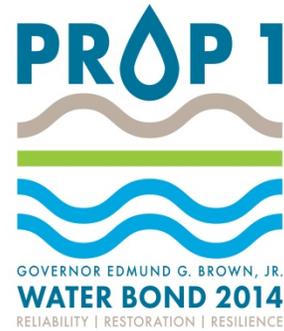




SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA CONSERVANCY**  
 A California State Agency



***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Agricultural Crossing in the Yolo Bypass		
<b>Applicant</b>	County of Yolo		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1607	<b>Category</b>	2
<b>County</b>	Yolo	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$1,167,433.03
<b>Score</b>	75.3	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$1,415,633.03

**Staff Recommendation:**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from the County of Yolo for the Agricultural Crossings in the Yolo Bypass (Prop 1-1607) project.

**Project Description:**

The project defined in this concept proposal proposes to prioritize, permit, construct, and monitor performance of three of the 28 agricultural crossings identified in Yolo County’s 2014 Yolo Bypass Drainage and Water Infrastructure Improvement Study. Construction will involve removing the existing degraded crossing and replacing them with free span structures. Improving agricultural crossings will help sustain agriculture and improve wetland management in the Yolo Bypass, building on decades of local and state efforts to manage the Yolo Bypass for multiple beneficial uses. Existing crossings consist of undersized or degraded culverts covered with gravel and dirt that impede drainage. During and after flood events, this slow drainage restricts land access and limits planting seasons due to inundated soils. Slow drainage after spring flood events diminishes agricultural productivity by delaying planting and thus reducing crop yields. It also diminishes wetland productivity by delaying drainage of winter wetlands and therefore decreasing waterfowl food supplies.

**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 sustainable agriculture project that will also provide ecosystem benefits to wetland managers for waterfowl and fish habitat 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 criteria described in the Delta Plan's Recommendation DP R10 to encourage habitat enhancement and wildlife friendly farming systems on agricultural lands. The project's agricultural crossings improvements align with the Delta Conservancy's strategic plan's goal of protecting and enhancing the Delta's agricultural and working landscapes, and with the Conservancy's enabling legislation that calls for protection and preservation of Delta agriculture and working landscapes. Improving the agricultural crossings in the Yolo Bypass to allow for more effective water management will benefit agricultural operations and wetland species.

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