



Executive Officer's Report
March 22, 2023

PROGRAM UPDATE

STAFFING UPDATE

Please welcome Lauren Damon, our newest Senior Environmental Scientist. Lauren started with the Conservancy on February 13, 2023. She is the Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Projects Supervisor and will be primarily managing grants for Nature Based Solutions. Lauren comes to us from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife with 15 years of experience monitoring and managing the Delta's aquatic resources.

The Conservancy continues to fill vacancies and hire additional staff to support programs. Current recruitments include an Office Technician and a Fiscal and Board Analyst.

FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

Notices from the Fair Political Practices Commission have been sent to Conservancy Board Members, alternate Board Members, and Liaison Advisors to complete Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests. Please complete your reporting prior to the final filing deadline of April 1, 2023. Thank you to those who have already completed their statements. 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@deltacconservancy.ca.gov.

DELTA DROUGHT RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE (DDRPP)

On November 16, 2022, the Conservancy Board approved 64 DDRPP grants for the 2023 water year, totaling \$10.87 million. Since January, three proposals withdrew from the program, resulting in 61 grants, totaling just over \$10.5 million. Thanks to an "all hands-on deck" effort by Conservancy staff, all 61 grants have been executed. Approximately one-third of grantees submitted their first invoice in February, with the remaining grantees submitting their first invoices in March. Agenda Item 11 of this Board packet features a presentation outlining the 2022 DDRPP Program Report and Technical Analysis.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

Due to intervening change in Board membership, it was not possible to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2022, and November 16, 2022 Board meetings at the January 25, 2023 meeting. Therefore, the meeting minutes have been marked unapproved and linked to the video recording of the meetings, thus allowing anyone the ability to confirm the validity of the minutes.

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. Implementation has begun on a recirculation pump to reduce return flows on Staten Island. This project will improve water quality by reducing return flows and, thus, reducing transport of chemical off-site and into nearby waterways.

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 Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) restoration subcommittee (subcommittee) with colleagues from the Delta Stewardship Council. On February 8, 2023, the subcommittee held the first Delta Restoration Forum at the Conservancy office. Over 50 individuals attended the in-person event, with over 100 people joining remotely as part of the hybrid meeting. Forum attendees were given space to introduce themselves to one another, received an update on the amendment to Chapter 4 of the Delta Plan from agency staff, engaged in strategic group conversations, and made connections during an open house. During the group conversations, participants were asked to think about the challenges and opportunities that would come as we implement future ecological restoration that supports flourishing Delta ecosystems and human communities. The outcomes of the forum will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting and at the next gathering of the DPIIC.

Conservancy staff facilitate the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team (DIISCT). The first DIISCT meeting of 2023 will take place on March 14, 2023.

Two upcoming public meetings will feature site visits and may be of interest to Board members. On March 28, 2023, the Delta Independent Science Board is hosting a tour focused on agriculture and wildlife-friendly farming. The next full meeting of the DPIIC is scheduled for April 24, 2023 and will feature a restoration site visit.

MEDIA MENTIONS

The [Daily Republic published an article on February 2](#) about the proposed Pacific Flyway Center obtaining key permits and breaking ground in the coming months. The project is receiving funding from the Delta Conservancy for the “Walk in the Marsh” wildlife habitat-viewing area.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

1. Provide an overview of resources for science, data, environmental compliance and permitting for Delta Conservancy projects.
 - Agenda item 12 will address this topic
2. Provide a list of Conservancy-funded projects that includes information on the county where the project is located.
 - Staff will post and email to Board members an updated project list that includes county locations for projects.
3. Conduct on-site board meetings at project sites
 - We anticipate having a project site tour during the May Board meeting.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 5 (2): Budget and Expenditure Report

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CONTACT

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



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Nutria Eradication Program Update

Field Update March 9, 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 7,551 camera stations (1,126 currently active)
 - o Conducted 67,045 camera checks
4. Confirmed nutria within nearly 770 sites
5. Deployed over 9,194 trap sets for a total of 110,013 trap nights
6. Taken or accounted for the take of 3,406 nutria (since March 2017)
 - o Merced- 2,063
 - o Stanislaus- 970
 - o Fresno- 241
 - o San Joaquin- 110
 - o Mariposa- 12
 - o Sacramento -9
 - 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 March 9, 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	5.2
2023	17	24	1.4
Grand Total	414	3406	8.2