



Executive Officer's Report

January 24, 2024

PROGRAM UPDATE

FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

The 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 2, 2024, 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 Jiantie (Jenny) Hou at Jiantie.Hou@deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

DELTA DROUGHT RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM (DDRPP) UPDATE

Conservancy staff are continuing to close out all but six of the 2023 DDRPP grants. The six remaining grantees will continue to implement water conservation practices through September 2026 as part of the Delta Conservancy's interagency agreement with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). The UC Davis research team has been collecting micrometeorological and soil data from these six sites. The DDRPP Oversight Committee is continuing to analyze the water conservation actions taken by the DDRPP grantees during the 2022/2023 water year. This analysis will inform the 2023 DDRPP Program Report and Technical Analysis, which is on track to be released in Spring 2024.

DELTA CONSERVANCY FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET APPROPRIATION UPDATES

The State of California is facing a large budget deficit. As part of the solution to the budget deficit, general funds are being pulled back and agencies are being asked to limit their non-essential spending. The forest and fire funds (the only remaining Conservancy general funds) are being recommended by the Governor's Office to be pulled back into the budget. The Conservancy is also complying with the budget request by reducing travel, conferences, trainings, and other expenditures. At this time, no additional measures are being requested by the Governor's Office.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

In the second quarter of the fiscal year Conservancy staff developed an annual report to highlight 2023's accomplishments and milestones and a link is available on the Conservancy website. Various required reports and drills were submitted, including budget drills for SWCAP (Statewide Cost Allocation Plan), Pro Rata, and infrastructure project reporting; Late Penalties Report LPP PD 800 (with

no late payment penalties paid for fiscal year 22/23) and the State Leadership Accountability Act report. The Conservancy purchased additional hybrid equipment to allow for hybrid off-site meetings and we processed many documents, including five contract amendments or modifications, 127 invoices as well as closing 55 DDRPP contracts.

DELTA CONSERVANCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) UPDATE

On November 21, 2023, the Conservancy entered into an interagency agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to solicit proposals, fund, and manage a contract to engage in a collaborative structured decision-making process, conduct value engineering, and refine cost estimates for the Franks Tract Futures project. Conservancy staff are currently developing the RFP to solicit proposals for the project and anticipate posting the RFP in Winter 2024 and selecting a contractor in early Spring 2024.

DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT UPDATE

On December 8, 2023, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project. On December 21, 2023, DWR certified the Delta Conveyance Project EIR. DWR is moving forward with engineering, design, and permitting for the Bethany Reservoir Alignment.

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. The first Fish Friendly Farming site began its certification process in mid-December, and the remaining acreage will be certified in 2024. The Fish Friendly Farming project will close in March 2024.

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 co-lead the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Subcommittee with colleagues from the Delta Stewardship Council (Council). The second Delta Restoration Forum took place on November 2, 2023 at the Ryde Hotel in Walnut Grove. The event built upon the first forum, held in February 2023, by providing additional project-specific information to attendees. Staff from the Conservancy and Council co-led a planning team that included representatives from the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, environmental consulting groups, and Restore the Delta. The November Forum brought together presenters representing over 20 projects, plans, or programs; the Forum was attended by almost 70 individuals. The next meeting of the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee will be in the first quarter of 2024.

The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team, facilitated by Conservancy staff and co-led by staff from the Delta Stewardship Council and the Department of Water Resources, hosted the fifth biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium on November 30, 2023, at the California Natural Resources building in downtown Sacramento. A detailed summary can be found in Agenda Item 8.1.

Conservancy staff worked with staff from DWR and the State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways to submit a proposal to the UC Davis Environmental Policy and Management Policy Clinic to have a graduate student team conduct analyses to improve invasive species control and management in the Delta. The proposal was not selected to be a student project.

MEDIA MENTIONS

[The Capitol Morning Report](#) published a brief about the California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Speaker Series on the Delta that the Conservancy participated in. The recording can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifwkmYvcXKE>.

[Maven's Notebook re-published a press release](#) announcing that the Conservancy Board in October approved \$13 million for Nature-Based Solutions projects that will provide fish and wildlife habitat, halt or reverse subsidence, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support the Delta economy, and more.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- None

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 5 (2): Budget and Expenditure Report

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

CONTACT

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Nutria Eradication Program Update

Field Update December 31, 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 9,521 camera stations (1,275 currently active)
 - Conducted 80,007 camera checks
4. Detected nutria in 861 sites (40-acre cells)
5. Deployed 11,761 trap sets (534 currently active) for a total of 133,772 trap nights
6. Taken or accounted for the take of 4,057 nutria (since March 2017)
 - Merced - 2,198
 - Stanislaus - 968
 - Fresno - 575
 - San Joaquin - 110
 - Solano - 168
 - Sacramento - 25
 - Mariposa - 12
 - Madera - 1 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)

Of 3,903 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.14 sex ratio (M:F)
- Of the females captured:
 - 22% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 62% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 66% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
- 4,768 fetal nutria have been removed from the population
- Litter size ranged from 1-13, with an average of 6.0
 - Average litter size for adult females (> 14 mos.) in California is 6.5

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 December 31, 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	701	4.8
2022	112	580	5.2
2023	119	677	5.7
Total Across Years	485	4057	8.4