



Executive Officer's Report January 25, 2023

PROGRAM UPDATE

STAFFING UPDATE

Please welcome Geraldine (Gerrie) Walker, our newest retired annuitant. Gerrie started with the Conservancy on July 21, 2022. She is working on contract and grant administration and special projects. Gerrie worked for the state for 37 years before retiring in 2017 from the Department of Social Services, where she managed contracts, grants, MOUs, and projects.

Please welcome Hasaan Hurte, our newest Contract & Grant Analyst. Hasaan started with the Conservancy on November 7, 2022. He is working on grant administration for the 2023 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program. Hasaan comes to us from the private sector with 20+ years of experience managing residential treatment facilities and group homes.

Please welcome Rachel Lane, our new Program Analyst. Rachel started with the Conservancy on January 10, 2023. She will focus on the 2023 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program, working with farmers throughout the Delta on a variety of drought mitigation practices. Rachel is a recent graduate of the University of California, Davis where she majored in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems. During her time at UC Davis, she was an intern on the land conservation team at the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

The Conservancy continues to fill vacancies and hire additional staff to support programs. Current recruitments include one Senior Scientist, one Office Technician and a Fiscal and Board Analyst. We hope to introduce new staff at the March 2023 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.

FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

Notices from the Fair Political Practices Commission were sent to Conservancy Board Members, alternate Board Members, and Liaison Advisors to complete Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests. The final filing deadline is April 1, 2023, though we have received some already. Forms are completed on the Fair Political Practices Commission online portal. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Jessica Adel at jessica.adel@deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

NUTRIA ERADICATION

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

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 (WQIPs). The Delta FFF Program has \$200,000 for implementation of these projects, and two major projects were approved by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in November 2022. The program will install a windbreak of trees to reduce pesticide drift into nearby waterways and cost-share for the installation of low flow microsprinklers or drip irrigation to reduce return flows at Tirupathi Farms 3D on Roberts Island. FFF will also fund installation of a recirculation pump to reduce return flows on Staten Island. Both projects will improve water quality by reducing return flows and, thus, reducing transport of chemical off-site and into nearby waterways. Staff have filed California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notices of Exemption (NOEs) for both projects with the Conservancy acting as lead agency.

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 is in the final stages of planning the first Delta Restoration Forum, which is scheduled for February 8, 2023, from 3:00-6:00 pm at the Conservancy office. The agenda for the Forum and registration information will be shared on both the Conservancy and Stewardship Council's listservs.

MEDIA MENTIONS

Maven's Notebook shared our [December 23 press release](#) announcing the availability of \$42 million in grant funding for projects that support Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration and Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

1. Provide information on how the 20% maximum Indirect rate for grantees was derived.
 - Conservancy staff asked several subject matter experts and conducted a review of the state contracting manual, Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 bond language, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) guidance materials, and several CNRA department's grant guidelines and did not find a definitive limit of 20 percent for grantees indirect costs. However, several of these sources reiterated the principle of responsible grant administration and not gifting state funds. In alignment with the State's goal to expand access of state funds to more diverse applicants, the Conservancy may explore a process to exceed 20 percent indirect rates for grantees in future scenarios.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 5 (2): Budget and Expenditure Report

Meeting Date: January 25, 2023

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CORRESPONDENCE

None

CONTACT

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Nutria Eradication Program Update

Field Update January 12, 2023

Since March 2018, the nutria eradication efforts in California have:

1. Completed full and/or rapid assessments on over 1.8 M acres
2. Executed entry permits with 4,500 landowners for over 9,300 parcels in 14 counties
3. Set up 7,005 camera stations (916 currently active)
 - o Conducted 64,150 camera checks
4. Confirmed nutria within nearly 750 sites
5. Deployed over 8,919 trap sets for a total of 107,788 trap nights
6. Taken or accounted for the take of 3,386 nutria (since March 2017)
 - o Merced- 2,054
 - o Stanislaus- 970
 - o Fresno- 231
 - o San Joaquin- 110
 - o Mariposa- 12
 - o Sacramento -8
 - o Madera- 1 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)

Of 3,297 necropsies, the data has shown:

- o 1.14 sex ratio (M:F)
- o Of the females captured:
 - 23% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 63% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 69% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
- o 3,891 fetal nutria have been removed from the population
- o Litter size ranged from 1-13, with an average of 5.9
 - Average litter size for adult females (> 14 mos.) in California is 6.4

Table 1. The total number of cells with nutria taken, total number of nutria taken, and average number of nutria taken per cell, by year from March 2017 to January 12, 2023.

Year	Total (unique) cells with nutria taken	Total # nutria taken	Average # nutria taken per cell
2017	7	20	2.9
2018	57	348	6.1
2019	73	492	6.7
2020	157	1239	7.9
2021	145	703	4.9
2022	112	580	5.3
2023	4	4	4
Grand Total	405	3386	8.4