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## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **May 24, 2017**

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#### **~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~**

##### ***Ecosystem Restoration***

Proposition 1 Grant Program: Projects to protect and restore California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds are eligible for funding under Proposition 1 (Sec. 79732 et seq). Staff is preparing for the third grant cycle, which will open in August. The Grant Guidelines have been revised for the 2017-2018 solicitation period, and staff is requesting approval from the Board to post a draft for public comment. A detailed timeline for the upcoming grant cycle is included with the Grant Guidelines agenda item.

As part of the 2016-2017 fiscal year solicitation, the Conservancy approved or reserved funding for four projects requesting approximately \$4.4 million. Staff is working with grantees to prepare grant agreements for these projects. For the 2015-2016 grant cycle, funding was awarded or reserved for eight projects with a total funding request of approximately \$5.9 million. Currently there are three active projects; staff is working with grantees to prepare grant agreements for the remaining five projects. More information about approved projects is provided with the Proposition 1 Grant Program Update agenda item.

Arundo Control and Restoration Project: For the Ulatis Creek restoration site, work is scheduled to begin on May 24 when the Giant Gartersnake work season opens and the landowner can assemble equipment on site. In preparation for beginning work, biological monitoring surveys will be conducted in the days leading up to the start of work by a staff from the Delta Conservancy, Solano Resource Conservation District, and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Staff from the Conservancy and the Sonoma Ecology Center conducted a site visit on May 9 with State Parks and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to evaluate logistics for control of Arundo on several state-owned sites on Brannan Island. This work is being coordinated with biological control efforts by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. DWR is still reviewing the Conservancy's proposal for funding for Phase 2 of this project.

Cache Slough Regional Planning: The group continues to meet monthly with meetings scheduled for May and June. Participants include 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 has reviewed and discussed available information on agricultural systems, flood protection, water supply, and ecosystems and is beginning to overlay these information sets to glean initial concepts for integration and compatibility. The group is also starting to draft a scope of work for Phase 2 of the planning effort. The next meeting is scheduled for June.

Delta Carbon: The American Carbon Registry has adopted the California Wetland protocol that includes a methodology for managed wetlands and rice cultivation in the Delta, and coastal wetlands. The Conservancy and partners received the American Carbon Registry's 2017 Innovation Award for the development of the protocol. The Conservancy is working closely with several agencies and landowner partners to develop pilot projects that can engage the new protocol to demonstrate that revenue can be realized from the voluntary

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carbon market for these practices. The Air Resources Board has expressed interest in adopting the protocol into the compliance program provided that the ACR protocol is demonstrating success.

### ***Water Quality***

Implementation of Open and Transparent Water Data : The Conservancy is participating in the coordination of implementing the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755) which was signed into law in September, 2016. AB 1755 is an opportunity to integrate and increase access of water and ecological data from existing databases within multiple organizations to create and maintain a statewide data platform. The Department of Water Resources, in collaboration with the State Water Board, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other state and federal agencies, is required to develop protocols for data sharing and documentation, quality control, and public access by January 1, 2018. The Conservancy's Project "Delta Environmental Data for Understanding California Estuary" - *DEDUCE* is an example of a data integration project that works collaboratively at the regional level to gather data and information to support management decisions.

Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP): A community stakeholder meeting was held on May 17 at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center. Conservancy staff provided an update on the posting of advisory signs, small grant recipients provided updates on their progress, and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment staff gave a presentation on mercury related health issues for women and children.

### ***Economic Development***

Delta Marketing Program: The Delta Leaders Program's "Best of the Delta" promotion launched on May 5 and voting is open through June 23. Awardees will be honored on July 12 at the California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau Mixer at Village West Marina in Stockton and results will be highlighted on the Visit CA Delta website. The Conservancy is currently working with the Delta Protection Commission to design a window sign for businesses showcased on the website to promote their listings and Visit CA Delta in general. The Conservancy and Commission are also exploring other ways to implement the 5-year marketing plan, such as a Delta signage plan and a physical recreation map of the Delta.

### ***Coordination***

Delta Invasive Species Symposium: The Delta Conservancy-led Delta Invasive Species Interagency Team is planning an August 29 symposium at the University of California, Davis on invasive species in the Delta. This one-day symposium will include invited speakers, a panel discussion, and informational posters. The Delta Science Program is preparing a flyer for the event and save the date notifications will be sent out in June.

### ***BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – April 26, 2017***

- 1) The Board requested that the Program and Policy subcommittee discuss approaches the Board may take in future Proposition 1 Grant cycles relate to proposed projects that staff do not recommend for funding.

*Staff Response: Staff will include this on the agenda for the June 21, 2017 Program and Policy Subcommittee Meeting.*

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***DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE***

Agenda Item 11: Expenditure Report

***OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX***

Agenda Item 6.3 (Attachment 2): Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix

***CORRESPONDENCE***

None

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