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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT March 28, 2018

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD TRANSITIONS

The Governor has re-appointed Dolly Sandoval to a second term as a member of the Delta Conservancy Board.

The Governor appointed Sandi Matsumoto to the Delta Conservancy Board. Ms. Matsumoto has been Associate Director for the California Water Program at The Nature Conservancy since 2015, and was a Project Director from 2004 to 2015. She was Project Manager at the Los Angeles Community Design Center from 2003 to 2004 and a Project Analyst at Mintz Levin from 1997 to 1999. She is a member of the Groundwater Resources Association of California. Ms. Matsumoto earned a Master of Business Administration in finance from the University of California, Los Angeles Anderson School of Management.

The Senate Rules Committee appointed George Woolverton to the Delta Conservancy Board. Mr. Woolverton is an attorney and co-president of Stockwell, Harris, Woolverton & Helphrey. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Southwestern Law School. Mr. Woolverton has been a Senate Rules Committee appointee on the California Insurance Guarantee Association Board of Directors since 2012 and served as a gubernatorial appointee on the Fair Employment and Housing Commission from 1999 to 2011.

FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

Completed Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700) 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.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

Delta Carbon Projects:

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently opened an account with the American Carbon Registry with the Conservancy listed as their agent, and listed existing wetland projects on Sherman and Twitchell Islands as possible projects to verify emission reductions utilizing the approved protocol. The Conservancy will continue to work with DWR staff to identify which projects could be further developed for future exploration and possible verification.

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Regional Planning to Identify Effective Investments of Proposition 1 Funding

Cache Slough Regional Planning:

No significant change.

Central Delta Corridor Partnership:

The Delta Conservancy has selected The Catalyst Group, through a competitive Request for Proposals process, to facilitate the public process and develop the Central Delta Corridor Restoration Strategy. The first initial coordination meeting will be on March 29, 2018.

Invasive Species Coordination, Control, and Restoration

Arundo Control and Restoration Project:

Arundo control and restoration activities progressed at the Ulatis Creek and Brannan Island State Recreational Area (SRA) project sites. The irrigation system that was installed at the Ulatis Creek restoration site in fall of 2017 was removed after applying approximately 10 inches of water to encourage native grass growth (Figure 1). Staff from the Delta Conservancy and the Solano Resource Conservation District worked with the Center for Land Based Learning Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) program to bring students from Winters High School in Winters, CA to the site for a day to help with native tree and shrub planting (see Figure 2 and 3). The Delta Conservancy's partners, Sonoma Ecology Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, completed the first treatments of integrated chemical (herbicide spraying) and biological control (release of arundo wasps) at Brannan Island SRA.

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Figure 1. Mowing of dense layer of native grasses at the Ulatis Creek habitat restoration site to temporarily increase visibility for native tree and shrub planting. (Photo courtesy of Aaron Haiman)



Figure 2. Student installing native trees and shrubs at the site. (Photo courtesy of Aaron Haiman)



Figure 3. Ulatis Creek habitat restoration site showing marked tree and shrub plantings conducted by SLEWS students. (Photo courtesy of Aaron Haiman)

WATERSHED PROGRAM

Delta Aquatic Resources Inventory

The Conservancy, in partnership with the State Water Resources Control Board, the Delta Science Program, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the San Francisco Estuary Institute's Aquatic Science Center, is facilitating the development of a publicly available basemap of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh aquatic resources using a standardized, regionally relevant classification system for consistent tracking and reporting. Funding for this project is provided by a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This project will form a workgroup to help identify existing data and establish a standard approach to wetland mapping for the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory. The first meeting will be held in late April, 2018.

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Creek Week 2018

The Delta Conservancy will be leading three cleanup sites in the Delta on April 14, 2018. The sites are located at the Bufferlands on Morrison Creek, along the bank of the Sacramento River on Sherman Island, and at the edge of Suisun Marsh on the Grizzly Island trail in Suisun City. These cleanup events are held in coordination with the Sacramento Area Creeks Council's Creek Week. Volunteer recruitment is ongoing.

Tire Cleanup at Babel Slough

In 2016, Delta Conservancy coordinated with a Delta landowner, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps, and the Yolo Resource Conservation District (RCD) to organize a project that would remove tires from Babel Slough, a local waterway south of West Sacramento, CA. Over the past several decades, thousands of tires have been illegally dumped in Babel Slough. After helping to organize and establish the roles of the various partners to remove and dispose of these tires, Delta Conservancy staff aided Yolo RCD staff in preparing two grant applications to CalRecycle's Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program. Two grants of \$50,000 each were awarded, but work was not able to commence until all adjoining landowners granted permission to conduct the proposed activities. All necessary permissions have now been received and tire removal work has begun (Figure 1 and 2).



Figure 1. Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps members working in and along Babel Slough. (Photo courtesy of Hector Zapien)



Figure 2. Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps member pulling a tire out of the sediment of Babel Slough. (Photo courtesy of Hector Zapien)

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program

The Conservancy, in partnership with the Central Valley Water Board, Department of Public Health, and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, continues to work with community-based groups, local agencies, and others to implement the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP). Delta MERP is in the process of integrating its educational messages into existing state and local programs to increase knowledge of the health impacts of mercury exposure and to promote behavioral changes that protect human health. Project partners include with First Five California and

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the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Through an interagency agreement (IAA), the State Water Resources Control Board has provided the Delta Conservancy with \$154,100 to continue MERP outreach and education in the Delta that was begun under a previous IAA. The Delta Conservancy is in the process of recruiting for a coordinator to lead those efforts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Delta Marketing:

Based on input received from interviews and the public workshops, the Delta Sign Plan is currently under development and will be released as a draft document for a 30 day public comment period from April 9 through May 11, 2018. The public comment period will be complimented by two workshops to present the draft Sign Plan: April 12, 2018 from 5-7 p.m. at the Walnut Grove Library, and May 3, 2018 from 5-7 p.m. at the Big Break Center in Oakley. The final Delta Sign Plan and designs are expected to be finalized by the end of May.

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 the map to be available for the 2018 summer season.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – January 24, 2018

None

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

Agenda Item 6 (Attachment 4): Correspondence

Contact

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