



Executive Officer's Report

January 22, 2025

PROGRAM UPDATE

FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

The Notices from the Fair Political Practices Commission to complete Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests have been sent to Conservancy Board Members, alternate Board Members, and Liaison Advisors. The final filing deadline is April 1, 2025. 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

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). Monitoring by the UC Davis research team and collection of micrometeorological and soil data from these six sites will continue through September 2026. The first annual field water budgets were submitted during the November 2024 reporting period, and the grantee presented the initial results to members of the Delta Measurement Experimentation Consortium on December 10, 2024. Conservancy staff continued to share the analysis of the DDRPP with interested parties through various forums.

DELTA CONSERVANCY FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION UPDATES

The California Department of Finance (DOF) Budget Letter 24-25, Government Efficiency Reduction Drill, requests all state agencies to reduce their state operations budgets by 7.95% for the current and future fiscal years. The Conservancy has requested a waiver from the drill due to our limited state operations funds and are currently responding to DOF questions. The latest projection is a \$5,000 decrease in operating funds.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Staff completed their annual Information Security and Privacy Awareness trainings. The State Leadership Accountability Act (SLAA) Report was submitted, and we continue to work on the fiscal year

2025/26 budget drills. The Conservancy is recruiting to backfill a Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory) position. Staff processed three grants, closed out three grants, and processed 80 invoices.

DELTA CONSERVANCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) UPDATE

Conservancy staff are pursuing the authority to enter into Architectural and Engineering agreements. This authority allows more leniency in contracting given how few entities can perform some specialized work. The Proposed Action of Regulation was published on January 3, 2025, by Office of Administrative Law. The 45-day comment period ends on February 18, 2025.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

In 2024, Conservancy staff submitted five grant proposals: Regional Conservation Partnership Program, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: America the Beautiful Challenge, two Delta Science Program proposals, and the Clean Vessel Act Program. The Conservancy was not selected for the federal grant or the Delta Science Program opportunities as the funding solicitations were very competitive. However, the Conservancy was awarded the California State Parks 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. The grant term started on January 1, 2025.

Conservancy staff are partnering with the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, the Delta Protection Commission, Solano Resource Conservation District, the Catholic Charities of Stockton, and law enforcement agencies from the five Delta counties to submit a proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Removal Program by January 31, 2025. If awarded, the program would provide funding to support community engagement, education, outreach, removal, monitoring, and prevention of marine debris (e.g., abandoned vessels, vehicles, fishing gear) in the Delta waterways.

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). The most recent RSC meeting took place on November 13, 2024 and consisted of a series of site visits in the southern Delta to explore potential restoration opportunities. The meeting was held in collaboration with Restore the Delta to highlight community-supported restoration needs in the south Delta. Local, state, and federal agencies attended the meeting. In 2025, the RSC plans to host a spring meeting and an early summer Delta Restoration Forum.

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 fourth quarterly meeting of the year on November 19, 2024. The team had three speakers and shared general work updates with the group. Speakers shared an update on invasive golden mussel, a proposal for repeated invertebrate surveys in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, and an update on research on invasive ribbon weed and early detection and rapid response (EDRR). Staff are facilitating a DIISC Team working group to develop general guidance for adaptive management of invasive aquatic vegetation in tidal wetland restoration sites. DIISC Team Leadership were invited to present on EDRR at the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society annual conference in March 2025. The talk will highlight the work the DIISC Team has done over the past few years to advance EDRR coordination in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.

MEDIA MENTIONS

- The executive officer was interviewed about subsidence for a [Delta Dispatch](#) podcast episode. The episode was reshared by Maven's Notebook.
- [Bay Area News Group](#) covered the groundbreaking for Pittsburg's Central Harbor Park upgrades that the Conservancy is funding with a Climate, Access, and Resource (CAR) grant.
- [The Daily Republic](#) published an article about a December public meeting for Suisun City's public fishing dock planning project. The Conservancy is funding the project with a Proposition 68 grant.
- The executive officer was interviewed for an [Estuary News Group](#) story that highlighted Conservancy-funded projects using nature-based solutions.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- None

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 5.2: Budget and Expenditure Report

CORRESPONDENCE

- On November 14, the Conservancy received a Public Records Act request for information on the Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton planning project. A copy of the project proposal was sent to the requester.
- On November 18, the Conservancy received a Public Records Act request for information on the Discover the Delta Education Center and Stockton Maritime Museum planning projects. Copies of the proposals were sent to the requester.

CONTACT

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Nutria Eradication Program Update

Field Update January 9, 2025

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 4,800 landowners for over 11,000 parcels in 17 counties
3. Set up 12,348 camera stations (1,464 currently active)
 - Conducted 100,376 camera checks
4. Detected nutria in 1,179 sites (40-acre cells)
5. Deployed 15,721 trap sets (621 currently active) for a total of 172,505 trap nights
6. Taken or accounted for the take of 5,448 nutria (since March 2017)
 - Merced - 2,575
 - Fresno - 1,130
 - Stanislaus - 986
 - Solano - 513
 - San Joaquin - 110
 - Madera - 48 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)
 - Sacramento - 45
 - Mariposa - 24
 - Contra Costa - 17

Of 5,406 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.16 sex ratio (M:F)
- Of the females captured:
 - 21% of juvenile (2-6 months) females have been pregnant
 - 63% of subadult (6-14 months) females have been pregnant
 - 68% of adult (greater than 14 months of age) females have been pregnant
- 6,563 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 (greater than 14 months) in California is 6.5

Table 5.1. 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 January 1, 2025.

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	214	1,353	6.3
2025	8	38	4.8
Total Across Years	632	5,448	8.6