



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
January 27, 2021

PROGRAM UPDATE

COVID-19 UPDATE

All Conservancy staff continue to work from home with the expectation that this will continue until a vaccine is approved and widely distributed. Staff have done an excellent job adapting to our new reality and continue to be very productive with only minor disruptions in our workflow. We are currently conducting virtual project site visits for both the Proposition 1 and 68 programs. Larry Hughes, who volunteered to be our designated Contact Tracer, has had his assignment extended by six months and has been asked to take on the role of Case Investigator.

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (JEDI)

The Conservancy's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee developed a teaching and learning curriculum and began holding collaborative learning discussions for all-staff in late September 2020. To complement these learning sessions, the committee developed a supplemental brown bag lunch series to invite further discussion on selected topics. Staff will continue participating in these discussions throughout 2021 and will begin development of a formal framework for advancing the Conservancy's long-term JEDI goals.

DELTA CONSERVANCY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Conservancy updates its Strategic Plan every five years, the most recent update covering the years 2017 to 2022. We are beginning the process of updating the plan for 2022 to 2026. We envision conducting this update in-house over the course of this calendar year, with Board consideration of a final draft in January 2022. We will begin the process with a staff review of the current document to assess potential updates and further define the process and timeline for completing the update. We will provide an update to the Board and request initial feedback on the process, timeline and potential update topics at the March 24, 2021 meeting.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

Nutria Eradication:

Please see the most recent update from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife included in this agenda item (Attachment 2).

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Delta Marketing:

Through an interagency agreement, staff have been working with the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) to implement elements of the Five-Year Delta Marketing Plan and the Delta Sign Plan, which was a recommendation in the Marketing Plan. Applications for the 11 encroachment permits for the “Welcome to the Delta” signs proposed in the Delta Sign Plan were initially denied by Caltrans. At the suggestion of Caltrans, Conservancy and Commission staff created revised draft signs that include language for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area. On November 5, 2020, Conservancy staff presented a proposal to the California Traffic Control Devices Committee to revise the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to allow for such signs to be posted within and near National Heritage Areas. This proposal was approved and Commission staff are now working to obtain the necessary permits and execute agreements for sign printing and installation.

DELTA SCIENCE

Conservancy staff continue to work collaboratively with the broader Delta science community to advance science in the region. Conservancy staff are contributing to planning of the 2021 Adaptive Management Forum, an effort lead by the Delta Science Program’s Adaptive Management Unit. The three-day virtual event is scheduled for February 3-5, 2021. Staff will present in the Mechanisms of Adaptive Management session regarding strategies for incorporating adaptive management into funding considerations. Several other speakers at the forum will be presenting adaptive management lessons learned from projects funded by the Conservancy. The agenda and registration can be found at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/adaptive-management>.

At the November 18, 2020 Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting, staff discussed the initial results of research and analysis to understand if and how land conversion from row crops to woody perennial crops impacts terrestrial habitat value for wildlife, particularly birds. Based on feedback from the group, staff are exploring grant opportunities to expand on this work. During the same meeting, the group discussed the potential of relaunching the Delta Restoration Network (DRN) as a forum for engagement and coordination. Since that meeting, staff have had a coordination meeting with the other relevant working groups in the region and are developing a draft description of the DRN’s role and objectives. Conservancy staff facilitate the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team, on which staff will be presenting an update to the Board at this meeting as Agenda Item 10.

FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

A completed Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests, is due by April 1, 2021 for all Board Members, Board Member Alternates, and Liaison Advisors. Forms are completed on the Fair Political Practices Commission online portal. The Conservancy’s Board Liaison sent reminder emails this week. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Jessica Adel at Jessica.adel@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- 1) Board members requested to be provided with photographs or videos that show progress at Conservancy funded project sites.
 - Staff requested grantees produce short videos of completed projects or projects under construction and near completion. Staff is presenting one video today as part of the Proposition 1 Program Update (Agenda Item 10) and anticipate showing one or more videos at the March 2021 meeting.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 5 (Attachment 3): Budget and Expenditure Report

CORRESPONDENCE

None

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