

Meeting Date: April 26, 2017
Page 1



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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT April 26, 2017

~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

Ecosystem Restoration

Proposition 1 Grant Program: The Conservancy's Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program (Grant Program) focuses on ecosystem restoration and enhancement, improving water quality, and water-related agricultural sustainability. Projects to protect and restore California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds are eligible for funding under Proposition 1 (Sec. 79732 et seq). The Conservancy received five full proposals for the 2016-2017 fiscal year solicitation. In total, applicants requested approximately \$6.4 million. Staff recommends that the Board conditionally approve or reserve funding for four proposals that, in total, have requested approximately \$4.4 million.

For the 2015-2016 grant cycle, funding has been awarded or reserved for eight projects with a total funding request of approximately \$5.9 million. To date, three grant agreements have been fully executed, one is being routed for signature, three are being drafted, and one is finishing the CEQA process.

Arundo Control and Restoration Project: Work is scheduled to begin in May when the Giant Gartersnake work season opens. In preparation for beginning work, biological monitoring surveys will be conducted in late April and early May by a combination of staff from Delta Conservancy, Solano Resource Conservation District, and Department of Water Resources (DWR). Staff from the Conservancy and the Sonoma Ecology Center are working with State Parks and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain necessary permissions to control Arundo on several state-owned sites on Brannan Island. DWR is still reviewing the Conservancy's proposal for funding for Phase 2 of this project.

Cache Slough Regional Planning: The group continues to meet monthly with meetings held in February, March and April and meetings scheduled for May and June. Participants continue to include representatives from Solano and Yolo Counties; the Yolo, Solano, and Dixon Resource Conservation Districts; the Solano County Water Agency; Reclamation District 2068; and several state agencies and consultants. The group has reviewed and discussed available information on agricultural systems, flood protection, water supply and ecosystems and is beginning to overlay these information sets to glean initial concepts for integration and compatibility. The group is also starting to draft scope for Phase 2 work. The next meeting is scheduled for the morning of Friday, May 19th.

Delta Carbon: The American Carbon Registry has adopted the California Wetland protocol that includes a methodology for managed wetlands and rice cultivation in the Delta, and coastal wetlands. The Conservancy and partners received the American Carbon Registry's 2017 Innovation Award for the development of the protocol. The Conservancy is working closely with several agencies and landowner partners to develop pilot projects that can engage the new protocol to demonstrate that revenue can be realized from the voluntary carbon market for these practices. The Air Resources Board has expressed interest in adopting the protocol into the compliance program provided that the ACR protocol is demonstrating success.

Meeting Date: April 26, 2017
Page 2

Water Quality

Coordinated Mapping Standards: The Delta Conservancy, in partnership with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Water Board, Delta Science Program, and the Aquatic Science Center, submitted a proposal for \$375,500 to the U.S. EPA Wetland Development Program. If awarded, these funds will be used to:

- Develop a common map of aquatic resources for the Delta.
- Establish a standard approach to wetland mapping for the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory (DARI).
- Train local staff to develop the Geographical Information System (GIS) dataset.
- Build capacity to apply mapping standards.
- Create a dataset that will be integrated into EcoAtlas and used for regional watershed restoration, tracking, and reporting.

The Conservancy should hear by late July if the proposal has been preliminarily selected for award. If selected, a work plan will be due by early August.

Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP): The next Community Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2017 at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center. The meeting agenda will include an update on the small grant program, an update on the posting of advisory signs, and a presentation by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment regarding women and children health issues related to mercury.

Economic Development

Delta Marketing Program: The Delta Marketing Task Force met on April 5, 2017 to review the website prior to launching, review the Delta Leaders Program's "Best of the Delta" promotion, and discuss next steps for the transitioning the website and marketing plan to Delta management. The website (visitcadelta.com) was launched on April 17, 2017. The "Best of the Delta" promotion will last throughout May and awardees will be announced at the Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau's Mixer in June. The Conservancy and Delta Protection Commission continue to maintain the website and explore potential opportunities for meeting the objectives of the Delta Marketing Plan.

Coordination

Delta Invasive Species Symposium: The Delta Conservancy-led Delta Invasive Species Inter-agency Team is planning an August 29th symposium on invasive species in the Delta at UC Davis. This one-day symposium will include invited speakers, a panel discussion, and posters.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – January 25, 2017

1. Staff will provide more information on the CalSTARS expenditure in the expenditure report.

Staff Response: The California State Accounting and Reporting System (CALSTARS) invoice system was migrated with the Department of Technology Billing System (CalTABS) back in 2012. CalTABS is the invoicing system that is used for rates and cost recovery for various systems that flow through the Department of Technology, such as CalSTARS. The Conservancy is currently in the process of terminating the agreement, as FI\$Cal is designed to replace the current CALSTARS system.

2. The Board requested that any project that will not meet its Board-approved deadline for releasing reserved funding or clearing conditional approvals be brought before the Board as an action item requesting an extension of the deadline.

Meeting Date: April 26, 2017
Page 3

Staff Response: Staff will add action items to be brought before the Board for any extensions to Board-approved deadlines for reserved funding or conditionally-approved Proposition 1 projects.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE

Agenda Item 6.2 (Attachment 2): Expenditure Report

OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX

Agenda Item 6.3 (Attachment 3): Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix

CORRESPONDENCE

Agenda Item 6.4 (Attachment 4): None

Contact Person:

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Phone: (916) 375-2089