



## Executive Officer's Report

July 24, 2024

### PROGRAM UPDATE

#### STAFFING UPDATE

Rachel Lane was our Drought Program Analyst overseeing the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP) and is now our newest Environmental Scientist. She started her new role on May 6. After five years with the Delta Conservancy, Larry Hughes, Retired Annuitant, re-retired on June 28. He served various roles in the Administration division and during the pandemic was a COVID-19 Contact Tracer.

#### DELTA DROUGHT RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM (DDRPP) UPDATE

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 continues to collect micrometeorological and soil data from these six sites through September 2026. The site visit following this Board meeting will include a presentation from the UC Davis research team and the opportunity to view the experimental equipment in the field. The DDRPP Oversight Committee has completed the analysis of water conservation and bird benefits actions taken by the DDRPP grantees during the 2022/2023 water year. Agenda Item 14.2 of this Board packet features a presentation outlining the 2023 DDRPP Program Report and Technical Analysis.

#### DELTA CONSERVANCY FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET UPDATES

We are pleased to report that all baseline funding for facilities and operations remains for the 2024-2025 budget. As anticipated, the one-time General Fund allocation of \$6 million for wildfire prevention was pulled back. Current language in the proposed Climate Bond includes \$29 million for the Conservancy.

#### RETURN TO WORK

As of July 1, 2024, Conservancy staff are reporting to the office two days per week. Our in-office days are Tuesday and Wednesday.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

From March through June the administrative team collected Form 700s from Conservancy staff and Board members; prepared and submitted requested documents for the Department of General

Services Procurement Division's triennial accreditation audit, State Agency Waste Management Annual Report (SARC), the Workforce Analysis Survey, and the 10-day Language Survey. Staff began work on the fiscal year 2025/26 budget process with the submittal of technical adjustment to the California Natural Resources Agency and prepared Conservancy electronic folders to migrate from our shared drive to a cloud-based system in the fall. Staff completed paperwork for the recruitment of the newest Environmental Scientist position, changed the Office Technician position from a limited term to a permanent position, and extended two limited term positions for another year. Staff processed five new contracts, two contract amendments, 75 invoices, and closed out three contracts.

### **DELTA CONSERVANCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) UPDATE**

On March 21, 2024, the RFP titled "Cost Feasibility Analysis for the Restoration of Franks Tract" closed. The purpose of the contract was 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. During the contract negotiation stage, there were concerns regarding the contract type, requiring additional negotiations with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Conservancy staff anticipate a resolution in early summer 2024.

### **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Conservancy staff recently submitted two grant proposals and are actively working on three grant proposals.

#### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

On July 2, Conservancy staff applied for a \$25 million RCPP grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to fund restoration and rice conversion in the highly subsidized areas of the Delta that would expand the current NBS funding. While there is a lot of funding available, the grant program is highly competitive. Staff anticipate hearing back from NRCS by the end of the year.

#### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) America the Beautiful (ATB)**

On July 18, Staff submitted a NFWF grant to fund projects that received planning grants from the Conservancy's Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program. Specific projects include restoration work at Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge and a project to restore approximately 2.5 miles along the San Joaquin River. The total award would be \$5 million to cover implementation work and the administration by the Conservancy. Staff expect to hear a decision about the proposal by the end of the summer.

#### **Delta Science Program**

Conservancy staff are working on two grant proposals for the Delta Science Program's Research Award. One proposal is to gain a deeper understanding of pathways to rice in the Delta, and the second proposal is to advance wetland paludiculture in the Delta. Each proposal's estimated budget is approximately \$500,000. Proposals are due August 29.

#### **Clean Vessel Act Program**

Conservancy staff are working on a grant proposal for the California State Park's Division of Boating and Waterways Clean Vessel Act Education and Outreach Grant Program. The \$280,000 annual grant includes education and outreach to boaters about proper sewage disposal and monitoring of pumpout and dump stations in the in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary and Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Proposals are due August 9. See Agenda Item 12.1 for more information.

## **NUTRIA ERADICATION**

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

## **DELTA SCIENCE**

### **Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Restoration Subcommittee (RSC):**

Conservancy staff continue to co-lead the DPIIC RSC with colleagues from the Delta Stewardship Council (Council). RSC staff are reviewing the work plan to capture accomplishments and prioritize future efforts. The next RSC meeting will take place in the last quarter of 2024 with a possible focus on the south Delta.

### **Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team**

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 second quarterly meeting of the year on May 21, 2024. The team heard a talk about the impacts, risks, and management of invasive aquatic vegetation (IAV) in tidal wetland restoration sites, worked to update the team's research needs table, and shared general updates. Staff are facilitating a DIISC Team working group to develop general guidance for adaptive management of IAV in tidal wetland restoration sites. DIISC Team leadership is also coordinating with the Suisun Resource Conservation District to present on relevant topics in invasive species management at their September landowner workshop.

### **Delta Science Outreach**

Conservancy staff attended the 2024 State of the Estuary Conference on May 28, 2024 in Oakland, California 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 million 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 synthesized 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 Dr. Sarah Lesmeister and highlighted projects funded through the Community Enhancement 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 Dr. Rachel Wigginton, highlighted 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), Dr. Rachel Wigginton, Dr. Elizabeth Brusati (Council), Dr. Dylan Chapple (Council), and Amanda Bohl (Council) and discussed the outcomes of the first two Delta Restoration Forums hosted by the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee. Copies of these posters are available upon request.

Conservancy staff have submitted abstracts for potential presentations at the 2024 Bay-Delta Science Conference scheduled for October 2024. 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 Dr. Rachel Wigginton, would describe the outcomes of the 2023 DDRPP and raise the profile of the final report on the Program. The proposed poster cluster “Advancing Ecosystem Restoration Towards a Resilient Delta,” chaired by Dr. Elizabeth Brusati of the Delta Stewardship Council and co-authored by Annie Merrit (Council), Dr. Rachel Wigginton, Dr. Dylan Chappel (Council), and Amanda Bohl (Council), would bring together posters about projects that were a part of the 2023 Delta Restoration Forum. One of these posters, “An Overview of the Delta Conservancy’s Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program,” co-authored by Anjali Shakya and Lauren Damon, would showcase several restoration projects funded by the Conservancy’s Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation program. Other posters would be authored by the San Francisco Estuary Institute, California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways. Finally, a proposed special oral session titled “Delta Carbon Farming” has been facilitated by Lauren Damon and will include presentations on long-term monitoring of greenhouse gas budgets in restored wetlands, the development of the CA Wetland carbon credit protocol, assessing the carbon market, generating carbon credits from DWR’s multi-benefit wetland restoration projects, and using Staten Island as a living library.

Conservancy staff participated in several science and community outreach efforts. Martha Ozonoff and Maya Garrett participated as mentors during field days organized by the Center for Land-Based Learning’s Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship Program (SLEWS) on March 22 and April 12, respectively. They also participated on career panels on those days where they discussed the Delta, grant management, and career opportunities. On May 7, Lauren Damon participated in a field trip to Staten Island, where she spoke to a UC Davis soils class about peat soils, land subsidence, and the Conservancy’s work to mitigate the climate change impacts of subsidence. On June 6, Dr. Rachel Wigginton gave an invited lecture to a class of UC California Naturalist Program students on wetland restoration and other nature-based solutions. On June 25, Campbell Ingram led a Delta tour for an international exchange group sponsored by the State Department. Visitors included leadership from government and nonprofit organizations from the five countries that border the Mekong River (Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar).

#### **MEDIA MENTIONS**

[Bay City News](#) published an article about the city of Pittsburg setting a completion date for waterfront improvements that are being funded by the Delta Conservancy.

[The Press](#), which covers news in East Contra Costa County, wrote about the plans underway to restore wetlands in Knightsen. The Delta Conservancy previously provided funding for project planning.

[AsAmNews](#) published a piece on Conservancy grantee Jean Yokotobi’s efforts to build a park in Isleton honoring Asian pioneers in the Delta.

#### **BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

- None

#### **DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE**

Agenda Item 6 (2): Budget and Expenditure Report

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- On June 10 the Conservancy received a Public Records Act request for a copy of the proposal for the Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center (P6802). The document has been sent to the requester.

**CONTACT**

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



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Nutria Eradication Program Update

### Field Update July 9, 2024

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

1. Completed full and/or rapid assessments on over 1.9 M acres
2. Executed entry permits with 4,600 landowners for over 9,800 parcels in 14 counties
3. Set up 11,184 camera stations (1,599 currently active)
  - Conducted 91,449 camera checks
4. Detected nutria in 1,096 sites (40-acre cells)
5. Deployed 13,529 trap sets (740 currently active) for a total of 148,991 trap nights
6. Taken or accounted for the take of 4,597 nutria (since March 2017)
  - Merced - 2,453
  - Stanislaus - 983
  - Fresno - 668
  - San Joaquin - 110
  - Solano - 319
  - Sacramento - 34
  - Mariposa - 18
  - Madera - 12 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)

Of 4,586 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.16 sex ratio (M:F)
- Of the females captured:
  - 21% 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
- 5,407 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 6.1.** 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 July 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	1,239	7.9
2021	145	701	4.8
2022	112	580	5.2
2023	120	677	5.6
2024	117	539	4.6
<b>Total Across Years</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>4,597</b>	<b>8.2</b>