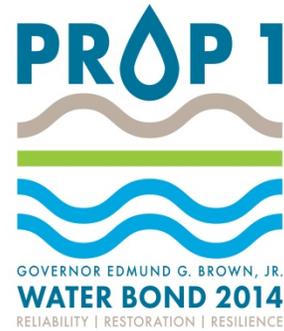




SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
 A California State Agency



Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program

2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation

Project Title	Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project		
Applicant	Solano Resource Conservation District		
Project Number	Prop 1-1605	Category	2
County	Solano	Funding Request	\$ 444,795.00
Score	81.5	Total Project Cost	\$ 750,588.00

Staff Recommendation:

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from Solano Resource Conservation District for the Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement (Prop 1-1605) project.

Project Description:

This working waterways habitat enhancement project will pair cattle management practices with ecosystem restoration practices on approximately 525 acres of actively farmed and grazed ground along Lindsey Slough. The project will be implemented in a manner that is compatible with surrounding farming operations to model effective habitat restoration techniques in a working agricultural landscape. The project targets the following conservation priorities: 1) creating riparian habitat buffers and corridors along the ranch’s irrigation and drainage waterways and 2) creating additional livestock infrastructure to more efficiently and sustainably rotate animals throughout the property. The project will restore and enhance 17 acres of working waterways within the ranch by constructing fencing that excludes cattle from riparian areas, providing alternative drinking sources (water troughs) for the cattle, and planting the areas within the fences with native plants. The applicant will use Conservancy funds along with cash and in-kind cost share from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the landowner, and the Center for Land-Based Learning to implement the project by September 2020.

Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:

This project is consistent with Proposition 1 and other priorities of the State as noted in the Grant Guidelines. The project restores and enhances the habitat value of the Delta’s working landscape while keeping land in production, consistent with the purposes outlined in chapter 6 of

Proposition 1. The project's objectives implement the California Water Action Plan's Action 3: Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta and Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems. The project is consistent with several recommendations in the Delta Plan, including ER R2, which calls for restoration in the priority area of the Cache Slough Complex, ER P5, which calls for avoiding the introduction of nonnative species, DP P2, which calls for respecting local land use when siting restoration projects, and DP R10, which encourages wildlife friendly farming; however, the project does not implement restoration at an appropriate elevation as called for in ER P2. Given the small footprint of the project and the importance of the corridors it is implementing, this inconsistency bears further investigation but did not disqualify the project. The project aligns with the Delta Conservancy's strategic plan's goals of leading efforts to protect Delta ecosystems, working in partnership with Delta growers to protect and enhance the Delta's working landscapes, and engaging in activities that support the Delta ecosystem and economy, and with several of the areas of authority from the Conservancy's enabling legislation. The project proposes to blend habitat objectives with an active agricultural operation, and has the full support of the landowner.