



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

**MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS**  
**Board Meeting – May 24, 2017**  
**1450 Halyard Dr., Suite 6, West Sacramento**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Jim Provenza.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

**Board Members Present:** Jim Provenza, Dolly Sandoval, Karen Mitchoff, Don Nottoli, Katherine Miller, Elizabeth Patterson, Todd Ferrara, Karen Finn, Mike Eaton, Darla Guenzler

**Ex Officio Members Present:** Assemblymember Jim Frazier

**Liaison Advisors Present:** Sandra O’Roak, Steve Chappell, Martha Ozonoff, Erik Vink

The Chair introduced Assemblymember Jim Frazier, representing the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, as the new Ex-Officio Board Member representing the California State Assembly.

The Executive Officer introduced Julie Thury, the Conservancy’s new Accountant I (Specialist).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**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 April 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.*

**2. Agenda Item 6 – Executive Officer’s Report**

The Executive Officer presented the Program Update which included information on the Proposition 1 Grant Program, the Arundo Control and Restoration Project, the Cache Slough Regional Planning effort, the Delta Carbon Protocol, implementation of open and transparent data,

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the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program, the Delta Marketing Project, and planning for a Delta invasive species symposium. The Executive Officer also presented the meeting matrix and gave an update on the Delta Waterways Cleanup in April.

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

Laura Jensen provided an update on the current Proposition 1 grants:

- Three grants have submitted their progress reports and invoices;
- One grant is expected to be executed soon;
- 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;
- The Ducks Unlimited Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project has withdrawn from the Department of Fish and Wildlife Proposition 1 Grant Program and will reapply in a subsequent solicitation. The project is completing the CEQA process and will come before the Board in July; and
- For Cycle 2 grants approved at the last Board Meeting, grantees are currently working with staff to satisfy the conditions of their award and to negotiate grant agreements.

**4. Agenda Item 8 – Request for Approval to Post a Draft of the 2017/2018 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines for a 30-day Public Comment Period (*Action Item*)**

Laura Jensen presented the draft Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines for public posting. Staff revised the Grant Guidelines to incorporate the items discussed at the March 2017 Board meeting. Prior to making revisions to the Grant Guidelines, staff conducted an internal review of the grant program – including the outreach, solicitation, and agreement processes – to identify areas that can be modified to promote enhanced programmatic efficiency and effectiveness. Staff collected feedback from applicants, grantees, and reviewers. Since March, staff has solicited feedback from this year’s applicants and conducted an internal debrief. Staff provided the Board with a draft of the Guidelines that highlighted the significant changes in the document and identified areas where Board direction was needed.

The first item identified by staff regarded suggested changes to the water-related agricultural sustainability section, submitted by Yolo County. The Chair presented a letter from the Yolo County Counsel outlining the position that “water-related agricultural sustainability” encompasses a wide range of projects that address water resources, agriculture, and long-term productivity of agricultural lands and should be broadly interpreted to not require a direct link to ecosystem or watershed benefits. The Conservancy’s Legal Counsel advised that the intent of the Water Bond makes it clear that a link to ecosystem and/or watershed benefits must exist. The Board discussed the Proposition 1 statutory language and the intent of the legislature in drafting the language. There was general agreement among the Board that to be eligible for

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Proposition 1 funding, an agricultural sustainability project must also demonstrate ecosystem and/or watershed benefits.

Staff provided to the Board a red line version of Yolo County's suggested changes to the examples of water-related agricultural sustainability projects proposed in the Grant Guidelines; staff highlighted language considered to be potentially inconsistent with the Water Bond. There was a lengthy discussion of the changes to the Grant Guidelines suggested by Yolo County. Public comment was also received.

Due to the amount of time remaining in the meeting, and the need to review the rest of the Grant Guideline document, the Board discussed how to continue discussion on the issue before the adoption of the final Grant Guidelines in July. It was suggested that the County Counsels from the five Delta Counties meet with the Conservancy's Legal Counsel and staff to address the concerns regarding examples of water-related agricultural sustainability projects within the Guidelines. The Board also requested that the issue be made a discussion item at the Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting on June 21, 2017.

**MOTION:** *Chair Provenza moved, seconded by Board Member Nottoli, to not include examples of water-related agricultural sustainability in the draft Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines for posting for a 30-day public comment period, and to encourage Conservancy Legal Counsel to meet with the County Counsels of the five Delta Counties in order to reach a consensus on agricultural sustainability project eligibility within the Proposition 1 Grant Program.*

The Board discussed the need for the public to have examples to review and whether to include Yolo County's suggested changes, but with all text highlighted by staff removed.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT MOTION:** *Board Member Mitchoff moved, seconded by Board Member Nottoli, to include the Yolo County changes to the agricultural sustainability section's introduction and examples within the draft Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines, but with all text highlighted by staff removed and conforming cleanup edits done, and to encourage Conservancy Legal Counsel to meet with the County Counsels of the five Delta Counties in order to reach a consensus on examples of agricultural sustainability project eligibility within the Proposition 1 Grant Program.*

*A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with 6 ayes, 4 noes, and 0 abstentions.*

Laura Jensen provided an overview of the remaining changes to the Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines and the Board made the following decisions by consensus:

- Per Project and Per Category Funding Caps
  - The Board agreed to remove all funding caps.
- Support from applicable Local Government Agencies

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- The Board agreed to keep the requirement for applicants to submit a resolution of support from the County Board of Supervisors from the county in which the project is located.
- Consultation with the Delta Protection Commission
  - The Board agreed to remove the full proposal requirement that applicants consult with the Delta Protection Commission on their projects, due to the Commission serving on the review panel for projects.

**MOTION:** *Board Member Patterson moved, seconded by Board Member Nottoli, to post a public draft of the 2017/2018 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines, with all changes agreed upon, for a 30-day public comment period.*

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

**5. Agenda Item 9 – Mokelumne/Cosumnes Corridor Status and Opportunities**

This agenda item was postponed to the July 26, 2017 Board Meeting.

**6. Agenda Item 10 – Delta Watershed Initiative Network and Mercury Exposure Reduction Program Updates**

This agenda item was postponed to the July 26, 2017 Board Meeting.

**7. Agenda Item 11 – FY 2016-17 Expenditure Report**

Debra Kustic presented the expenditure report and planned end-of-year expenditures. Staff will evaluate filling the existing Environmental Scientist positions in the future. The Board discussed the logistical needs for purchases and the Conservancy's remaining budget.

**8. Agenda Item 12 – Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan Update**

This agenda item was postponed to the July 26, 2017 Board Meeting.

**9. Agenda Item 13 – California Water Fix and Eco Restore Updates**

This agenda item was postponed to the July 26, 2017 Board Meeting.

**10. Agenda Item 14 – Delta Protection Commission Update**

Erik Vink gave an update on the Delta Protection Commission Deputy Executive Director position.

**11. Agenda Item 13 – Potential Agenda Items for July 26, 2017**

The Executive Officer presented potential agenda items for the July 26, 2017 Board Meeting. Along with standing items, the Board will consider approval of the 2017-2022 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan and the 2017/2018 Proposition 1 Grant Program Grant Guidelines. The Board will also discuss agenda items skipped during this meeting, the Mokelumne/Cosumnes Corridor Status and Opportunities, and an update on the Delta Watershed Initiative Network and Mercury Exposure Reduction Program.

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**12. Agenda Item 14 – Public Comments**

No public comment.

**BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

- The Board requested that staff add a discussion item on Agricultural Sustainability project Proposition 1 eligibility to the June Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Provenza at 12:37 pm**

*Respectfully submitted on June 6, 2017*

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

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**Contact**

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