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## ***Request for Approval of Recommended Proposition 1 Grant Program Concept Proposals to Submit Full Proposals***

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends that the Delta Conservancy request full proposals for the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program from the nine projects indicated in Table 1.

### **RECOMMENDATION BACKGROUND**

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Conservancy closed its concept proposal solicitation for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The Conservancy received 13 proposals, three of which are for planning projects (category 1) and 10 of which are for implementation projects (category 2). Proposals have been received for projects in all five Delta counties. In total, applicants requested \$15.98 million. A summary of Concept Proposal recommendations is provided in Table 1.

Conservancy staff has reviewed all 13 proposals and scored the 11 projects determined to be eligible. Two staff reviewed and scored each proposal. These scores were averaged to determine the final score for each proposal. Where scores varied across the minimum qualifying point threshold (75 points), with one falling above 75 points and the other below, a third score, provided by the Executive Officer, was used as a "tie breaker" and averaged with the two original scores to determine the final score. Nine projects scored 75 points or above. Staff recommends requesting full proposals from all projects that met or exceeded the minimum point threshold, for an anticipated total funding request of \$15.10 million. Recommendations for the nine recommended projects are included as attachments; the projects are in the order they appear in the table below.

Pending Board approval of concept proposals, staff proposes to open the full proposal solicitation period on November 28, 2016, and to close the solicitation on January 13, 2017 at 5pm. Staff will provide all applicants with information about the status of their proposal and detailed feedback on their concept proposals. All applicants will be invited to schedule follow-up conversations with Conservancy staff to provide them with the opportunity to ask questions.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Conservancy's Proposition 1 (Prop. 1) Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program is focused on restoring Delta ecosystems, improving water quality, and enhancing agricultural sustainability. The Grant Program identifies projects to protect and restore California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds that may be funded with Prop. 1 funding (Sec. 79732 *et seq*). Both Prop. 1 and the Conservancy's enabling legislation emphasize focusing on projects that use public lands and that maximize "voluntary landowner participation in projects that provide measurable and long-lasting habitat or species improvements in the Delta."

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During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Conservancy ran its first grant cycle for the Prop. 1 Grant Program. The Conservancy anticipates administering at least one grant cycle each fiscal year for five years. The Grant Program is a two-part competitive program, with a concept proposal solicitation open to the public, and a full proposal solicitation open to qualifying concept proposal applicants. Full proposals are subject to a rigorous scoring and evaluation process by both staff and an external review panel, and are recommended based upon score and funding availability.

#### **BUDGET**

Proposition 1 identified \$50 million for the Delta Conservancy “for competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities (Sec. 79730 and 79731).” For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, \$9.3 million was allocated to the Conservancy for the Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality grant program. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, up to \$10 million will be available for the grant program.

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Table 1: Summary of Concept Proposals

ID Number	Project Name	Applicant	County	Category	Funding Priority	Amount Requested	Final Score
<b>Applications Qualifying for Full Proposal</b>							
Prop 1-1602	Dutch Slough revegetation	Reclamation District 2137	Contra Costa	2	Restoration and Enhancement	\$2,900,000	89.0
Prop 1-1609	Elliot Ranch Conservation Easement Project	Yolo County Habitat/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (Yolo Habitat Conservancy)	Yolo	2	Water Quality Water-related Agricultural Sustainability	\$3,000,000	85.0
Prop 1-1603	Mello Conservation Easement	Sacramento Valley Conservancy	Sacramento	2	Water-related Agricultural Sustainability	\$2,000,000	83.0
Prop 1-1605	Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project	Solano Resource Conservation District	Solano	2	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality Water-related Agricultural Sustainability	\$444,795	81.5
Prop 1-1604	San Joaquin River Setback Levee	Reclamation District No. 1601 – Twitchell Island	Sacramento	2	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality	\$1,898,600	77.0
Prop 1-1612	Investigations of restoration techniques that limit invasion of tidal wetlands	The Regents of the University of California	Contra Costa	1	Restoration and Enhancement	\$107,655	76.0
Prop 1-1608	Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve	Sacramento County Regional Parks	Sacramento	2	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality	\$943,549	75.7
Prop 1-1613	Implementation of rice on Staten Island for sustainability, ecosystem, and water quality benefits	Conservation Farms & Ranches	San Joaquin	2	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality Water-related Agricultural Sustainability	\$2,642,000	75.5
Prop 1-1607	Agricultural Crossings in the Yolo Bypass	County of Yolo	Yolo	2	Water-related Agricultural Sustainability	\$1,167,433	75.3
<b>Applications Not Qualifying for Full Proposal</b>							
Prop 1-1601	Bay Point Restoration and Public Access Project	East Bay Regional Park District	Contra Costa	1			67.0
Prop 1-1606	Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project	Ducks Unlimited INC	Solano	2	Restoration and Enhancement	\$410,964	64.0

ID Number	Project Name	Applicant	County	Category	Funding Priority	Amount Requested	Final Score
<b>Ineligible Applications</b>							
Prop 1-1610	Headwater Mercury Source Reduction Strategy: Hydraulic Mines and Debris Control Dams Inventory, Evaluation and Pilot Project Remediation for the Yuba and Bear River Watersheds	The Sierra Fund	Nevada County	1	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality	\$181,620	DQ
Prop 1-1611	Plant and Microbial interactions and their effects on the ecosystem restoration and water quality	University of California- Davis		2	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality	\$279,576	DQ