

Meeting Date: January 25, 2017

Page 1



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

Yolo Bypass Regional Restoration Planning Concept

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Delta Conservancy has been working with Yolo and Solano Counties to explore the potential to develop a regional restoration planning effort, consistent with the Cache Slough planning effort, for the Yolo Bypass. The purpose of this project would be to develop a restoration strategy for the Yolo Bypass that identifies areas for habitat restoration and projects that would be eligible for Proposition 1 funding. Through engagement in a collaborative planning process between local, state, and federal agencies and interests, a locally-supportable vision and strategic planning approach would be developed that considers multiple land use plans and processes focused in the Yolo Bypass, reduces potential conflicts between those uses, and identifies opportunities for a landscape-level integrated approach. This regional planning effort would complement already-ongoing collaborative work among local, state and federal agencies in the larger Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough Region; and would build on and further develop efforts by the local partners in the Corridor Management Framework.

The Conservancy anticipates continuing to work with the local partners to develop a statement of work and costs to bring to the Conservancy Board for consideration at the March or May 2017 Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 established the Conservancy and includes four relevant mandates: (1) Protect and enhance habitat and habitat restoration, (2) Protect and preserve Delta agriculture and working landscapes; (3) Identify priority projects and initiatives for which funding is needed; and (4) Protect, conserve and restore the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical and living resources.

The Conservancy's Strategic Plan identifies a goal of leading efforts in protecting, enhancing and restoring the Delta ecosystem in coordination with other governmental and non-government entities and citizens in the Delta, and an objective to identify restoration priorities in collaboration with existing federal, state, regional and local governmental and not-governmental entities. The plan also identifies a goal of establishing the Conservancy as a valuable partner with Delta growers, agriculture-related businesses and residents in protecting and enhancing the Delta's agricultural and working landscapes.

The Conservancy's most recent Three Year Work Plan specifically identifies the planning process envisioned in this project under the Restoration Hub work priority.

Meeting Date: January 25, 2017

Page 2

Proposition 1 allows for 10% of the Conservancy's allocation to go toward planning and monitoring to ensure successful design, selection and implementation of projects. The project is intended to identify restoration and agricultural sustainability projects that would meet criteria and be eligible for Proposition 1 funding, thereby improving the long-term efficacy of the public funding.

The need for additional regional restoration planning in the Delta is called for in the Delta Plan, has been articulated in the High Impact Science Action Agenda as approved by the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee, and has been specifically called for in the EcoRestore Program. The concept for regional planning has been in development for several years. The Conservancy has worked extensively with the Delta Science Program, SFEI-ASC, The Nature Conservancy and several consultants to develop the planning process. The process has been vetted through the Delta Restoration Network which includes agencies working in the Delta, several NGO organizations, and local stakeholders. Additionally, countless meetings with agencies and stakeholders have been conducted to get input on the process. There is currently support from State and local agencies to do the regional planning describe envisioned in the process.

BUDGET

To be determined

Contact Person:

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