

Meeting Date: December 3, 2014

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## PROGRAM AND POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

October 15, 2014

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### ATTENDEES

A quorum was established with the following subcommittee members present: Jim Provenza, Ken Vogel, Steve Chappell, and Mike Eaton.

### MEETING SUMMARY

#### [Water Bond Grant Program Planning](#)

Conservancy staff has been meeting with staff from other conservancies to learn from their experiences and has been reviewing guidelines and applications from other agencies and conservancies. Conservancy staff presented an overview of these initial research and planning efforts to develop a grant program and move Water Bond funds. Staff discussed the types of projects that could be funded through a grant program and approximate funding levels. Staff is recommending a grant cycle of \$10M every year for five years and focusing on high priority projects with multiple benefits that are consistent with the proposed Water Bond and the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. The subcommittee supported staff's recommendation regarding human resource needs, including in-house grant administration support, including contract, budget, and accounting services.

Conservancy staff presented the first draft of grant guidelines and discussed a potential grant approval process consisting of staff recommendations, a technical review committee, and Board approval. Subcommittee discussion focused on the importance of having clear criteria, a technical review process, and whether or not groundwater projects could be funded. Staff proposed taking draft guidelines to the Board in January 2015, conducting the required public meetings in February 2015, and bringing a final draft to the Board for *adoption* in March 2015.

#### [Programs Updates](#)

*Ecosystem Restoration:* Conservancy staff is presenting the Hub concept in October at a Bay-Delta Science Conference special session entitled, "*Implementing the Delta Science Plan: Improving Science*

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*Capacity to meet Current and Future Challenges*". The Conservancy continues to work with the agencies and interest groups to build support for the Hub.

*Economic Development Program:* A Request for Offers (RFO) was released for the marketing project on October 12<sup>th</sup> with proposals due November 4<sup>th</sup>. The Conservancy and the Delta Protection Commission are working together to hire a consultant to develop and implement a marketing campaign.

*Education and Outreach Program:* More than 200 volunteers participated in the September Delta Waterways Cleanup (part of the Coastal Conservancy's Great Coastal Cleanup), removing 1,258 tires and 34,000 pounds of trash from Delta waterways.

The Conservancy—in partnership with the California Department of Public Health and Central Valley Water Board—is holding two stakeholder meetings to kick-off the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP). These public workshops are scheduled for Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> in Stockton and October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Walnut Grove.

### Closed Session

The subcommittee discussed the Executive Officer's Performance Review process.

### **Contact Person:**

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