Agenda Item: 7
Attachment: 1

Meeting Date: January 28, 2015

Page 1



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PROGRAM AND POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT December 17, 2015

SUMMARY

A quorum was established with the following subcommittee members present: Jim Provenza, Dan Taylor, Mike Eaton and Steve Chappell

Under the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop. 1), \$50 million is identified for the Conservancy for "competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide issues."

In preparation for the disbursal of these funds, Conservancy staff has been drafting grant guidelines and a grant application packet. Accompanying this memo is the most current draft version of these documents for your review.

Water Bond Grant Program Planning

Staff presented a draft grant guidelines and grant application packet. These draft documents incorporated Subcommittee comments made during the October 15th meeting and the comments from the December 3rd Board Meeting. Conservancy staff presented an overview of the grant program including proposed evaluation criteria, potential project types, and proposed funding levels. Staff recommended a grant cycle of over \$9 million a year for five years, focusing on high priority projects with multiple benefits that are consistent with the proposed Water Bond, State priorities, and the Conservancy's legislative mandates. Subcommittee discussion focused on the importance of having clear criteria, the need for clarification of funding levels and prioritization for planning and implementation projects, and the need for clear cost share definitions. Committee members' comments and recently released guidance from the Resources Agency have been incorporated into the documents in preparation for the full Board's review at the January 28, 2015 Board meeting.

Following the January 2015 Board meeting, staff will incorporate the Board's comments. During April and May 2015, staff will conduct the required three public meetings and will seek Resources Agency approval. A final draft will be presented for adoption by the Board at the June 2015 meeting.

Agenda Item: 7
Attachment: 1

Meeting Date: January 28, 2015

Page 2

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