

Meeting Date: November 20, 2017

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1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691
www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov

MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS
Board Meeting – September 27, 2017
69 Big Break Road, Oakley

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Katherine Miller.

From 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., the Delta Conservancy Board participated in a tour of the Dutch Slough Revegetation Project and the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Board Members Present: Katherine Miller, Dolly Sandoval, Don Nottoli, Jim Provenza, Todd Ferrara, Karen Finn, Mike Eaton, Darla Guenzler
Ex Officio Members Present: Assemblymember Jim Frazier
Liaison Advisors Present: Cody Aichele, Steve Chappell, Erik Vink, Dan Welsh

The Chair introduced Mike Moran, from the East Bay Municipal Parks District. Mr. Moran gave a quick overview of the Big Break Center. The Chair thanked Conservancy staff for the tour of the nearby Proposition 1 funded projects. The Conservancy anticipates providing tours in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS TAKEN

1. Agenda Item 5 – Consent Calendar (*Action Item*)

MOTION: *Board Member Nottoli moved, with a second from Board Member Guenzler, to approve the summary of the July 26, 2017 Board meeting. No other issues were included in the consent calendar.*

A voice vote was taken by the Board to approve the motion.

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2. Agenda Item 7 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer announced that Beckye Stanton will be leaving the Conservancy to take a position with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) where she will work on harmful algal bloom issues statewide. The Executive Officer announced that the State Legislature passed Senate Bill 5, a parks and water bond, and it currently awaits the Governor’s signature. If the Governor signs the bill, the Bond would go on the June 2018 ballot and would provide \$12 million for the Conservancy if passed by California voters. The Executive Officer provided information on the upcoming State of the Estuary Conference on October 10-11, and the Delta Flood Safety Fair on October 21. The Delta cleanup sites hosted by the Conservancy as part of Coastal Cleanup were a success. At the Conservancy’s three sites, 57 volunteers collected more than 4,400 pounds of trash. The Executive Officer presented the Program Update that included information on the Proposition 1 Grant Program, Delta Carbon Projects, Cache Slough Regional Planning, the Central Delta Corridor Partnership, the Arundo Control and Restoration Project, the Delta Invasive Species Symposium, the Watershed Program, and the Delta Marketing Project. The Board discussed the next steps for the Cache Slough Regional Planning project and requested that the final report from Phase 1 be provided to the Board at the next Board meeting. The Executive Officer also presented the Expenditure Report and the Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix.

3. Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 1 Grant Program Update

Beckye Stanton provided an update on the Proposition 1 Grant Program and reviewed the staff report. . The Conservancy received 18 concept proposals during the Cycle 3 concept proposal stage, requesting more than \$26 million. Staff is currently reviewing an increase to the amount of funding available for the current solicitation cycle (Cycle 3) to up to \$18 million due to the large number of applicants. Staff also presented an approach for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to serve as an external reviewer of agricultural sustainability related Proposition 1 Grant Program proposals. Staff provided an update on current Cycle 1 and 2 projects.

The Board discussed the proposed increase to the available funding for the current solicitation cycle and the addition of an agricultural sustainability related external reviewer for Proposition 1 Grant Program proposals. There was general support for increasing the amount available for the current Proposition 1 solicitation cycle and adding a CDFA external reviewer for agricultural sustainability proposals. The Board also discussed the need to consider availability of other types of funding when reviewing projects, and the deadline extension for the Ducks Unlimited Project to complete the CEQA process that was approved at the July Board Meeting.

4. Agenda Item 8 – Request for Approval of the California Environmental Quality Act Responsible Agency Findings and Grant Award for the Restoration of Priority Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve Project (*Action Item*)

Aaron Haiman presented the staff report and resolution #17-002 for the approval of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Responsible Agency Findings and grant award. Staff recommended that the Board consider the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration, prepared by the County of Sacramento Office of Planning and Environmental Review as the lead agency in

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accordance with CEQA, and adopt Resolution 17-002 which finds that the Board concurs with the CEQA responsible agency findings, adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and finds that no additional mitigation measures within the Board's authority are necessary, and directs staff to file the Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse. Staff also recommended, contingent upon the adoption of the responsible agency findings, that the Board approve the grant request for the Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve project, and authorize the Executive Officer to execute the grant agreement. The board previously reserved funds as part of the second Proposition 1 grant cycle,

MOTION: *Board Member Eaton moved, with a second from Board Member Provenza, to adopt Resolution 17-002 which finds that the Board concurs with the CEQA responsible agency findings, adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, finds that no additional mitigation measures within the Board's authority are necessary, and directs staff to file the Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse.*

A roll call vote occurred with all members present voting to approve the motion.

MOTION: *Board Member Eaton moved, with a second from Board Member Provenza, to approve the grant request for the Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve project and authorize the Executive Officer to execute the grant agreement.*

A roll call vote occurred with all members present voting to approve the motion.

5. Agenda Item 9 – Request for Approval to Enter into Agreements total \$57,750 in Support of Regional Restoration Planning in the Suisun Marsh (Action Item)

Liaison Advisor Steve Chappell recused himself from the discussion due to the Suisun Resource Conservation District being a potential beneficiary of the agreement under consideration.

Aaron Haiman presented the staff report, and the proposed statement of work for the agreement with the Suisun Resource Conservation District, for the Regional Restoration Planning in the Suisun Marsh Project. The Suisun Resource Conservation District, the Department of Water Resources, and the Delta Conservancy have formed a partnership to address the need for water infrastructure improvements in the Suisun Marsh. These improvements will be required to achieve the ecological objectives for the Marsh set out in the Suisun Marsh Management Plan and the recently released Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy. The completion of this assessment will result in a prioritized list of actions for flood/drainage infrastructure improvements on individual managed wetlands that will be eligible for future funding through Proposition 1 and also local/regional grants and landowner assistance programs. Staff recommended that the Board approve the request to enter into an agreement with the Suisun Marsh Resource Conservation District for \$57,750 to support the Suisun Marsh Improvements Assessment.

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The Board discussed the use of Proposition 1 planning funds and the project's coordination with the Suisun Marsh GeoTracker effort. The Board requested that they receive a presentation of the final report when the project is complete.

MOTION: *Board Member Nottoli moved, with a second from Board Member Sandoval, to enter into an agreement with the Suisun Marsh Resource Conservation District for \$57,750 to support the Suisun Marsh Improvements Assessment.*

A roll call vote occurred with all members present voting to approve the motion.

Liaison Advisor Steve Chappell returned to the meeting.

6. Agenda Item 10 – Mercury Exposure Program Update

Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon provided an update on the Mercury Exposure Reduction Program. The program seeks to reduce human exposure to mercury from consuming fish from the Delta and is a collaborative effort with the State Water Board, California Department of Public Health and OEHHA. To protect public health, Delta fish consumption advisories have been issued by OEHHA, advisory signs have begun to be posted throughout the Delta, and small grants have been provided to local community groups to provide outreach on the advisories to affected communities. A new agreement with the State Water Board is in progress and staff expects to execute the agreement in December 2017. These funds would be used to hire a project coordinator to continue community outreach and to manage the small grants program.

The Board thanked staff for the success of the program to date.

7. Agenda Item 11 – Request to Enter into a Contract to Receive \$300,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Subsequently Enter into a \$264,000 Contract with the San Francisco Estuary Institute/Aquatic Science Center to Develop a Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory for Landscape Scale Evaluation of Wetlands in the Delta and Suisun Marsh (*Action Item*)

Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon presented the staff report and the proposed scope of work for the agreement with the Aquatic Science Center, for the development of a Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory for Landscape Scale Evaluation of Wetlands in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. The Conservancy, in partnership with the State Water Board, the Delta Science Program, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the San Francisco Estuary Institute's Aquatic Science Center, is facilitating the development of a publically available basemap of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh aquatic resources using a standardized, regionally relevant classification system for consistent tracking and reporting. Staff recommended that the Board approve the receipt of funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in the amount of \$300,000 and authorize staff to enter into a contract with the San Francisco Estuary

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Institute/Aquatic Science Center for \$264,000 to develop a Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory for Landscape Scale Evaluation of Wetlands in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.

The Board discussed the funding breakdown of the grant from the U.S. EPA, the potential nexus with agricultural sustainability, and the need for the scope of work to be clear that the Board will consider for approval any amendments to the contract.

MOTION: *Board Member Guenzler moved, with a second from Board Member Provenza, to approve the Scope of Work (with inclusion of the requested changes), approve the receipt of funds from the U.S. EPA in the amount of \$300,000, authorize staff to enter into a contract with the San Francisco Estuary Institute/Aquatic Science Center for \$264,000 to develop a Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory for Landscape Scale Evaluation of Wetlands in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, and request staff to explore the inclusion of agricultural sustainability issues.*

A roll call vote occurred with all members present voting to approve the motion.

8. Agenda Item 12 – Presentation of the Draft 2018 Delta Conservancy Implementation Plan

The Executive Officer presented the Draft 2018 Delta Conservancy Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan is a companion document to the 2017-2022 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan and provides a more detailed accounting of the tasks the Conservancy will undertake in 2018 to implement the Strategic Plan. The Conservancy will adopt an Implementation Plan at the beginning of each calendar year. Staff requested that the Board review the Draft Implementation Plan and provide comments by November 1, 2018. Staff will bring a final draft of the Implementation Plan to the Board for consideration at the November 20, 2017 Board Meeting.

The Board discussed a review schedule for the Strategic and Implementation Plans and the potential to develop an Annual Report.

9. Agenda Item 13 – Request for Approval of the Update to the Delta Conservancy’s Climate Change Policy (Action Item)

Becky Stanton presented the staff report and Resolution #17-003 approving updates to the Delta Conservancy’s Climate Change Policy. The Conservancy adopted its Climate Change Policy in 2012 and included it as Appendix C of the 2012 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan. This update incorporates new information available since 2012, including new Executive Orders, state legislation, plans, and the Board’s adoption of the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. Staff recommended that the Board approve Resolution 17-003 to adopt the Delta Conservancy Climate Change Policy – 2017 Update.

The Board discussed the inclusion of additional references, such as the Science and Modeling done by the Climate Action Team’s Working Groups, and Assembly Bill 2800 and Senate Bill 1386. The Board requested to receive a copy of the final Delta Conservancy Climate Change Policy – 2017 Update, with the additional references, at the November 2017 Board meeting.

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MOTION: *Board Member Ferrara moved, with a second from Board Member Nottoli, to approve Resolution 17-003 to adopt the Delta Conservancy Climate Change Policy – 2017 Update (with inclusion of the references requested).*

A roll call vote occurred with all members present voting to approve the motion.

10. Agenda Item 14 – Delta Conservation Framework Update

Brooke Jacobs and Cristina Sloop, from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, presented the current process for the development of the Delta Conservation Framework. The Delta Conservation Framework is a document that envisions conservation efforts of the Delta, Yolo Bypass, and Suisun Marsh through 2050. The draft Delta Conservation Framework is posted and available for public comment through November 10, 2017. Public workshops will occur on October 19 and October 30.

The Board discussed the process for finalizing the document and how the Framework fits in with other Delta restoration planning efforts.

11. Agenda Item 15 – Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan Update

The Executive Officer provided the update on the Delta Stewardship Council. The Council will meet on September 28 and is currently updating the Ecosystem Chapter of the Delta Plan. The Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee will meet on November 13.

12. Agenda Item 16 – California Water Fix and Eco Restore Updates

The Executive Officer provided an update on California Water Fix and Eco Restore.

Water Fix

Water contractors are currently reviewing the project and making final funding determinations. Phase 1 of the State Water Board Point of Diversion hearings is complete. Staff expects Phase 2 to begin in January 2018.

Eco Restore

Escrow closed on Chips Island allowing DWR to move forward on an 896-acre tidal marsh restoration project. The Request for Proposals process resulted in two approved projects and agreements are currently in development.

13. Agenda Item 17 – Delta Protection Commission Update

Erik Vink provided an update on the Delta Protection Commission. The Commission is hosting the Delta Flood Safety Fair on October 21 in Walnut Grove and produced a 2018 Flood Safety Calendar for distribution in the Delta. The Commission is currently updating the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone and is expecting to complete a draft of the Economic Indicators Report soon.

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14. Agenda Item 18 – Scheduling and Potential Agenda Items for the November Board Meeting

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the November Board Meeting has been rescheduled to November 20, 2017. Along with standing items, the Board will consider approval of the 2018 Delta Conservancy Implementation Plan and receive presentations on the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan and the Cache Slough Regional Restoration Strategy.

15. Agenda Item 19 – Public Comments

No public comment.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- The Board requested that staff provide the final reports and presentations on the Cache Slough and Suisun Regional Restoration Strategies when complete.
- The Board requested to receive a copy of the final Delta Conservancy Climate Change Policy – 2017 Update, with the approved additional references, at the November 2017 Board meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Miller at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on October 4, 2017
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Contact

Brandon Chapin, Board Liaison
Sacramento-San Joaquín Delta Conservancy
Email: brandon.chapin@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 375-2091

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