



## Executive Officer's Report October 26, 2022

---

### PROGRAM UPDATE

#### STAFFING UPDATE

The Conservancy continues to fill vacancies and hire additional staff to support programs. Current recruitments include one Staff Services Manager I, one Senior Scientist, two Associate Government Program Analysts, and one Office Technician. We hope to introduce new staff at the October 26 meeting.

#### COVID-19 UPDATE

The Conservancy's Telework Policy has been approved by the Department of General Services and reviewed by the unions. The policy supports a generous telework program requiring staff work in the office one day every other week and at other times as operational needs dictate.

#### CLIMATE RESILIENCE, COMMUNITY ACCESS AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AND NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS - WETLANDS

The Conservancy was fortunate to receive an appropriation of \$42,125,000 in AB 172. The appropriation provides \$6,125,000 for local assistance and program expenses associated with supporting climate resilience, community access and natural resource protection (CAR), and \$36,000,000 for local assistance and program expenses associated with supporting nature-based solutions (NBS). The CAR funding is anticipated to augment the Conservancy's current CAR funding that has supported several Community and Economic Enhancement Program efforts. The NBS funding expectations are described in agenda item 10. In January of 2022 the Board approved general grant guidelines that provide guidance and the process by which the Conservancy will solicit projects that are funded by General Fund (non-bond funded) appropriations. In the Spring of 2023, we anticipate developing solicitation notices to provide prospective applicants with additional information about the types of projects that can be funded and the criteria by which they will be evaluated. It is anticipated that the solicitations will be opened in late spring.

#### NEW DIRECTIVE FROM CNRA FOR EQUITY, INCLUSION

Based on a Governor's order, the Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) asked each of the agencies within CNRA to provide an equity plan. For the equity plan, agencies were asked to list their key organizational objectives and show how the agency plans to incorporate equity within those objectives. The Delta Conservancy submitted an equity plan that includes completing an assessment of the organization, providing technical assistance to under resourced organizations that have an interest in applying for grants, providing funding for equity related projects and doing blind screenings of applicants applying for employment at the Conservancy. The Conservancy will be working with CNRA to refine and implement the plan over the next year.

## ECOLOGICAL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### 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. A total of 10,752 acres of farmland has been enrolled in the Delta FFF Program. CLSI has been conducting site visits to work with farms on their farm plans, which include best management practices for water quality improvement and identify needed water quality improvement projects. The Delta FFF Program has \$200,000 for implementation of some of these water quality improvement projects, and several have been reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). CLSI is working to incorporate feedback from the TAC. Once the feedback is incorporated, CLSI will send the projects back to the TAC before recommending them for funding.

### 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 continues to co-lead the DPIIC restoration subcommittee (subcommittee) with colleagues from the Delta Stewardship Council. The subcommittee met on August 29, 2022. The subcommittee received an overview of the Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment, which was adopted by the Council during their June 23, 2022 meeting and endorsed the subcommittee workplan (<https://bit.ly/3BXI4hE>). The subcommittee also heard an update and provided feedback on the planning of the first Delta Restoration Forum. Earlier this month, the subcommittee sent out a survey to better understand how to schedule and craft the Forum. The Forum is tentatively scheduled for early 2023 and will be announced on both the Conservancy and Council's media channels.

## MEDIA MENTIONS

There was a writeup in [LocalNewsMatters.org](https://www.localnewsmatters.org) about Sen. Bill Dodd declaring the last week of September as Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week. Delta Week, established from Senate Concurrent Resolution 119, was created to expand acknowledgement of the Delta's contributions to a higher quality of life for all Californians.

The Delta Drought Response Pilot Program was highlighted in a radio story by [MyAgLife Daily News Report](https://www.myaglifedailynews.com). The story provided an overview and goals of the program.

## BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

1. Provide a policy update on recording landowner access agreements for grants
  - Discussion on this item can be found in Agenda item 8.
2. Provide an overview of the 2023 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program
  - Update is provided in Agenda item 10.

**DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE**

Agenda Item 5 (3): Budget and Expenditure Report

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**CONTACT**

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
[campbell.ingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:campbell.ingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov)  
(916) 281-4145