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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT July 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). 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 three draft grant agreements that are currently under review prior to being routed for execution. Simultaneously, staff are preparing for the 2016-2017 grant cycle. The 2016-2017 draft Grant Guidelines have been posted for public review and comment. On July 20th, staff hosted a public comment workshop. All comments received will be considered, and the revised Grant Guidelines will be brought to the Board for approval at the August Board meeting. The 2016-2017 proposal solicitation period will open on September 1st.

Arundo Control and Restoration Project: The Arundo Control and Restoration Program permits for the Ulatis Creek restoration site are still in progress. Once issued, the combined 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, and it is anticipated that the Conservancy will be issued an encroachment permit in mid-August.

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board has approved the maintenance activities outlined in a cover letter that was sent on July 14th. The Conservancy and the Sonoma Ecology Center are now able to move ahead with treatment of the Arundo at the Ulatis Creek site.

Delta Restoration Network: The Conservancy convened the DRN on June 28, 2016 to provide an update on the Cache Slough Regional Restoration Planning effort and to discuss the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Delta Conservation Framework process. At the meeting CDFW and the Conservancy proposed, and there was general support for, the DRN to be a forum for Delta stakeholders and the public to engage in a series of four consecutive community workshops in the coming months that will provide the opportunity for interested stakeholders to vet concepts and work products as they are developed to inform the Delta Conservation Framework document.

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Delta Conservation Framework outreach workshops have been tentatively scheduled for the following dates. The first, in August will be held at the Delta Conservancy office, an agenda and advance materials will be distributed before the workshop.

- Thursday August 18th, 9am – 12 pm
- Wednesday September 21st, time and location TBD
- Thursday October 20th, time and location TBD
- Wednesday November 30th, time TBD (possibly held in the Delta in the evening)

Delta Carbon Workshop: On July 15, 2016 the Conservancy convened a workshop to define the components of a near-term strategy to advance Delta carbon pilot projects to be ready to engage the American Carbon Registry (ACR) protocol immediately upon its adoption. With the expectation of adoption of the ACR protocol in August, and the need to have verified credits under contract for the protocol to be considered by the Air Resources Board for adoption into the compliance market, the Delta Carbon workgroup agreed to work collectively to advance two or more pilot projects as soon as possible. It was agreed that the most effective strategy would be to work through NGO partners who have strong relationships with private producers in the Delta to identify potential projects and develop business models. Business models will include identification of technical, legal and project development and implementation requirements. The Conservancy and HydroFocus Inc. are scheduling meetings with NGO partners to explore opportunities.

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. Over the last few months the Conservancy evaluated next steps with the project and decided to terminate the contract with the previous marketing consultant for the convenience of the state and in consideration of staff changes. Staff is currently in the process of obtaining the services of a new marketing consultant. Once a contractor is selected, they will be working collaboratively with the Delta Marketing Task Force to develop a Delta awareness website and 5-year marketing plan.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – June 27th

1. Staff will send out the current schedule of Board meetings, and proposed dates to hold for extra Board meetings.

Staff Response: Staff sent the current schedule of Board meetings, and proposed dates to hold for extra Board meetings to all Board Members on July 6, 2016.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 6.2: Delta Conservancy End of Year 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: There is no correspondence

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