



**Executive Officer's Report
May 24, 2023**

PROGRAM UPDATE

STAFFING UPDATE

Please welcome Alexandria Valencia, our new Administrative Assistant. Alexandria (Alex) started with the Conservancy on April 24, 2023 and comes to us from a variety of positions in the private sector.

DELTA DROUGHT RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE (DDRPP)

Conservancy staff have transitioned from initiating 2023 DDRPP agreements to monitoring and evaluating outcomes from water conservation practices implemented in 2022 and 2023. Of the 61 DDRPP grants executed for the 2023 water year, three grants were awarded solely for spring flooding to provide habitat and mitigate potential drought impacts for migratory birds. These grantees submitted their final invoices and grant summaries in April. For the remaining 58 grants, progress reports and second invoices were submitted in mid-May. The first meeting of the DDRPP 2023 Oversight Committee, co-chaired by staff from the Conservancy and the Office of the Delta Watermaster, was held on May 4, 2023. Oversight Committee members will verify and evaluate the efficacy of water saving practices by conducting site visits, evaluating progress reports, and analyzing evapotranspiration (ET) rate estimates from the OpenET platform. To ground truth the satellite-based ET estimates provided by OpenET, eddy covariance systems are being installed later this month at six DDRPP sites through the Conservancy's interagency agreement with UC Davis.

DELTA CONSERVANCY FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET APPROPRIATION UPDATES

Verbal update to be provided pending the Governor's May Revise expected on May 11, 2023.

BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETINGS ACT EXEMPTIONS EXPIRES

The Bagley Keen Open Meetings Act authorizes meetings through teleconference subject to specified requirements, including, among others, that the state body post agendas at all teleconference locations, and that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda. This requirement, suspended for COVID-19 purposes, returns to effect July 1, 2023. Starting with the July 26, 2023 Board meeting, any Board members who wish to teleconference will need to comply by supplying address information and making their meeting location available to the public.

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. The Delta FFF Technical Advisory Committee met on April 10, 2023 to discuss the best management practices that will be included in the farm plans for the enrolled properties.

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 March 29, 2023 the subcommittee had its first meeting of the year. The meeting included a recap of the first Delta Restoration Forum, a presentation from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Cutting the Green Tape team, and an activity to prioritize the subcommittee's work plan. On March 27, 2023 the full DPIIC gathered to focus on restoration. The meeting included a tour of the Dutch Slough tidal wetland restoration and a presentation on the subcommittee's work. The DPIIC also voted to endorse the [restoration subcommittee's work plan](#).

On April 24, 2023 Conservancy staff helped to facilitate a tour of the South Delta, which was led and organized by John Herrick (South Delta Water Agency) and Gilbert Cosio (River Delta Consulting). The tour focused on issues of silted channels and potential restoration on channel edges and on Channel Islands.

The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team, facilitated by Conservancy staff and co-led by staff from the Delta Stewardship Council, the Department of Water Resources, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, had its second quarterly meeting on May 9, 2023. On May 2, 2023, staff presented on the work of the DIISC Team to the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC), which advises the Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC). The ISCC represents the highest level of leadership and authority in state government regarding invasive species. Staff's presentation to the CISAC highlighted the Conservancy's role in facilitating the DIISC Team, key accomplishments of the DIISC Team over the past several years, and potential points of collaboration for the CISAC and the DIISC Team in the future.

MEDIA MENTIONS

[ABC10](#) and the [Manteca Bulletin](#) wrote about the Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton project receiving Board approval at the March meeting.

Governor Gavin Newsom's reappointment of Sandra Matsumoto to the Conservancy Board was covered in the [Davis Enterprise](#).

[SiliconValley.com \(Bay Area News Group\)](#) published a story about the city of Pittsburg moving forward with a plan to upgrade its public boat launch and nearby Central Harbor Park by applying for a grant with the Conservancy.

[The Mercury News](#) wrote about a new report regarding a Delta Conservancy project in Contra Costa County funded under Proposition 1.

[The San Joaquin Valley Sun](#) and [GV Wire](#) covered the announcement that Delta Conservancy Deputy Executive Officer Karen Buhr will serve as the interim executive officer of the San Joaquin River Conservancy.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

1. Provide more visual presentation of Delta Conservancy projects at the Board meetings.
 - We are updating our program reports to include images. This meeting the ERCA and CEP staff reports include images from the recently completed projects.

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 May 11, 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 4,600 landowners for over 9,800 parcels in 14 counties
3. Set up 8,092 camera stations (1,372 currently active)
 - o Conducted 70,267 camera checks
4. Confirmed nutria within nearly 770 sites
5. Deployed over 9,521 trap sets for a total of 112,881 trap nights
6. Taken or accounted for the take of 3,470 nutria (since March 2017)
 - o Merced- 2,095
 - o Stanislaus- 970
 - o Fresno- 273
 - o San Joaquin- 110
 - o Mariposa- 12
 - o Sacramento -9
 - o Madera- 1 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)

Of 3,461 necropsies, the data has shown:

- o 1.14 sex ratio (M:F)
- o Of the females captured:
 - 22% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 62% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 67% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
- o 4,066 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 May 11, 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	31	88	2.8
Grand Total	425	3470	8.2