem Restoration

Proposition 1 Grant Program: On January 13th, the Conservancy closed its full proposal application period for the 2016-2017 fiscal year solicitation. The Conservancy received five proposals, one of which is for a planning project (category 1) and four of which are for implementation projects (category 2). In total, applicants requested \$6.4 million. All proposals will be reviewed by Delta Conservancy staff and by at least two external reviewers on the Professional Review Panel. The Professional Review Panel consists of State and federal agency experts from the Delta Protection Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Water Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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 Proposition 1 funding (Sec. 79732 et seq). For the 2015-2016 funding cycle, the Conservancy approved or reserved funding for nine projects that requested approximately \$6.3 million in grant funding. To date, two grant agreements have been fully executed and four others are in the routing process.

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 was delayed by comments from the Yocha Dehe tribe to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. To address these comments, agency, tribal, and Conservancy representatives conducted a site visit to tour the project area on November 28, 2016. The concerns of the tribe were addressed and the Army Corps is now proceeding with the process for issuing its permits. Once the Army Corps permits are 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 process to receive signatures from the Army Corps, and the final issuance of the encroachment permit from the CVFPB, extended beyond the October Giant Gartersnake avoidance deadline for work to begin in 2016. As a result, work will have to wait until May of 2017 when the Giant Gartersnake work season opens to begin ground preparation and plant installation at the site. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has approved a time extension for the agreement to December 2019 and expanded the geographic scope of Arundo control efforts along the Sacramento River. The Conservancy, with its partners Sonoma Ecology Center and Solano Resource Conservation District, submitted a proposal to DWR on October 27 with an update on the Phase 1 status and a request for an additional \$2.2 million for Phase 2 habitat restoration and Arundo control activities. A decision is expected in the spring.

Delta Conservation Framework: The fourth and fifth Delta Conservation Framework outreach workshops were held on November 30 and December 1, 2016 at the Jean Harvie Center in Walnut Grove. The workshop

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focused on gathering input focusing on success evaluation and potential opportunity areas. An initial draft of the Framework is expected in early 2017 and will be followed by a public review period and two additional workshops.

Cache Slough Regional Planning: Since the last board meeting, there have been two meetings for the Cache Slough Regional Planning effort (December 16 and January 13). The meetings were attended by representatives from Solano and Yolo Counties; the Yolo, Solano, and Dixon Resource Conservation Districts; the Solano County Water Agency; Reclamation District 2068; and several state agencies and consultants. The group discussed an initial draft of high level management questions, data framing and potential datasets, and a roadmap at the December meeting. At the January meeting, the group focused on general land features, water supply management and infrastructure, and flood management with potential data sets and related questions. The group will meet at least monthly through May of 2017. The next meeting is scheduled for the morning of Friday, February 10.

Water Quality

Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP): The Delta MERP Stakeholder Meeting was held on January 17, 2017 at the Big Break Regional Shorelines in Oakley. Staff presented a status of the recent efforts to coordinate posting advisory signs and conducting outreach activities to state, federal, and local organizations. The next Stakeholder meeting will be scheduled for May 2017.

Economic Development

Delta Marketing Program: On December 14th, the Delta Marketing Taskforce met to review a draft of the 5-year marketing strategy and provide feedback. A lot of good comments were received and the contractor is currently revising the strategy to present to the task force at the next task force meeting. Design Media is also finishing the development of the Delta marketing website and will be ready to present a draft of the website in February.

Coordination

The Delta Conservancy, in coordination with the San Francisco Estuary Institute and Water Education Foundation, is planning for a workshop on March 28th at the West Sacramento City Hall. The Delta Landscape restoration Guide Workshop goals are to introduce and familiarize participants with the Delta Landscapes project and recent report "A Delta Renewed", and to get feedback on how the report can best be used. A guideline document describing how to use the Delta Renewed document will be produced using the information and ideas from the participants at the workshop.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – November 21st

1. Staff will provide a Proposition 1 Grant Program amendment matrix to the Board at each Board Meeting to inform them of amendments currently being processed and their overall impact to the program.

Staff Response: Staff will develop and share an amendment matrix with the Board as soon as an amendment has been requested.

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2. Staff will provide the funding amount of each Proposition 1 grant agreement on the Proposition 1 Grant Program project tracking matrix at each meeting.

Staff Response: This request has been incorporated into the project tracking matrix and the updated matrix will be shared with the Board at the next meeting.

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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