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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

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PROGRAM AND POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

February 15, 2017

SUMMARY

A quorum was established with the following Subcommittee members present: Dolly Sandoval and Jim Provenza. Liaison Advisors Sandra O’Roak and Legal Counsel Nicole Rinke were also present. Three public members were present.

The meeting agenda included an update on the Proposition 1 grant program, a discussion of agricultural sustainability project eligibility within the Proposition 1 grant program, a staffing update, and a discussion of the fiscal year 16/17 budget.

The Executive Officer began the meeting by showing two videos of the recent flooding at Tyler Island and McCormack Williamson Tract. He also presented the fish advisory signs that the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP) will be posting in the Delta. The first sign was posted at the Cosumnes River Preserve. The subcommittee requested that the videos of the flooding be posted online if possible.

Proposition 1 Grant Program Update

Laura Jensen presented an overview of Proposition 1 Grant Program. All proposals for the current solicitation cycle have been provided to the Professional Review Panel for their review and evaluation. The Professional Review Panel consists of state and federal agency experts from the Delta Protection Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Water Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In addition to review by the Professional Review Panel, legal counsel, and the Conservancy’s Administrative Staff (conflict of interest, audit findings, and financial systems review); the Conservancy is working with the following entities to solicit their comments on the proposals received.

- Delta Stewardship Council (adaptive management, best available science, and Delta Plan consistency review)
- Office of the Delta Watermaster (water rights review)
- Relevant local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes (general review and comment)

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Review will be ongoing over the next two to three weeks and recommendations will be presented to the Board at the April 26, 2017 Board meeting.

For the current Proposition 1 grants, the Conservancy has fully executed three grant agreements. Two draft grant agreements are currently under development and will be routed by the end of February. Additionally, funding has been approved for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Prop 1-Y1-2015-009), and the grant agreement for this project is currently being drafted. The Paradise Cut Flood and Conservation Easement Acquisition project (Prop 1-Y1-2015-010) will be brought before the Board at the March meeting. Lastly, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project (Prop 1-Y1-2015-003) has been awarded implementation funding through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Prop 1 grant program. The Conservancy is working with CDFW and project proponents to coordinate grant management of the project.

[Agricultural Sustainability Project Eligibility within Proposition 1](#)

The Subcommittee discussed agricultural sustainability projects and potential confusion within the 2016/17 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines. Any revisions to the Grant Guidelines for the 2017/18 solicitation will be discussed by the Board at future Board meetings.

[Staffing Update](#)

Debra Kustic announced that the Accountant I (Specialist) position has been posted and that applications are due by March 6, 2017. The Conservancy is using the California Department of Human Resources eligibility list in order to reach a wide range of candidates.

[Fiscal Year 16/17 Budget](#)

Debra Kustic presented on the Conservancy's current 2016/2017 fiscal year budget. Currently there are anticipated savings in the end-of-year budget and staff is reviewing possible one-time expenditures. The Board discussed potential options and staff will provide an update at the next Program and Policy Subcommittee.

[Future Agenda Items](#)

The Subcommittee requested staff to include a continuation of the discussion on agricultural sustainability project eligibility within Proposition 1, updates on the Proposition 1 Grant Program, and a discussion of lessons learned regarding current flood prevention efforts in the Delta on the agenda for the next Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting.

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