



Executive Officer's Report

March 27, 2024

PROGRAM UPDATE

FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

Fair Political Practices Commission notices 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. 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 Jiantie (Jenny) Hou at Jiantie.Hou@deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

DELTA DROUGHT RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM (DDRPP) UPDATE

Conservancy staff have closed out all 55 of the DDRPP grants that completed work at the close of the 2023 calendar year. The six DDRPP grantees currently hosting micrometeorological equipment on their project sites continue to implement water conservation practices as part of the Delta Conservancy's interagency agreement with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). The UC Davis research team will continue to collect micrometeorological and soil data from these six sites through September 2026. The DDRPP Oversight Committee is making progress to complete the analysis of water conservation and bird benefits actions taken by the DDRPP grantees during the 2022/2023 water year. This analysis will inform the forthcoming 2023 DDRPP Program Report and Technical Analysis, and we expect to present this report at the July Board meeting.

STATE BUDGET UPDATE

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 Conservancy's allocation of wildfire prevention 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, training, and other expenditures. At this time, no additional measures are being requested by the Governor's Office. New information will be available at the May revise in mid-May.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

From January through February the administrative team prepared and submitted new required monthly reporting to CA Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) for budget freeze expenditures as well as drills and information requests to various state agencies on fee increases, the Environmental License Fund supported activities, and employee salary schedules. Staff submitted packages to fill the vacant Office Technician and Environmental Scientist positions and to extend two limited-term positions for an additional year. Staff processed a Request for Proposals for the continuation of Franks Track planning. Staff processed one new contract, four contract amendments, 58 invoices, and closed out two contracts. Finally, please welcome back Administration Manager Brenda Lusk from maternity leave.

DELTA CONSERVANCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) UPDATE

On February 26, 2024 the Conservancy posted an RFP titled “Cost Feasibility Analysis for the Restoration of Franks Tract” to solicit competitive proposals to engage in a collaborative, structured decision-making process to refine the Franks Tract Futures Project and conduct value engineering to refine and prepare new cost estimates. The RFP closed on March 21, 2024, and Conservancy staff anticipate selecting a contractor in early Spring 2024.

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. The work for this Program was completed on February 28, 2024 and the project will close on March 31, 2024. A detailed report on program outcomes and lessons learned can be found in Agenda Item 9.1.

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 first Subcommittee meeting of 2024 took place on March 7. The meeting notice can be found here: <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/dpiic/meeting-notice/2024-03-07-dpiic-meeting-notice.pdf>. The meeting focused on the impacts, risks, and management of invasive aquatic vegetation in tidal wetland restoration projects, a recap of the Delta-Suisun tidal wetland restoration symposium that took place in November of 2023, and a recap of the November 2023 Delta Restoration Forum. The staff supporting the Subcommittee also worked to combine all materials from the November 2023 Delta Restoration Forum onto an online mural board and [posted a summary to the DPIIC webpage](#). Posting these materials online was part of an effort to make all the information shared at the Restoration Forum available to anyone unable to attend the Forum in person.

The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team, facilitated by Conservancy staff and co-led by staff from the Delta Stewardship Council, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department of Water Resources, had its first quarterly meeting of the year on February 20, 2024. The team received an update on the activities of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee, a report out on the 2023 Delta Invasive Species Symposium, an update from the Nutria Genetics Team at the Department of Water Resources, worked to update the team's research needs table, and shared general updates.

Conservancy staff attended the 2024 State of the Estuary Conference on March 12, 2024 in Oakland, CA and presented five posters highlighting Conservancy work. The poster, "Advancing Nature-Based Solutions for Wetland Restoration: An Overview of the Delta Conservancy's Awarded Grants" was co-authored by Anjali Shakya and Lauren Damon and highlighted the projects recently approved for funding through the \$36,000,000 of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration funding. The poster, "Current State of the Science on Delta Soil Subsidence and Emissions" was co-authored by Lauren Damon, Campbell Ingram, and Anjali Shakya and synthesizes the best available science used to support the Conservancy's work on carbon sequestration, avoided emissions, and land subsidence. The poster, "Community Enhancement Grant Program" was co-authored by Martha Ozonoff, Maya Garrett, and Sarah Lesmeister and highlights projects funded through this wing of the Delta Conservancy's Program. The poster, "Delta Drought Response Pilot Program: A Novel Approach to Building Resiliency to Drought" co-authored by Rachel Lane, Lindsay Kammeier (State Water Resources Control Board), Martha Ozonoff, and Rachel Wigginton highlights program enrollment and the preliminary results of the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program. The poster, "Interagency Collaboration to Achieve Delta Plan Restoration Targets" was co-authored by Annie Merritt (Council), Rachel Wigginton, Elizabeth Brusati (Council), Dylan Chapple (Council), and Amanda Bohl (Council) and discusses the outcomes of the first two Delta Restoration Forums hosted by the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee. Copies of these posters are available upon request.

MEDIA MENTIONS

[California Local](#) published an article about the 10 state conservancies and how they protect California's natural beauty.

[The Daily Republic](#) reported that the Delta Conservancy Board approved funding to Suisun City for the Suisun City Fishing Dock Planning Project.

[The Lodi News-Sentinel](#) wrote about the March groundbreaking of the Asian American Heritage Park in Isleton. The Delta Conservancy is providing funding for the park that will showcase the history and heritage of the Chinese and Japanese immigrants who once occupied the Asian American Historic District of Isleton.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Arrange a portable presentation about invasive species issues in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. Staff have begun reaching out to RCDs as a possible venue to provide this presentation.

Meeting Date: March 27, 2024

Page 4

Agenda Item: 5

Attachment: 1

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 March 11, 2024

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 10,044 camera stations (1,459 currently active)
 - Conducted 83,449 camera checks
4. Detected nutria in 877 sites (40-acre cells)
5. Deployed 12,287 trap sets (462 currently active) for a total of 138,820 trap nights
6. Taken or accounted for the take of 4,202 nutria (since March 2017)
 - Merced - 2,248
 - Stanislaus - 969
 - Fresno - 620
 - San Joaquin - 110
 - Solano - 203
 - Sacramento - 30
 - Mariposa - 18
 - Madera - 4 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)

Of 4,202 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.17 sex ratio (M:F)
- Of the females captured:
 - 22% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 63% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 68% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
- 4,958 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 6.4

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, 2024.

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	120	677	5.6
2024	40	145	3.6
Total Across Years	507	4202	8.3