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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
March 23, 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 Conservancy received a total of 24 concept proposals during the concept proposal solicitation period. At the January Board meeting, the Delta Conservancy's Board approved staff recommendations for 14 concept proposals to submit full proposals for the Conservancy's Grant Program. In February, Conservancy staff sent out comment letters for all proposals. All applicants were offered the opportunity to meet with the Conservancy staff for feedback on full proposal or future submittal to Prop 1 Conservancy Grant Program. The full proposal solicitation period closes on March 15, 2016

Arundo Control and Restoration Project: In January of 2016, staff discussed the need for a no-cost time extension on the grant from DWR. By extending the timeframe of this grant to 2020, Solano RCD would have a full year of ground preparation and planting and four years of watering and replanting to fully establish native vegetation. Also, the Cultural Consultation for Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit was completed and submitted to the Corps. The National Marine Fisheries Service has sent a letter of concurrence in support of the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultation permit to the Army Corps of Engineers; we are waiting to hear from USFWS.

Water Quality

Delta Environmental Data for the Understanding of a California Estuary (DEDUCE): The DEDUCE project is a component of Delta WIN, and is working to make high priority data—which now exists in programmatic silos—accessible for decision-makers, scientists, and the public through an estuary-wide data center. This project is being implemented in partnership with the Delta Science Program, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Board, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The project focus is moving from soliciting and assembling data from multiple sources to quality assurance and quality control uploading datasets received to state data systems. The project workgroup is scheduled to convene in March 2016 to discuss progress on project implementation and to review project deliverables.

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Education and Outreach

Waterway Cleanup: The next Delta Waterway Cleanup is scheduled for April 9th, 2016 as part of the Sacramento, county-wide Creek Week. The Conservancy is coordinating with the Sacramento Area Creeks Council to plan the event. The Conservancy worked with the Ocean Conservancy to create a Delta Trash Report Form, which will assist citizens in collecting and reporting data on trash found in the Delta during this cleanup. The Conservancy has also developed environmental education materials related to using the online platform Litterati, for students and other members of the public to engage in citizen science while engaging in stewardship by cleaning up trash.

Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP): The Conservancy is conducting outreach with potential partners to prioritize locations in the Delta for posting Delta MERP signs. The sign is expected to be finalized spring 2016, with input from the community and will display information about how to safely eat fish that have been caught in the Delta.

The Conservancy is continuing to work closely with three community based organizations which received small grants from the California Department of Public Health Delta MERP small grants program in 2015-2016. A second phase of the small grants program solicitation was initiated in February of this year. Two grants of up to \$20,000 each will be awarded to successful applicants that propose community-based projects aimed at increasing public awareness and understanding of fish contamination issues to reduce exposure to chemicals from eating fish caught in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Request for Proposal was released on January 21, 2015 and the deadline is April 13, 2016. The applications will be reviewed by a panel of reviewers internal and external to the Delta MERP, and funding decisions are expected to be announced no later than May 29, 2016.

Coordination and Collaboration

Invasive Species Coordination (ISC): The ISC work group met for its quarterly meeting on February 11th. The workgroup reviewed suggested research topics, prioritized the topics using a scoring criteria developed for potential funding opportunities, and are currently developing a draft project description and scope of work for submittal to CDFW 2016-17 Prop 1 Program. The next ISC meeting is scheduled for May 12th 2016.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – January 27th

1. Staff will provide updated contact information for Board members and Staff, and a program organization chart at the February Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Staff Response: staff updated contact information for Board members and Staff and sent an updated directory to the Board members. Staff also presented a staffing update at the February 17th Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting

2. Staff will provide project summaries, staff analysis and recommendations for each full proposal. Example templates will be provided at the next PPS meeting for discussion and input. Staff will include a map in the staff recommendation for full proposals.

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Staff Response: staff will prepare staff recommendations that will include project summaries, staff analysis and evaluation of criteria for each full proposal recommended by staff. An example template was provided at the February PPS meeting for discussion. Staff will incorporate the Subcommittee input on the draft template. Staff will develop a map that indicates the location of all proposed projects to be included in the full proposal recommendation package.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 6.2: Delta Conservancy Updated Expenditure Report

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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CORRESPONDENCE

Agenda Item 6.4: Correspondence