

Meeting Date: May 24, 2017

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Proposition 1 Grant Program Approved Projects and Current Solicitation Updates

Staff Report

APPROVED PROJECT UPDATE

CYCLE 2

For the 2016-2017 grant cycle, the Board awarded or reserved funding for four projects with a total funding request of \$4.4 million. Staff is currently working with grantees to prepare grant agreements for all of the projects. A brief update on each project is provided below:

<u>Project</u>	Dutch Slough Revegetation
<u>Amount Awarded</u>	\$2,900,000
<u>County</u>	Contra Costa
<u>Conservancy ID</u>	Prop 1-1602
<u>Grantee</u>	Reclamation District 2137
<u>Overview</u>	Establish and maintain 468 acres of native tidal marsh, riparian, and grassland vegetation at the Dutch Slough restoration site.
<u>Board Action/Deadline</u>	Conditional Approval – July 2017
<u>Conditions/Status</u>	1. Revised budget – not submitted 2. Water conservation and efficiency plan for grantee – not submitted
<u>Grant Agreement Status</u>	Grant Agreement Pending
<u>Update</u>	The Conservancy project manager has reached out to the grantee to discuss the conditions of their award.

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Project Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project

Amount Awarded \$444,795

County Solano

Conservancy ID Prop 1-1605

Grantee Solano Resource Conservation District

Overview Restore 13.5 acres of riparian habitat and improve water quality through improved cattle management practices on approximately 525 acres of actively farmland along Lindsey Slough.

Board Action/Deadline Conditional Approval – May 2017

Conditions/Status 1. Revised budget – not submitted

Grant Agreement Status Grant Agreement Pending

Update The Conservancy project manager has reached out to the grantee to discuss the conditions of their award.

Project Investigations of restoration techniques that limit invasion of tidal wetlands

Amount Awarded \$107,655

County Contra Costa

Conservancy ID Prop 1-1612

Grantee The Regents of the University of California

Overview Identify improved methods for tidal wetland revegetation that reduce invasion by non-native plants at Dutch Slough.

Board Action/Deadline Conditional Approval – May 2017

Conditions/Status 1. Revised budget – not submitted

Grant Agreement Status Grant Agreement Pending

Update The Conservancy project manager has reached out to the grantee to discuss the conditions of their award.

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<u>Project</u>	Restoration of Priority Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve
<u>Amount Awarded</u>	\$943,549
<u>County</u>	Sacramento
<u>Conservancy ID</u>	Prop 1-1608
<u>Grantee</u>	Sacramento County Regional Parks
<u>Overview</u>	Restore 110 acres of freshwater wetlands to benefit listed species.
<u>Board Action/Deadline</u>	Funding Reserved – September 2017
<u>Conditions/Status</u>	1. Revised budget – not submitted 2. Proof and verification of adequate water rights – not submitted
<u>Grant Agreement Status</u>	Funding Reserved
<u>Update</u>	The Conservancy project manager has reached out to the grantee to discuss the conditions of the applicant must satisfy in order for the Board to consider approving a grant for the project for which it previously reserved funding.

CYCLE 1

For the 2015-2016 grant cycle, the Board awarded or reserved funding for eight projects with a total funding request of \$5.9 million. To date, three grant agreements have been fully executed; staff is working with grantees to prepare grant agreements for the remaining five projects. A brief update on each project is provided below:

<u>Project</u>	Lower Marsh and Sand Creek Watershed Riparian Restoration Planning Project
<u>Amount Awarded</u>	\$73,493
<u>County</u>	Contra Costa
<u>Conservancy ID</u>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-019
<u>Grantee</u>	American Rivers
<u>Overview</u>	Improve restoration project efficiency within the Marsh/Sand Creek watershed through development of a programmatic CEQA document and permit, including stormwater planning.
<u>Grant Agreement Status</u>	Active as of 10/19/16
<u>Update</u>	The grantee has submitted its second progress report.

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Project Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Amount Awarded \$89,450

County All Delta Counties

Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-005

Grantee California Land Stewardship Institute

Overview Develop a program for working with farmers to improve water quality, which is specific to the crops grown and water quality concerns in Delta counties.

Grant Agreement Status Active as of 1/9/17

Update The Conservancy has received the first progress report and invoice. Most data-gathering to identify Delta-specific parameters for Fish Friendly Farming certification is complete.

Project: Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project

Amount Awarded: \$688,195.64

County: Yolo

Conservancy ID: Prop 1-Y1-2015-016

Grantee: Yolo Resource Conservation District

Overview: Restore up to 5 miles (22 acres) of new, floodway-compatible wildlife and pollinator habitat, providing an exit and transit corridor for wildlife during floods.

Grant Agreement Status: Active as of 1/24/17

Update: The Conservancy has received the first progress report and invoice.

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Project Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Planning Project
Amount Awarded \$99,924
County San Joaquin
Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-012
Grantee San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
Overview Develop a conservation and flood management plan for a new flood bypass at Paradise Cut.
Board Action/Deadline Conditional Approval – July 2016
Conditions/Status 1. Monitoring Plan – completed, 7/27/2016
Grant Agreement Status Grant Agreement Pending
Update The grant agreement is with the grantee for signature.

Project Sherman Island Wetland Restoration Project Phase III
Amount Awarded \$100,000
County Sacramento
Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-008
Grantee Ducks Unlimited
Overview Plan and design for the restoration of 1600 acres of emergent wetlands.
Board Action/Deadline Conditional Approval – July 2016
Conditions/Status 1. Bylaws – complete, 6/7/2016
Grant Agreement Status Grant Agreement Pending
Update Conservancy staff is drafting the grant agreement.

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Project Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project

Amount Awarded \$836,409

County Contra Costa

Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-009

Grantee American Rivers

Overview Convert denuded flood control channel at the confluence of Marsh, Sand, and Deer Creeks into a healthy stream corridor.

Board Action/Deadline Funding Reserved – September 2016

- Conditions/Status
1. Completion of CEQA and approval of Responsible Agency Findings – complete, 11/21/2016
 2. Verification of Adequate Water Rights – complete, 10/17/2016
 3. Landowner Agreement – required as a condition of the agreement
 4. Habitat Maintained for 15 Years – required as a condition of the landowner agreement

Grant Agreement Status Grant Agreement Pending

Update Conservancy staff is preparing the final grant agreement for signature by the grantee.

Project Paradise Cut Flood and Conservation Easement Acquisition Project

Amount Awarded \$2,000,000

County San Joaquin

Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-010

Grantee San Joaquin Resource Conservation District

Overview Purchase flood and conservation easements to protect agriculture for Swainson's Hawk and to protect the opportunity to build a new flood bypass at Paradise Cut in the future.

Board Action/Deadline Funding Reserved – March 2017

- Conditions/Status
1. Completion of CEQA and approval by Board – complete, 3/22/2017
 2. Completion of acquisition checklist requirement – complete, 3/6/2017

Grant Agreement Status Grant Agreement Pending

Update The grantee is working on the next requirement in the acquisition checklist, securing resolution to accept the grant. Conservancy staff is coordinating with CDFW, who is funding other components of this project, to align grant expectations for easements with multiple State funding sources.

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<u>Project</u>	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project
<u>Amount Awarded</u>	\$2,000,000
<u>County</u>	Yolo
<u>Conservancy ID</u>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-003
<u>Grantee</u>	Ducks Unlimited
<u>Overview</u>	Implement habitat and working landscape enhancements in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.
<u>Board Action/Deadline</u>	Funding Reserved – March 2017
<u>Conditions/Status</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of CEQA and approval of Responsible Agency Findings - incomplete 2. Verification of Adequate Water Rights - incomplete 3. Landowner Agreement – required as a condition of the agreement 4. Habitat Maintained for 15 Years – required as a condition of the landowner agreement 5. Bylaws – complete, 6/7/2016
<u>Grant Agreement Status</u>	Funding Reserved
<u>Update</u>	Ducks Unlimited has withdrawn this project from the CDFW Prop 1 grant program and will reapply in a subsequent solicitation. The Conservancy's portion of the project is moving forward as planned. The grantee is completing the CEQA process. This project will come before the Board in July.

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy’s Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program focuses on ecosystem restoration and enhancement, water quality, and water-related agricultural sustainability. The Grant Program funds projects to protect and restore California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds (Sec. 79732 et seq) that are consistent with Proposition 1. The Conservancy anticipates administering at least one grant cycle each fiscal year between 2015 and 2020. The Grant Program is a competitive, two-step process, requiring both a concept proposal and a full proposal. 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 2017-2018 fiscal year, \$9.3 million is available for the grant program.

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Contact

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