

Meeting Date: January 24, 2017
Page 1



1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691
www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
January 24, 2017

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD TRANSITIONS

After completing two consecutive four-year terms, original Conservancy Board members Darla Guenzler, Mike Eaton and Dan Taylor will be termed out as of February 3, 2018. We greatly appreciate their service over the past eight years and will recognize their contribution at this Board meeting. Conservancy staff has been working with the appointment offices for the Governor, the Senate and Assembly, and the Resources Agency to ensure timely appointment of new Board members.

The Solano County Board of Supervisors recently established committee assignments for 2018, appointing Supervisor John Vasquez as the primary representative on the Delta Conservancy Board and Supervisor Skip Thomson as the alternate. We greatly appreciate Elizabeth Patterson's service to the Conservancy as the Solano County designee for the latter half of 2017.

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors also recently established committee assignments for 2019, appointing Ryan Hernandez as the alternate representative on the Delta Conservancy Board. We greatly appreciate Diane Burgis' service to the Conservancy as the Contra Costa alternate designee for 2017.

FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

Completed Form 700's are due by April 2, 2018 for all voting members and their alternates. Forms can be submitted electronically at <https://form700.fppc.ca.gov/>. Please contact Brandon Chapin at Brandon.chapin@deltaconservancy.ca.gov with any questions.

Meeting Date: January 24, 2017
Page 2

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

Delta Carbon Projects:
No significant change.

Regional Planning to Identify Effective Investments of Proposition 1 Funding

Cache Slough Regional Planning:
No significant change.

Central Delta Corridor Partnership:
See Agenda Item 8.

Invasive Species Coordination, Control, and Restoration

Arundo Control and Restoration Project:

Construction continued at the Ulatis Creek restoration site. The irrigation system that was installed in October and November of 2017 has thus far applied approximately 10 inches of water to the site to encourage native grass growth (see Figure 1). Delta Conservancy Staff and Solano RCD staff worked with the Center for Land Based Learning SLEWS Program to bring a class of high school students from Winters, CA to the site for a day to help with preparations for native plant installation (see Figure 2 and 3). The Delta Conservancy's partners, Sonoma Ecology Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), have completed the first treatments of integrated chemical (herbicide spraying) and biological control (release of Arundo Wasps) at Brannan Island State Recreational Area. The Department of Water Resources is reviewing the Delta Conservancy's proposal for funding Phase 2 of this project, which would expand the resources and scope of the existing program. Photos of current activities can be found on the next page.

Meeting Date: January 24, 2017
Page 3



Figure 1. Ulatis Creek habitat restoration site showing new growth of native grasses.



Figure 2. Student installing drip irrigation lines at the Ulatis Creek habitat restoration site.



Figure 3. Ulatis Creek habitat restoration site showing SLEWS students installing drip irrigation lines.

WATERSHED PROGRAM

US EPA 2018 National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program:

The Delta Conservancy, in coordination with the California Water Quality Monitoring Council's workgroup comprised of multiple federal, state agencies and other organizations, will submit a proposal for the U.S. EPA 2018 National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIN) Grant Program for updating the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) Information Management System. The CRAM is a standardized, cost-effective tool for assessing the overall health of wetlands, streams, and riparian areas throughout California.

Meeting Date: January 24, 2017

Page 4

The information management system includes a standardized methodology, field books for each wetland module, training presentations, online data entry forms ([eCRAM](#)) for each wetland module, and a public data dissemination tool which all can be viewed and accessed on EcoAtlas (<https://www.ecoatlas.org/regions/ecoregion/statewide?cram=1>). This effort is a continuation of the Delta Conservancy's efforts in using EcoAtlas to support water quality and ecosystem restoration projects in the Delta.

The current CRAM information management system was last updated in 2013. Since then, numerous trainings and field assessments conducted in the Delta and across California have identified changes and updates to improve the usefulness of the method.

Healthy wetlands help improve water quality, which is a priority for the California Water Quality Monitoring Council and the Delta Conservancy. The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop. 1) provides funding to implement the objectives of the California Water Action Plan. The Delta Conservancy's Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program focuses on projects that restore important species and habitat. The CRAM information management system is an important tool supporting these efforts in the Delta. The grant application is due on January 26, 2018 and total estimated project cost is \$200,000. The tentative expected award date is July 31, 2018.

2018 Nonpoint Source Grant Program

The Delta Conservancy, in coordination with the California Land Stewardship Institute and the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, will submit a proposal to the State Water Resources Control Board for the 2018 Nonpoint Source Grants Program, supported by funds from the Clean Water Act and the state Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund. The proposed project will develop a suite of best management practices that will help to reduce non-point source pollution to improve water quality in the Delta, and help in the implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load for pesticides and other non-point source pollutants. The total project cost is approximately \$350,000. The deadline for submitting applications is February 8, 2018 and the tentative expected award date is May 2018.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program

The Delta Conservancy has executed the interagency agreement with the State Water Resource Control Board to continue the implementation of the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP). Under this Agreement, the Conservancy will provide technical and administrative support, program management and coordination with Delta organizations to implement Delta MERP. The State Water Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account and monetary contributions from individual agencies and other entities participating in the program provide funding for the agreement.

Meeting Date: January 24, 2017
Page 5

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Delta Marketing:

The Delta Conservancy continues working with the Delta Protection Commission to procure a contractor to develop a map of recreation opportunities in the Delta. The Delta Conservancy and Delta Protection Commission expect to complete the map and make it available to the public for the 2018 summer season.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – November 20, 2017

- 1) Board Member Guenzler requested a change to the September 27, 2017 Board meeting minutes to change the Board request for final reports on the Cache Slough and Suisun Marsh regional restoration strategies to reflect that the request is for the Program and Policy Subcommittee to determine a process for presentation to the Board of reports produced under the Delta Conservancy's name before being finalized.

Staff Response: Staff made the requested changes and the revised September 27, 2017 meeting minutes can be found in the consent calendar.

- 2) Supervisor Nottoli requested that staff notice the Counties regarding the Central Delta Corridor Partnership planning process and to work with them as a partner.

Staff Response: Staff will notice the five Delta Counties regarding the Central Delta Corridor planning process and looks forward to working with them during the process.

- 3) Board Member Patterson requested that staff provide the semiannual progress update for the Strategic and Implementation plans in matrix form.

Staff Response: Staff will provide the semiannual progress update for the Strategic and Implementation plans in matrix form.

- 4) Board Member Guenzler requested staff assess the opportunities for multilingual translation for Delta Conservancy documents and outreach.

Staff Response: Staff will continue to assess opportunities for multilingual translation for Delta Conservancy documents and outreach and will work with the Program and Policy Subcommittee on reviewing potential options.

Meeting Date: January 24, 2017
Page 6

- 5) Board Member Guenzler requested staff to focus on Title I schools for environmental education and outreach programs.

Staff Response: Staff will assess opportunities to continue to work with Title I schools as part of Conservancy environmental education and outreach programs.

- 6) Board Member Patterson requested staff post a link to the presentation made by Peter Moyle on the North Delta Habitat Arc at the State of the Estuary Conference.

Staff Response: The presentation by Peter Moyle on the North Delta Habitat Arc has been posted on the Delta Conservancy's website: <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/board-meeting-materials/>.

- 7) Board Member Provenza requested that staff post a copy of Mr. Tjernell's presentation on Eco Restore on the Delta Conservancy's website.

Staff Response: The presentation by Kris Tjernell on Eco Restore has been posted on the Delta Conservancy's website here: <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/board-meeting-materials/>.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 6 (Attachment 2): Expenditure Report

OUTREACH – DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 6 (Attachment 3): Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix

CORRESPONDENCE

None

Contact

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Email: campbell.ingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 375-2089