



**Executive Officer's Report  
May 25, 2022**

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**PROGRAM UPDATE**

**STAFFING UPDATE**

Recruitments continue to backfill Environmental Scientist and Associate Government Program Analyst positions with interviews scheduled for the last two weeks in May.

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

All Conservancy staff continue to work from home. With conditions improving and state and local level directives relaxing we anticipate returning to the office in mid-May with teleworking remaining an option in the Conservancy's operational model. The Conservancy's Telework Policy has been approved by the Department of General Services.

**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).

**DELTA SCIENCE**

**Fish Friendly Farming:**

The Conservancy, supported through a grant from the California State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), has contracted the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) to implement the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Program in the Delta. The FFF Program works with farmers to improve Delta water quality by developing best management practices and identifying needed farm infrastructure updates. The SWRCB approved the FFF Program as an alternative compliance pathway for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, which is an added benefit for farmers who participate in the program. CLSI has met with many growers to encourage them to sign up. Tirupathi Farms signed up three farms totaling 782 acres. CLSI has completed site visits for Tirupathi farms, created farm plan maps, and filled in the farm plan template for each site. Two large potential enrollees, Zuckerman Heritage Inc., and The Nature Conservancy (Staten Island), have provided initial information to begin enrolling in the FFF program. CLSI has met with the Sacramento Farm Bureau and several farmers, Yolo Land and Cattle, Dawei Dong, and several other farmers about potential enrollment. Conservancy Staff and CLSI worked together to finalize a contract amendment that extends the contract through December 2024, which aligns with the funding term of the grant from SWRCB.

**Delta Science Coordination:**

Conservancy staff continue to work collaboratively with the broader Delta science community to advance ecological restoration, invasive species management, and regional science coordination in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.

Conservancy staff continue to coordinate with colleagues at the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) regarding regional restoration planning and a role for public participation in this process. The draft Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment includes a recommendation to create a restoration sub-committee of the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC). Initially, the sub-committee will be staffed by the Conservancy and the Council. The second meeting of the new DPIIC restoration sub-committee took place on March 14, 2022. This meeting focused on finalizing the goals and objectives for the group, which were subsequently approved by the DPIIC in their March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Conservancy and Council staff are now working to develop a work plan that would describe actions to meet these goals and objectives over approximately the next two years. The groups goals are to (1) increase interagency collaboration to streamline restoration implementation, (2) identify opportunities in restoration planning and long-term management efforts, (3) increase transparency and coordination around existing, new, and needed restoration funding, and (4) provide forums for meaningful community participation in Delta restoration efforts.

The Council recently released their 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda (SAA). The SAA is one element of the three part Delta Science Strategy; the other two elements are the [Delta Science Plan](#) and the [State of Bay Delta Science](#) bi-annual report. This document was co-produced by the Delta Science community, and Conservancy staff contributed to this process in numerous ways. Conservancy staff participated in the initial online survey, contributed management questions through the DIISC team and participation in the Interagency Adaptive Management Implementation Team, attended a workshop to rank and sort top management questions, reviewed the Progress Summary of the previous SAA, participated in a workshop to create science action to address the top management questions, and responded to a survey to distill down the science actions from the workshop not the top 25 science actions for the 2022-2026 SAA.

Staff continue to facilitate the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team. The last DIISC Team quarterly meeting took place on May 10, 2022. The DIISC Team heard an update on the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee's recent activities, which have focused on recommending \$5 million in targeted funding to the Invasive Species Council of California for approval. Dr. Richelle Tanner from Chapman University gave a presentation on her work studying invasive *Phragmites* (common reed) in the Suisun Marsh and the social-ecological aspects of invasive species management. Finally, DIISC Team members provided brief updates on their agency activities (updates from: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, University of California Cooperative Extension, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento County Weed Management Area, State Lands Commission Marine Invasive Species Program, Delta Protection Commission, Delta Stewardship Council Delta Science Program, State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife).

#### **MEDIA MENTIONS**

Executive Officer Campbell Ingram was interviewed for a [climate solutions newsletter](#) and spoke to a reporter about how the Conservancy is collaborating on a carbon-credits project with the goal of reversing subsidence.

**BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

1. Provide a listing of Delta Drought Response Pilot Projects.
  - A listing of Delta Drought Response Pilot Projects can be found as an attachment to Agenda Item 8.

**DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE**

Agenda Item 5 (3): Budget and Expenditure Report

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**CONTACT**

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