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Request for Approval of the 2017/2018 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines

Staff Report

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the 2017-18 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines so that staff may post the Guidelines and open the 2017-18 grant cycle on August 1, 2017.

REQUEST BACKGROUND

Staff has revised the draft Grant Guidelines to incorporate feedback from the Program and Policy Subcommittee, public comment, and internal revisions. All substantive changes to the document are laid out in the table below.

If the Board approves the final draft of the Grant Guidelines, staff will post the Guidelines to the Conservancy website and open the 2017-18 grant cycle on August 1, 2017. A timeline for the entire 2017-2018 grant cycle is provided at the end of this report.

The final draft Grant Guidelines are included as an attachment to this report with areas of considerable change explained in red italics in the body of the document. The table below catalogs all substantive changes, the reason for making the change, and the relevant page number(s) in the draft final Grant Guidelines.

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Substantive Changes Made to the Grant Guidelines

Change #	Change Made	Reason for Change	Page #
1	Made language in the Quick Facts section consistent with that later in the document.	Avoids confusion and misinterpretation by the reader.	5-6
2	Removed redundant text in the Purpose of Grant Guidelines subsection.	Streamlines document.	7
3	Revised the Water Quality project examples in the Program Description and Focal Areas subsection based on expert feedback.	Makes projects examples clearer and more accurate.	9
4	Revised the Water-related Agricultural Sustainability language and project examples in the Program Description and Focal Areas subsection based feedback from the PPS meeting.	Clarifies expectations of water-related agricultural sustainability projects.	9-10
5	Added definitions to the Grant Terms subsection.	Clarifies information for applicants.	12
6	Rearranged the Eligible Applicants subsection for consistency with later parts of the document.	Streamlines document.	13
7	Moved information about calculating indirect expenses from the Eligible Expenses subsection to the newly-created Budget Tables subsection.	Groups information about indirect cost calculations with explanations about other budget line items.	14
8	Revised the Full Proposal Solicitation Process subsection to explain the process for contesting denied projects as discussed at the PPS meeting.	Clarifies requirements of applicants who wish to contest funding recommendations.	17
9	Added language to Scoring Thresholds and Funding Decisions subsection to specify that the Board can prioritize for approval should funding become available any project that has not been recommended but scored above 75 points.	Gives the Board flexibility to prioritize unfunded projects in an over-subscribed grant cycle.	17-18

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Change #	Change Made	Reason for Change	Page #
10	Added additional information to the Concept Proposal Instructions subsection to explain what is required for the maps that applicants must submit.	Clarifies expectations of applicants.	19-21
11	Rearranged Funding Request and Budget text in the Concept Proposal Instructions subsection.	Clarifies information for applicants.	19-21
12	Added an additional eligibility criterion to the Eligibility Review text in the Concept Proposal Review subsection.	Specifies that eligibility is based on submitting a multibenefit ecosystem or watershed protection or restoration project.	21-22
13	Changed the language in the fourth eligibility criterion in the Eligibility Review text in the Concept Proposal Review subsection.	Removes the word “consistency” from the criterion to avoid confusion about how the project conforms to the Delta Plan.	21-22
14	Changed the language of the Scientific Merit and Performance Measures evaluation question in the Concept Proposal Review subsection.	Clarifies the distinction between best available science and adaptive management.	21-22
15	Revised the language about Resolutions of Support from Applicable Local Government Agencies in the Full Proposal Instructions subsection to be consistent with that later in the document.	Avoids confusion and misinterpretation by the reader.	22-25
16	Added an additional eligibility criterion to the Eligibility Review text in the Evaluation Criteria for Full Proposal subsection.	Specifies that eligibility is based on submitting a multibenefit ecosystem or watershed protection or restoration project.	25-27
17	Changed the language in the fourth eligibility criterion in the Eligibility Review text in the Evaluation Criteria for Full Proposal subsection.	Removes the word “consistency” from the criterion to avoid confusion about how the project conforms to the Delta Plan.	25-27
18	Changed the language of the Consistency with State Priorities evaluation criterion in the Evaluation Criteria for Full Proposal subsection.	Removes the word “consistency” from the criterion to avoid confusion about how the project conforms to the Delta Plan.	25-27

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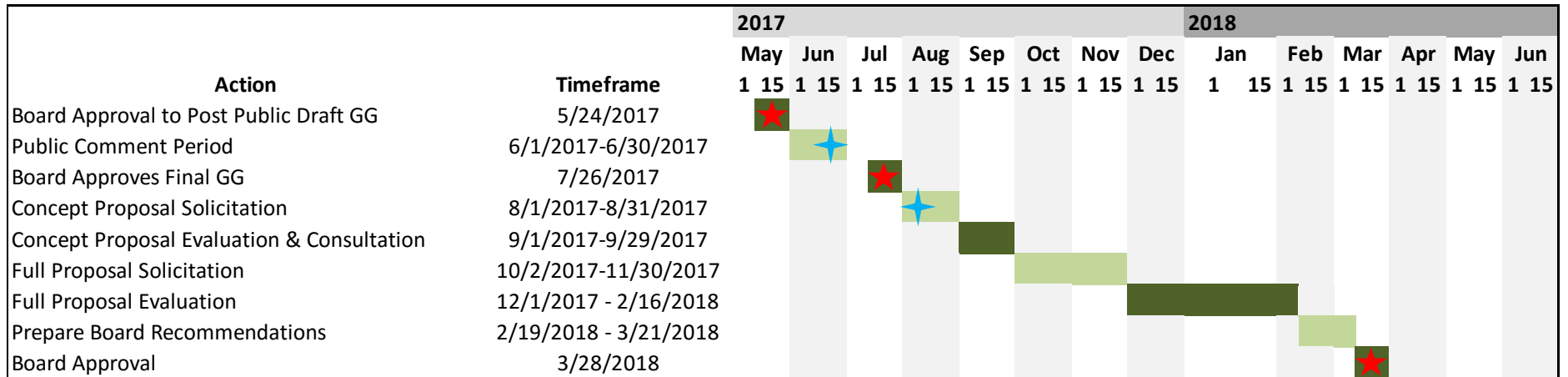
Change #	Change Made	Reason for Change	Page #
19	Changed the language of the Scientific Merit and Performance Measures evaluation criterion in the Evaluation Criteria for Full Proposal subsection.	Clarifies the distinction between best available science and adaptive management.	25-27
20	Rearranged the language in the California Conservation Corps subsection.	Clarifies information for applicants.	28
21	Added language about climate change plans and tools to the Best Available Science subsection.	Promotes consistency with the Conservancy's climate change policy.	31
22	Modified the Adaptive Management subsection to accommodate feedback provided by the Delta Stewardship Council.	Clarifies expectations of applicants and aligns information with the Delta Plan.	31-33
23	Modified the Performance Monitoring and Assessment subsection to accommodate feedback provided with the Delta Stewardship Council. Text regarding standard performance measures has been updated per discussions with subject-matter experts.	Provides more robust, science-based guidance to applicants.	33-36
24	Added information to the Land Tenure section to explain what is required at the time of application.	Clarifies expectations of applicants.	37
25	Rearranged the language in the Land Acquisitions subsection.	Clarifies information for applicants.	37-39
26	Added the Budget Tables subsection.	Clarifies information for and expectations of applicants.	39-40
27	Added the Financial Management Systems Questionnaire and Cost Allocation Plan subsection.	Clarifies information for and expectations of applicants.	41

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Change #	Change Made	Reason for Change	Page #
28	Added language to the Consultation and Cooperation with State and Local Agencies and Demonstration of Local Support subsection regarding projects that are applying for Prop 1 funds from other agencies.	Ensures that applicants are aware of their responsibility to differentiate between State funders.	42
29	Added the Loss of Funding subsection.	Makes applicants and grantees aware of State funding constraints.	44-45
30	Updated Appendix A: Glossary of Terms.	Ensures terms are defined and used consistently through-out the document.	46-49
31	Added Appendix C: Program Requirements Checklist.	Clarifies expectations of applicants and grantees.	53-60
32	Revised Appendix D: Ecosystem Types based on expert feedback.	Improves the scientific basis of the information provided.	61-65

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2017-2018 Prop 1 Grant Solicitation Timeframe



★ Board meeting (decision point)

★ public workshop

Contact

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