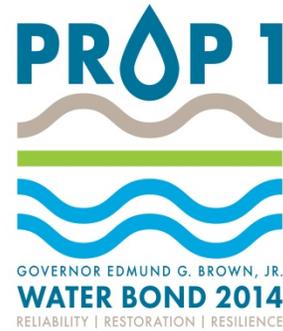




SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
 A California State Agency



Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program

2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation

Project Title	San Joaquin River Setback Levee		
Applicant	Reclamation District No. 1601 – Twitchell Island		
Project Number	Prop 1-1604	Category	2
County	Sacramento	Funding Request	\$1,898,600.00
Score	77.0	Total Project Cost	\$10,391,000.00

Staff Recommendation:

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from Reclamation District No. 1601 – Twitchell Island for the San Joaquin River Setback Levee (Prop 1-1604) project.

Project Description:

The project defined in this concept proposal is the first component of the overall San Joaquin River Setback Levee Project at Twitchell Island. The overall project is an approximately \$90 million endeavor that is anticipated to be constructed in multiple phases and consists of rehabilitating the Twitchell Island levee of Reclamation District No. 1601 along the San Joaquin River in a manner that will provide much-needed channel margin habitat along a four-mile stretch of the San Joaquin River. The habitat that will be created is a major ecological enhancement that will greatly improve conditions for delta smelt, migrating salmon smolts and other native fish. Furthermore, the project will increase the levee’s resistance to erosion, provide better overall levee stability, and provide additional freeboard to protect against overtopping due to wind generated waves. The funding being requested from the Delta Conservancy will be paired with funding from the Department of Water Resources to construct a toe berm, setback the levee, and create 4.62 acres of tidally inundated shallow aquatic and tule marsh habitats and 1.94 acres of dense willow scrub, upland scrub, and mixed riparian habitats along 2600 lineal feet of levee on the lower San Joaquin River by November 2018.

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 is a multibenefit flood protection and ecosystem restoration project that

provides for the creation of a diverse range of channel margin habitat structures and shaded riverine aquatic habitats, consistent with the purposes outlined in chapter 6 of Proposition 1. The project's ecological 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 all nine criteria described in the Delta Plan's Prioritization of State Investments in Delta Levees and Risk Reduction (RR P1), and it is consistent with ER P4, which states that levee projects shall evaluate and incorporate alternatives, including the use of setback levees to increase floodplains and riparian habitats when feasible. The project's channel margin habitat restoration aligns with the Delta Conservancy's strategic plan's goal of leading efforts to protect Delta ecosystems, and with the enabling legislation (§32300(i)) that underpins that strategic goal. Expanding the capacity for levee projects to provide important habitat for critical species is a multibenefit approach to resource management.