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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT May 23, 2018

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD TRANSITIONS

The Assembly Speaker's Office appointed Leo Winternitz to the Delta Conservancy Board. Mr. Winternitz currently works for GEI Consultants Inc. as a senior project manager and has most recently served as the Co-Chair to the state and federal Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program since its establishment in 2013. Prior to joining GEI, Mr. Winternitz held several positions in the California water resources arena, most recently, as Delta Program Director and Senior Advisor for The Nature Conservancy. Prior to that, Mr. Winternitz served as Deputy Director for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, which focused on water and environmental management activities in the Sacramento-San Joaquin region. He also served as the Executive Director for the Sacramento Water Forum, a diverse group of 40 stakeholder organizations representing business, agriculture, citizens' groups, environmentalists and water managers who have collaboratively negotiated a regional water supply and environmental protection agreement for the American River watershed to the year 2030. Mr. Winternitz has also served in public office as a director and past-President, and current board member, of the Arcade Water District, and has served as president to the American River Parkway Foundation.

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 (CDCP):

In March and April, the Central Delta Corridor Partnership completed the first and second of three meetings to prepare for a public outreach workshop and subsequent 1.5 day Design Charrette. With assistance from the Delta Protection Commission, the group has developed an outreach strategy and extensive list of individuals and organizations to contact in advance of the workshop and charrette. Approximate dates for the events have been identified and venues are being procured. Notices will be sent when dates and locations are finalized. A CDCP site has been established on the Conservancy's website.

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Invasive Species Coordination, Control, and Restoration

Arundo Control and Restoration Project:

The Delta Conservancy's Arundo control and restoration activities include two ongoing efforts: 1) Arundo control and habitat restoration at Cache Slough Complex sites in collaboration with the Solano Resource Conservation District (SRCD) and Sonoma Ecology Center; and 2) facilitating releases of biological control agents on Arundo and follow-up monitoring, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)- Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

Habitat restoration activities continued at Cache Slough Complex sites but were expectedly reduced during the wet season. SRCD continued to execute the understory establishment at the Emigh Livestock site and performed minor quality control tasks at the Petersen Ranch site.

The Delta Conservancy and USDA-ARS are continuing to identify additional sites for biocontrol agent releases. The Delta Conservancy and USDA-ARS are currently collaborating on integrated treatment of Arundo at the Brannan Island State Recreational Area, combining chemical/mechanical methods with release of two biocontrol agents, the arundo wasp and the arundo scale. USDA-ARS also started releasing biocontrol agents at Big Break Regional Shoreline and at Andrus Island. The Delta Conservancy and USDA-ARS are continuing to look for opportunities to partner with interested landowners in the South Delta to add 1-2 integrated Arundo treatment sites to the project.

WATERSHED PROGRAM

Delta Aquatic Resources Inventory

The Delta 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. This basemap will use 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. A workgroup helps identify existing data and establish a standard approach to wetland mapping for the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory. The first meeting was held on April 3, 2018. A draft matrix of the existing mapping efforts was presented at the meeting to help coordinate efforts and leverage resources in the Delta. The workgroup discussed the existing mapping efforts and identified additional relevant data to be included in this project. The next workgroup meeting will be scheduled in June/July 2018.

2018 Nonpoint Source Grant Program

The Delta Conservancy, in coordination with the California Land Stewardship Institute and the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, submitted a proposal to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for the 2018 Nonpoint Source Grants Program focusing on *Implementation of Best Management Practices in the Delta: A Comprehensive Pesticide Management Project to Improve Water Quality*. The State Water Board approved the proposal and awarded the Conservancy

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\$399,407. The project will develop a suite of best management practices meant to reduce non-point source pollution and improve water quality in the Delta, and Total Maximum Daily Load for pesticides and other non-point source pollutants. Technical reviewer comments during the grant agreement development process must be addressed as a condition of award. Funding is also contingent on receipt of the 2018 CWA 319(h) NPS Grant from the U.S. EPA scheduled; a decision on that grant is expected in August 2018.

Creek Week 2018

The Delta Conservancy lead cleanups at three sites in the Delta on April 14, 2018 (Figures 1-3): the Bufferlands on Morrison Creek, Sherman Island along the banks of the Sacramento River, and at the edge of Suisun Marsh on the Grizzly Island Trail in Suisun City. These cleanup events are held each year in coordination with the Sacramento Area Creeks Council's Creek Week. Volunteer recruitment is ongoing. This year, more than 100 volunteers attended at the three sites, removed more than 4,000 pounds of trash, and surveyed the the amounts and types of trash in the Delta.



Figure 1. Creek Week volunteers at the Bufferlands cleanup site.



Figure 2. Trash on the bank of Morrison Creek at the Bufferlands cleanup site.



Figure 3. Collected trash ready for pickup at the Bufferlands cleanup site.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program

The Delta Conservancy recently hired an Environmental Scientist to help continue the implementation of the Delta MERP. Through an interagency agreement, 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 agreement. 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

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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. The First Five California organizations in the Yolo County and San Joaquin County have shown interest in partnering with the Delta MERP to incorporate educational messages into their existing programs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Delta Marketing:

The Draft Delta Awareness Sign Plan was released for a 30 day public comment period (the comment period was extended an additional week to May 18 per public request). The public comment period was complimented by two workshops to present the draft Sign Plan on April 12, 2018 at the Walnut Grove Library, and May 3, 2018 at the Big Break Center in Oakley. The final Delta Sign Plan is expected to be released by the middle of June with either a webinar or final community meeting to release the plan and discuss next steps.

The Delta Conservancy continues working with the Delta Protection Commission to develop a map of recreation opportunities in the Delta. A contractor has been procured and a contract is being finalized. The Delta Conservancy and Delta Protection Commission expect the map to be available for the 2018 summer season.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – March 28, 2018

- 1) Board Member Nottoli requested that the Department of Water Resources provide a presentation on the flood analysis used for the Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River Preserve
 - *Staff from the Department of Water Resources will make a presentation on the flood analysis for the Grizzly Slough Restoration Project at the May 23, 2018 Board meeting.*
- 2) Board Member Nottoli requested that staff note in any staff reports whether there would be any loss of farmland resulting from the implementation of Proposition 1 funded projects.
 - *Staff will add this request to future staff reports for all projects that may impact agricultural lands.*
- 3) The Board requested that the language translation button on the Delta Conservancy website be made easier to find
 - *The language translation button has been highlighted on the Delta Conservancy's website.*

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 5 (Attachment 2): Expenditure Report

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OUTREACH – DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 5 (Attachment 3): Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix

CORRESPONDENCE

None

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