

Meeting Date: March 25, 2015
Page 1



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PROGRAM AND POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT
February 18, 2015

SUMMARY

A quorum was established with the following subcommittee members present: Jim Provenza, Dan Taylor, Mike Eaton and Darla Guenzler. A few members of the public also attended. The meeting agenda included a presentation of the draft grant guideline documents and staff's research into translating the Conservancy's web site into other languages.

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 disbursement of these funds, Conservancy staff developed drafting grant guidelines and a grant application packet. Both documents have previously been reviewed by the subcommittee and the full Board.

[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 and December 17th meetings and the comments from the December 3rd and January 28th Board Meetings. Conservancy staff presented the most recent changes, including:

- the development of a timeline for a 10-month grant cycle
- language more fully describing the selection process
- an applicant workshop at the beginning of the grant cycle
- the development of evaluation criteria to distinguish the differences between Category 1 (planning) and Category 2 (implementation) projects

Subcommittee discussion focused on fine tuning and further clarifying these changes. There was support for the 10-month grant cycle as well as discussions on a selection process. The subcommittee was also interested in developing evaluation criteria that does not place planning (Category 1) projects

Meeting Date: March 25, 2015

Page 2

at a disadvantage and in carving out a specific amount of funds for planning projects. The grant documents included in this Board packet reflect these comments.

Based on discussion at the February 18th subcommittee meeting, a near final version of these documents has been drafted for the Board's review on March 25th.

Following the March 2015 Board meeting, staff will incorporate the Board's comments and prepare the guidelines documents for public comment, conduct the required three public meetings, and will seek Resources Agency approval. A final draft will be presented to the Board at the June 25th meeting.

[Translation of the Conservancy's Web Site](#)

Staff presented additional information regarding the translation of the Conservancy's website into other languages. Subcommittee discussion focused on whether or not the web site is the best place to offer materials in other languages (vs. print materials) and whether or not web translation helps the communities that truly need it. The subcommittee agreed that an incremental approach would be best and directed staff to continue exploring translation, in particular which pages or materials should be translated and into which languages.

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