SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency

Feasibility Review Regarding Conservancy Website Translation into Spanish and Other Languages

RECOMMENDATION

Staff will further explore website translation capability, including full cost quotes, for the next Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

This feasibility review was written in response to a Board member's inquiry about providing the Conservancy website in Spanish and other languages.

The Conservancy website uses an open source program, Drupal, for its website. Under an agreement with Delta Stewardship Council, their Drupal designers created the Conservancy's website and templates that allows Conservancy staff to populate and maintain the content of the site's pages.

Initial research indicates that there are three options to provide the Conservancy website in Spanish and other languages: (a) contract a Drupal designer to install the Drupal translation feature onto the website; (b) use Google Translator; or (c) contract a translation service to translate Conservancy documents and provide electronic files for uploading and printing.

The Drupal Internationalization Module can be added to the existing website. This will take approximately 40 hours of a Drupal programmer's time. Rates for Drupal programmers range widely but costs would not be expected to exceed $10,000 for this one time service. Once installed, there would be no additional staff work to translate website content. The Internationalization Module supports more than 150 languages. Using the Module, a viewer selects a language (usually through an icon on the page) and the entire website would be translated while maintaining the site's formatting.

There is both a free and paid version of Google Translator. The free Google Website Translator will not work as a "plug and play" program with Drupal, which means the site formatting will be lost. Preserving the formatting while using the free Google Translator option would involve considerable staff time to manually copy, translate, and upload new text into new Conservancy webpages developed for this purpose. Pricing for Google Translate API (https://cloud.google.com/translate/v2/pricing) is based upon millions of characters in the website, $20 per million characters of text.

Translation services usually charge by word or hour. An average range is 8 to 15 cents per word, or $35-55 per hour. There are translation services available via CMAS (California Multiple Award Schedules). Using this option, the Conservancy could have the website content translated into Spanish or other languages and then develop new webpages with the new electronic text files.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

There is no State policy requiring or prohibiting State agencies from providing information in languages other than English. The State Constitution identifies English as the State's official language. A cursory review of several State websites revealed only two that offered some, not all, of their pages in Spanish or other languages. Those two were the California Department of Public Health (Spanish only), and the Secretary of State's *Guide to Voting In California* that is available in 10 languages. Other State websites reviewed included the Delta Protection Commission, Delta Stewardship Council, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Fish and Wildlife, CalHR, State Personnel Board, Department of Water Resources, and the Office of Pesticide Regulation.

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