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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency

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West Sacramento, CA 95691
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Proposition 1 Grant Program Update: Public Comments

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends review of the submitted public comments for inclusion in the grant guidelines and grant application packet.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

The Conservancy received 11 written comments and 8 verbal comments from non-governmental organizations, and federal, state, and local agencies. Written and verbal comments received during the public review period are broadly summarized by category below.

- 1) **Clarification of Terms:** provide definitions for additional terms including adaptive management, best available science, and administrative costs.
- 2) **Information on Oversight:** expand the type of information requested of grantees to ensure adequate oversight of grant dollars, including audits and financial statements.
- 3) **Best Available Science and Adaptive Management:** discuss the use of adaptive management more thoroughly and its connection to the Delta Plan and provide more explicit instructions on how the applicant should describe the use of best available science and adaptive management in their proposal.
- 4) **Clarification of Requirements:** provide additional information to clarify the requirements related to conflict of interest, cost share, grant provisions, and agricultural sustainability.
- 5) **Planning and Monitoring:** Provide more guidance on what constitutes an effective monitoring program, explicitly emphasize the Delta Plans guidance.
- 6) **Mapping and Assessment:** Require grantees to use CDFW's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program and the CalVeg maps from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- 7) **Evaluation and Review Process:** Regroup the evaluation criteria to a smaller number of categories and provide clearer guidance on how to maximize points in any one category; include a representative from the water supply community on the technical review team; include evaluation of benefits to disadvantaged communities and provide incentives for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities; and develop an integration panel with other agencies to coordinate funding decisions and facilitate joint investment in the best multi-benefit projects.

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- 8) *Eligible Project:*** Add projects that utilize recycled water; expand the list of eligible projects to more explicitly encourage wetland habitat enhancement projects, agricultural enhancements that benefits wildlife, and projects that support agricultural economies and enhances the habitat value of working lands; and expand to include restoration of tidal marsh.

- 9) *Application Process and Reporting:*** Submit applications electronically only; require yearly reports vs. six-month reports; and allow applicants to select as many funding priorities on the *Concept Proposal Application Form*, as is applicable.

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy released its grant guidelines and grant application packet for public comment in April 2015. The Conservancy held three public meetings during the week of May 11th, one at the Conservancy's office in West Sacramento, one outside of Stockton, and one in Walnut Grove. Nineteen people attended the public meetings. The deadline to submit comments was May 15, 2015.

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