



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

MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS
Board Meeting – April 26, 2017
1450 Halyard Dr., Suite 6, West Sacramento

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chair Jim Provenza.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Board Members Present: Jim Provenza, Dolly Sandoval, Don Thomas, Chuck Winn, Elizabeth Patterson, Todd Ferrara, Karen Finn, Darla Guenzler, Dan Taylor
Ex Officio Members Present: None
Liaison Advisors Present: Charlotte Ambrose, Steve Chappell, Marth Ozonoff, Sandra O’Roak, Erik Vink

The Chair introduced Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor of Benicia, as the new Board Member representing Solano County, and Charlotte Ambrose, California Programs Coordinator, as the new alternate Liaison Advisor from NOAA Fisheries, replacing Ryan Wulff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Amrine, with the Bethel Island Municipal Utilities District, announced the District’s opening for a District Manager. Any interested persons are encouraged to apply by 5:00 p.m. on May 12, 2017.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS TAKEN

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

MOTION: Board Member Guenzler moved, seconded by Board Member Patterson, to approve the summary of the March 22, 2017 Board meeting. No other issues were included in the consent calendar.

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

2. Agenda Item 6 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer announced that the Conservancy was awarded the Innovation Award by the American Carbon Registry for its work to develop a carbon offset methodology for Delta and coastal wetlands. The Executive Officer also announced that the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program will be receiving an award from the Sierra Business Council. The Executive Officer then presented the Executive Officer’s Report which included updates on the Proposition 1 Grant

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Program, the Arundo Control and Restoration Project, the Cache Slough Regional Planning effort, the Delta Carbon Protocol, a grant proposal the Conservancy submitted to develop coordinated mapping standards, the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program, the Delta Marketing Project, and planning for a Delta invasive species symposium. Jessica O'Connor presented the expenditure report for the current fiscal year and the Executive Officer also presented the meeting matrix. The Board discussed the adoption of the carbon protocol and the expenditure report.

3. Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 1 Grant Program Approved Project Update

Laura Jensen provided an update on the current Proposition 1 grants. For the current solicitation cycle, the Board will consider staff recommendations for final approval of proposals in the next agenda item.

For the current active grants:

- One grant has submitted its first progress report and invoice.
- Two grants have their first progress reports due on April 30, 2017.
- One grant is expected to be executed by the end of April.
- Two draft grant agreements are under development and will be routed for signatures soon;
- The Paradise Cut Flood and Easement Acquisition Project is working on the next requirements in the acquisition checklist, securing a Board resolution to accept the grant; and
- The Ducks Unlimited Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project is currently completing the CEQA process. The project will come before the Board in July.

4. Agenda Item 8 – Request for Approval of Staff Recommendations for the Second Solicitation Cycle of the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program (*Action Item*)

Laura Jensen presented the recommendations for the second solicitation cycle of the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program. Staff recommended 4 projects to approve funding, totaling \$4.4 million. Each of the recommendations are to either approve funding conditional upon receipt of certain items, or to reserve funding for further board action upon the completion of the CEQA process.

The Board took action on each of the proposals individually and in score order.

Project #Prop 1-1602 – Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project Revegetation (Phase 2 of full project)

Laura Jensen presented an overview of the project. Reclamation District 2137 proposes to restore two parcels in Contra Costa County by creating 400 acres of tidal marsh, 50 acres of riparian woodland, 18 acres of native grassland, and 110 acres of subtidal open water, while also enhancing 70 acres of managed marsh. The proposal requested \$2,900,000 in funding. Staff recommended that the Board approve the Responsible Agency CEQA findings and complete necessary actions as the Responsible Agency under CEQA. Staff also recommended that the Board approve \$2,900,000

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in funding conditional upon the submittal and approval of an updated budget and a Water Conservation and Efficiency Program for Reclamation District 2137. The Board discussed the lifespan and continued maintenance of the project, specifically which organization/agency is responsible.

MOTION: Board Member Patterson moved, seconded by Board Member Guenzler, to approve the Responsible Agency CEQA findings and complete the necessary actions as a Responsible Agency under CEQA for Project #Prop1-1602.

A roll call vote was taken with all Board members present voting to approve the motion.

MOTION: Vice Chair Sandoval moved, seconded by Board Member Patterson, to approve \$2,900,000 in funding conditional upon the applicants submittal and approval of an updated budget and a Water Conservation and Efficiency Program for Reclamation District 2137.

A roll call vote was taken with all Board members present voting to approve the motion.

Project #Prop 1-1605 – Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project

Laura Jensen presented an overview of the project. The Solano Resource Conservation District proposes to pair cattle management practices with ecosystem restoration practices to create 13.5 acres of riparian habitat on actively farmed and grazed ground in the northern part of Petersen Ranch along Lindsey Slough. The proposal requested \$444,795 in funding. Staff recommended that the Board approve \$444,795 in funding conditional upon the submittal and approval of a revised budget. The Board discussed the details of the project.

MOTION: Board Member Patterson moved, seconded by Board Member Taylor, to approve \$444,795 in funding conditional upon the submittal and approval of a revised budget.

A roll call vote was taken with all Board members present voting to approve the motion.

Project #Prop 1-1612 – Investigations of Restoration Techniques that Limit Invasion of Tidal Wetlands

Laura Jensen presented an overview of the project. The Regents of the University of California, Davis proposes to investigate several revegetation techniques to deter colonization of invasive species on restoration sites in tidal wetlands to improve the potential for successful restoration efforts. The proposal requested \$107,650.22 in funding. Staff recommended that the Board approve \$107,650.22 in funding conditional upon the submittal and approval of a revised budget.

MOTION: Vice Chair Sandoval moved, seconded by Board Member Patterson, to approve \$107,650.22 in funding conditional upon the submittal and approval of a revised budget.

A roll call vote was taken with all Board members present voting to approve the motion.

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Project #Prop 1-1608– Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve

Laura Jensen presented an overview of the project. Sacramento County Regional Parks proposes to restore 110 acres of priority wetlands and oak woodlands owned by Sacramento County and located approximately five miles upstream from the legal Delta boundary. The proposal requested \$942,631.40 in funding. Staff recommended that the Board approve findings for projects located outside the Delta, reserve \$942,631.40 in funding pending CEQA submittal and review, and approve that, pending Board approval, funding is conditional upon the submittal and approval of proof and verification of adequate water rights and a revised budget.

MOTION: *Vice Chair Sandoval moved, seconded by Board Member Thomas, to approve findings for projects located outside the Delta, reserve \$942,631.40 in funding pending CEQA submittal and review, and approve that, pending Board approval, funding is conditional upon the submittal and approval of proof and verification of adequate water rights and a revised budget.*

A roll call vote was taken with all Board members present voting to approve the motion.

The Board discussed the procedure for the remaining proposal that staff did not recommend funding. The Board requested that the Program and Policy subcommittee discuss approaches the Board may take in future Proposition 1 Grant cycles relate to proposed projects that staff does not recommend for funding.

MOTION: *Board Member Guenzler moved, seconded by Board Member Thomas, to deny funding for the Mello Conservation Easement project.*

A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with 8 ayes, 0 noes, and 1 abstention.

5. Agenda Item 9 – Request for Approval to Post the Public Draft of the Delta Conservancy 2017 Strategic Plan for a 45-day Public Comment Period (Action Item)

The Executive Officer provided an overview of the process for the public comment period for the Conservancy's 2017 Strategic Plan. If the public draft is approved for posting by the Board, Staff will post the public draft for a 45 day public comment review period. Staff will then review the comments received and present a final draft of the 2017 Strategic Plan for the Board's consideration at the July 26, 2017 Board Meeting.

Brandon Chapin presented the public draft to the Board and reviewed each of the recommended changes received from Board Members. The Board discussed the changes, made minor edits to the performance measures, and requested edits to ensure that agricultural community is broadly defined.

MOTION: *Board Member Ferrara moved, seconded by Board Member Patterson, to approve posting a public draft of the Delta Conservancy's 2017 Strategic Plan, with recommended changes from the Board, for a 45 day public review period.*

A roll call vote was taken with all Board members present voting to approve the motion.

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6. Agenda Item 10 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

Jessica Law provided an update on the Delta Stewardship Council. The Council is meeting on April 27 and 28 to discuss performance measure updates to the Delta Plan, receive an overview of the current water year, and receive presentations from the Delta Science Fellows. The Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee met on April 17 to discuss priority actions over the next year for the Delta Plan. The Council, Delta Protection Commission, and Conservancy have also been meeting regularly to coordinate activities and recently took a tour of Reclamation District 2068. Dan Ray, Chief Deputy Executive Officer, is retiring at the end of April.

7. Agenda Item 11 – California WaterFix and EcoRestore Update

B.G. Heiland presented an update on California WaterFix and provided a fact sheet that included the history and schedule for the project. Rebuttal testimony has resumed with the State Water Resources Control Board and is scheduled to go through August. It is anticipated that the Final Environmental Impact Report will be released in December of this year. Phase I of the Change Point of Diversion hearing is anticipated to end in the upcoming months and Phase II in 2018.

David Okita provided a presentation on EcoRestore with an overview of the current projects and adaptive management. The Department of Water Resources is awarding up to \$42.5 million for planning and construction of tidal restoration projects. Notice to award projects has been posted for two projects and a second Request for Proposals will occur in 2017.

8. Agenda Item 12 – Delta Protection Commission Update

Erik Vink provided an update on the Delta Protection Commission. The Commission is finalizing the levee financing study that is researching new mechanisms for funding levee improvements. The Commission has also been working with the Conservancy on the Delta Marketing Project. Congress has reintroduced the National Heritage Area designation for the Delta and the Commission will be monitoring its progress.

9. Agenda Item 13 – Potential Agenda Items for May 24, 2017

The Executive Officer presented potential agenda items for the May 24, 2017 Board Meeting. Along with standing items, the Board will consider approval to post the public draft of the 2017/2018 Proposition 1 grant guidelines and will discuss the Mokelumne/Cosumnes Corridor. The Board requested an update on the Delta Watershed Initiative Network and Mercury Exposure Reduction Program at the next Board meeting. The Board will also consider approval for end of year expenditures, if needed.

10. Agenda Item 14 – Public Comments

No public comment.

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BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

The Board requested that the Program and Policy subcommittee discuss approaches the Board may take in future Proposition 1 Grant cycles relate to proposed projects that staff does not recommend for funding. *(Agenda Item 8)*

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Provenza at 12:12 pm

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNED at 12:35 pm

BOARD MEETING CLOSED at 12:35 pm

Respectfully submitted on May 9, 2017

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Contact

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