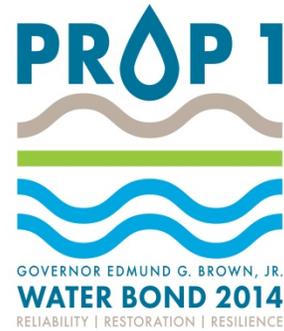




SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA CONSERVANCY**  
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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project – Revegetation (Phase 2)		
<b>Applicant</b>	Reclamation District 2137		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1602	<b>Category</b>	2
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$2,900,000
<b>Score</b>	89.5	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$4,272,804 (Phase 2)

**Staff Recommendation:**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from Reclamation District 2137 for the Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project – Revegetation (Phase 2) (Prop 1-1602).

**Project Description:**

The overall Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project is a large-scale, multi-habitat restoration project spanning across three parcels and four phases. Implementation of the overall project begins on the first two parcels with grading (Phase 1) in 2017 through 2018, and continues with re-vegetation (Phase 2) in late 2018. The requested Conservancy funds, and cash match from State Coastal Conservancy and Department of Water Resources, will fund the revegetation phase (Phase 2) on two parcels (Emerson and Gilbert). The objectives include establishing and maintaining native vegetation in the following habitat types: tule-dominated tidal marsh, riparian vegetation, native grassland, and others.

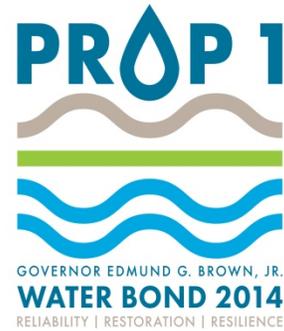
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

This project is consistent with Proposition 1 and the other priorities of the State as noted in the Grant Guidelines. The project restores and enhances the habitat in the Delta, consistent with the purposes outlined in chapter 6 of Proposition 1. The project’s objectives implement the California Water Action Plan’s Action 3: Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta and Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems. The project supports Delta Plan recommendations of Restore Habitats at Appropriate Elevations (ER P2) and Prioritize and Implement Projects that Restore Delta Habitat (ER R2). The project aligns with the Delta Conservancy’s enabling

legislation and strategic plan's goals of leading efforts to protect, enhance, and restore Delta ecosystems.



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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Elliot Ranch Conservation Easement Project		
<b>Applicant</b>	Yolo County Habitat/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (Yolo Habitat Conservancy)		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1609	<b>Category</b>	2
<b>County</b>	Yolo	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$ 3,000,000.00
<b>Score</b>	85.0	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$ 4,260,000.00

**Staff Recommendation:**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from Yolo County Habitat/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (Yolo Habitat Conservancy) for the Elliot Ranch Conservation Easement (Prop 1-1609) project.

**Project Description:**

The Yolo Habitat Conservancy is requesting funding from the Delta Conservancy to amend the existing agricultural land conservation easement on the 826.5-acre Elliott Ranch to include additional habitat conservation restrictions. The Elliott Ranch is an ideal candidate for the Yolo Habitat Conservancy reserve system because it provides habitat for at least six of the 12 species covered by the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan, including Swainson’s hawk, white-tailed kite, giant garter snake, tricolored blackbird, western burrowing owl, and western pond turtle. Further, the ranch is threatened by orchard and vineyard conversion, crops with low habitat value for covered species. The project proposes to amend the easement, create a multi-species management plan for the property, maintain or increase the population of Swainson’s hawks on the property, and to protect the ranch’s riparian corridors, including Swainson’s hawk nesting sites. The applicant is seeking funding to conduct public outreach, commission an appraisal, develop a management plan, and close and record the easement, for which a bargain sale is being negotiated, by October 2019.

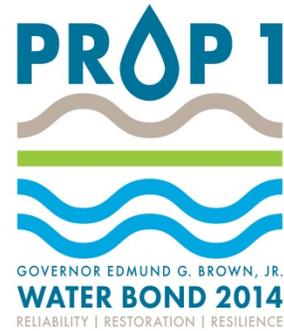
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

This project is consistent with Proposition 1 and the other priorities of the State as noted in the Grant Guidelines. The project protects the habitat value of the Delta’s working landscape while

keeping land in production, consistent with the purposes outlined in chapter 6 of Proposition 1. The project's objectives implement the California Water Action Plan's Action 3: Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta and Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems. The project is consistent with the Delta Plan's recommendation DP R10, which encourages wildlife friendly farming, and it aligns with the Delta Conservancy's strategic plan's goal of leading efforts to protect Delta ecosystems and with several of the areas of authority from the Conservancy's enabling legislation that underpin this goal. The project proposes to enhance the protection of habitat values on working land and to incorporate the land into a reserve system while preserving the ability of landowners to continue farming and grazing the land.



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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Mello Conservation Easement		
<b>Applicant</b>	Sacramento Valley Conservancy		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1603	<b>Category</b>	2
<b>County</b>	Sacramento	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$2,000,000.00
<b>Score</b>	83.3	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$3,600,000.00

**Staff Recommendation:**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from Sacramento Valley Conservancy for the Mello Conservation Easement (Prop 1-1603) project.

**Project Description:**

Sacramento Valley Conservancy proposes to purchase perpetual conservation easements over approximately 1,000 acres of land on Tyler Island in the north Delta. This project protects family farms that support sandhill cranes (a listed species) and other migratory waterbirds from conversion to permanent crops. With funding from the Delta Conservancy and matching funds from The Nature Conservancy, the applicant will have funds in hand to purchase at least 275 acres, and will continue to seek other funding sources to purchase a conservation easement over the entire proposed 1,000-acre area. Money from the Delta Conservancy will be deposited directly into escrow, with a projected close date of December 2017. By implementing this project, Delta agricultural lands will be maintained in agriculture and managed for the benefit of listed and migratory species in perpetuity.

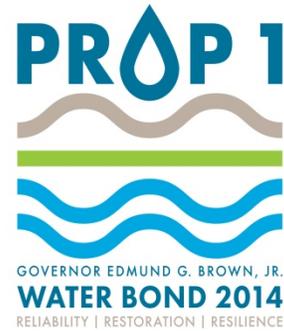
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

This project is consistent with Proposition 1 and the other priorities of the State as noted in the Grant Guidelines. The project proposes to protect migratory bird ecosystems and assist in the recovery of a listed species (Sandhill crane), consistent with the purposes outlined in chapter 6 of Proposition 1, and with the California Water Action Plan's Action 3: Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta. The project is consistent with the Delta Plan's recommendation DP R10, which calls for encouraging wildlife-friendly farming, and aligns with the Delta Conservancy's strategic plan's goals of leading efforts to protect Delta ecosystems, working in partnership with

Delta growers to protect and enhance the Delta's working landscapes, and engaging in activities that support the Delta ecosystem and economy. The Delta Conservancy's enabling legislation requires using conservation easements to accomplish ecosystem restoration wherever feasible (§32366(b)). Purchasing a conservation easement on Tyler Island utilizes a proven strategy to protect and enhance habitat for listed species in the Delta while preserving the ability of landowners to continue farming the land.



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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project		
<b>Applicant</b>	Solano Resource Conservation District		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1605	<b>Category</b>	2
<b>County</b>	Solano	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$ 444,795.00
<b>Score</b>	81.5	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$ 750,588.00

**Staff Recommendation:**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from Solano Resource Conservation District for the Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement (Prop 1-1605) project.

**Project Description:**

This working waterways habitat enhancement project will pair cattle management practices with ecosystem restoration practices on approximately 525 acres of actively farmed and grazed ground along Lindsey Slough. The project will be implemented in a manner that is compatible with surrounding farming operations to model effective habitat restoration techniques in a working agricultural landscape. The project targets the following conservation priorities: 1) creating riparian habitat buffers and corridors along the ranch’s irrigation and drainage waterways and 2) creating additional livestock infrastructure to more efficiently and sustainably rotate animals throughout the property. The project will restore and enhance 17 acres of working waterways within the ranch by constructing fencing that excludes cattle from riparian areas, providing alternative drinking sources (water troughs) for the cattle, and planting the areas within the fences with native plants. The applicant will use Conservancy funds along with cash and in-kind cost share from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the landowner, and the Center for Land-Based Learning to implement the project by September 2020.

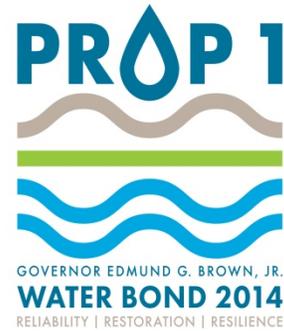
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

This project is consistent with Proposition 1 and other priorities of the State as noted in the Grant Guidelines. The project restores and enhances the habitat value of the Delta’s working landscape while keeping land in production, consistent with the purposes outlined in chapter 6 of

Proposition 1. The project's objectives implement the California Water Action Plan's Action 3: Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta and Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems. The project is consistent with several recommendations in the Delta Plan, including ER R2, which calls for restoration in the priority area of the Cache Slough Complex, ER P5, which calls for avoiding the introduction of nonnative species, DP P2, which calls for respecting local land use when siting restoration projects, and DP R10, which encourages wildlife friendly farming; however, the project does not implement restoration at an appropriate elevation as called for in ER P2. Given the small footprint of the project and the importance of the corridors it is implementing, this inconsistency bears further investigation but did not disqualify the project. The project aligns with the Delta Conservancy's strategic plan's goals of leading efforts to protect Delta ecosystems, working in partnership with Delta growers to protect and enhance the Delta's working landscapes, and engaging in activities that support the Delta ecosystem and economy, and with several of the areas of authority from the Conservancy's enabling legislation. The project proposes to blend habitat objectives with an active agricultural operation, and has the full support of the landowner.



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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	San Joaquin River Setback Levee		
<b>Applicant</b>	Reclamation District No. 1601 – Twitchell Island		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1604	<b>Category</b>	2
<b>County</b>	Sacramento	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$1,898,600.00
<b>Score</b>	77.0	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$10,391,000.00

**Staff Recommendation:**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from Reclamation District No. 1601 – Twitchell Island for the San Joaquin River Setback Levee (Prop 1-1604) project.

**Project Description:**

The project defined in this concept proposal is the first component of the overall San Joaquin River Setback Levee Project at Twitchell Island. The overall project is an approximately \$90 million endeavor that is anticipated to be constructed in multiple phases and consists of rehabilitating the Twitchell Island levee of Reclamation District No. 1601 along the San Joaquin River in a manner that will provide much-needed channel margin habitat along a four-mile stretch of the San Joaquin River. The habitat that will be created is a major ecological enhancement that will greatly improve conditions for delta smelt, migrating salmon smolts and other native fish. Furthermore, the project will increase the levee’s resistance to erosion, provide better overall levee stability, and provide additional freeboard to protect against overtopping due to wind generated waves. The funding being requested from the Delta Conservancy will be paired with funding from the Department of Water Resources to construct a toe berm, setback the levee, and create 4.62 acres of tidally inundated shallow aquatic and tule marsh habitats and 1.94 acres of dense willow scrub, upland scrub, and mixed riparian habitats along 2600 lineal feet of levee on the lower San Joaquin River by November 2018.

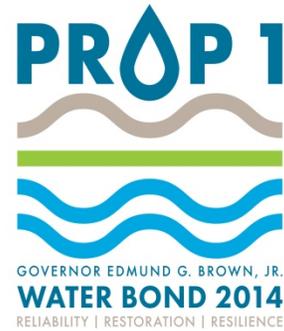
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

This project is consistent with Proposition 1 and other priorities of the State as noted in the Grant Guidelines. The project is a multibenefit flood protection and ecosystem restoration project that

provides for the creation of a diverse range of channel margin habitat structures and shaded riverine aquatic habitats, consistent with the purposes outlined in chapter 6 of Proposition 1. The project's ecological objectives implement the California Water Action Plan's Action 3: Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta and Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems. The project is consistent with all nine criteria described in the Delta Plan's Prioritization of State Investments in Delta Levees and Risk Reduction (RR P1), and it is consistent with ER P4, which states that levee projects shall evaluate and incorporate alternatives, including the use of setback levees to increase floodplains and riparian habitats when feasible. The project's channel margin habitat restoration aligns with the Delta Conservancy's strategic plan's goal of leading efforts to protect Delta ecosystems, and with the enabling legislation (§32300(i)) that underpins that strategic goal. Expanding the capacity for levee projects to provide important habitat for critical species is a multibenefit approach to resource management.



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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Investigations of Restoration Techniques that Limit Invasion of Tidal Wetlands		
<b>Applicant</b>	The Regents of the University of California (UC Davis)		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1612	<b>Category</b>	1
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$107,655.00
<b>Score</b>	76.0	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$163,548

**Staff Recommendation:**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from the Regents of the University of California (UC Davis) for the Investigations of Restoration Techniques That Limit Invasion of Tidal Wetlands (Prop 1-1612) project.

**Project Description:**

This Category 1 project is a study that will directly support a specific Category 2 implementation project as allowed for under the Conservancy’s grant guidelines. This project will identify improved methods for tidal wetland revegetation that reduce invasion by non-native plants, and thereby improve the likelihood of success and reduce long-term maintenance. The study will establish and evaluate re-vegetation test plots on East Bay Regional Park District’s property in Dutch Slough with the landowner’s support. The results will be directly integrated into the re-vegetation work at the nearby Department of Water Resources Dutch Slough Restoration Project for which Category 2 implementation funds are being requested (see Prop 1-1602). This study is complementary to a proposal submitted to California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Proposition 1 grant program that evaluates restoration methods for terrestrial and submerged aquatic plants at Bradmoor and Decker Islands, respectively.

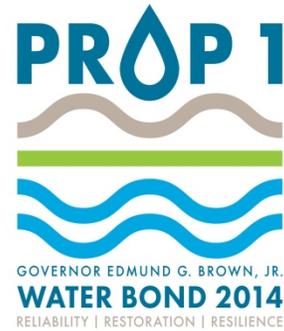
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

This project is consistent with Proposition 1 and other priorities of the State as noted in the Grant Guidelines. The project informs restoration and enhancement of habitat in the Delta, consistent with the purposes outlined in chapter 6 of Proposition 1. The project’s objectives support

implementation of the California Water Action Plan's Action 3: Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta and Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems. The project supports Delta Plan recommendations of Prioritize and Implement Projects that Restore Delta Habitat (ER R2) and Prioritize and Implement Actions to Control Nonnative Invasive Species (ER R7). The project aligns with the Delta Conservancy's enabling legislation and strategic plan's goals of leading efforts to protect, enhance, and restore Delta ecosystems.



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**Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program**

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve		
<b>Applicant</b>	Sacramento County Regional Parks		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1608	<b>Category</b>	2
<b>County</b>	Sacramento	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$943,549.00
<b>Score</b>	75.7	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$1,173,188.00

**Staff Recommendation:**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from Sacramento County Regional Parks for the Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Prop 1-1608) project.

**Project Description:**

The project defined in this concept proposal is an implementation project located approximately five miles upstream from the legal Delta boundary on the Cosumnes River Preserve (Preserve). The Preserve partners are requesting funding to support immediate restoration of approximately 110 acres of priority freshwater wetlands. The proposed project would immediately benefit several listed species, including giant garter snake, greater sandhill crane, western pond turtle, western spadefoot, western (California) toad, and California tiger salamander. The requested Proposition 1 funds would be used to cover the costs of restoration (these funds will be combined with cost-share funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management) which would include the removal of invasive yellow primrose; restoring 10 acres of deeper, open water wetlands; restoring 20 acres of shallow water wetland habitat; and enhancing remaining upland habitat with native tree plantings. The removal of these invasive plants and the creation of this habitat would increase the water storage capacity in the upper Cosumnes River Preserve.

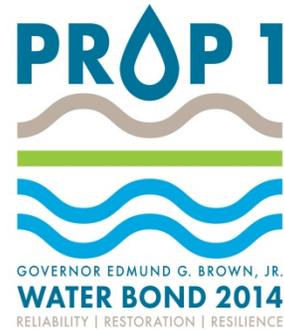
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

This project is consistent with Proposition 1 and other priorities of the State as noted in the Grant Guidelines. The project is a multibenefit ecosystem restoration and water storage capacity

project that provides for the creation of habitat that will benefit a wide range of state and federally listed species, consistent with the purposes outlined in chapter 6 of Proposition 1. The project's ecological objectives implement the California Water Action Plan's Action 3: Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta and Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems. The project is consistent with several criteria described in the Delta Plan including ER P2 (restore habitats at appropriate elevations), ER R2 (prioritize and implement projects that restore delta habitat), and ER R7 (prioritize and implement actions that control non-native invasive species). The project's wetland habitat restoration aligns with the Delta Conservancy's strategic plan's goal of leading efforts to protect Delta ecosystems, and with the enabling legislation (§32300(i)) that underpins that strategic goal. Restoring wetlands that provide habitat for critical species and also increase water storage capacity is a multibenefit approach to resource management.



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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Implementation of Rice on Staten Island for Sustainability, Ecosystem, and Water Quality Benefits		
<b>Applicant</b>	Conservation Farms & Ranches		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1613	<b>Category</b>	2
<b>County</b>	San Joaquin	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$2,642,000.00
<b>Score</b>	75.5	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$2,732,000.00

**Staff Recommendation:**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from Conservation Farms & Ranches for the Implementation of Rice on Staten Island for Sustainability, Ecosystem, and Water Quality Benefits (Prop 1-1613) project.

**Project Description:**

This concept proposal is seeking funding to convert approximately 300 acres of land on southern Staten Island from corn to rice. The Nature Conservancy acquired Staten Island because of its importance as winter roost and foraging area for over ten thousand Sandhill Cranes and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds. As the land in the Delta and surrounding counties has been converted to permanent crops like grapes and olives, which do not provide bird habitat, the importance of Staten Island as bird habitat has increased. However, the peat soils on Staten have subsided below sea level and continue to subside due to the maintenance of drained conditions for corn and other crops. It is therefore important to find a crop that stops subsidence while at the same time providing roosting and foraging habitat for migratory birds and contributing to the Delta’s agricultural economy. This project will strive to prove growing rice is economically viable, provides high value foraging and roosting habitat, stops subsidence and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The requested Proposition 1 funds will be used to cover the costs of site preparation, monitoring activities, carbon accounting, and modeling and analysis.

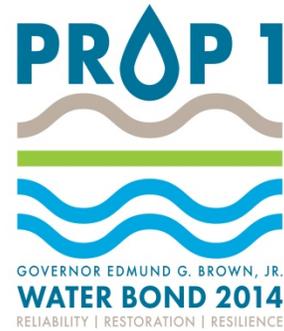
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

This project is consistent with Proposition 1 and other priorities of the State as noted in the Grant Guidelines. The project is a multibenefit ecosystem restoration, sustainable agriculture, and

carbon sequestration/subsidence reversal project that provides for the conversion of corn crop land to rice crop land that will benefit migratory birds and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with the purposes outlined in chapter 6 of Proposition 1. The project's ecological objectives implement the California Water Action Plan's Action 3: Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta and Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems. The project's crop conversion and subsidence reversal objectives align with the Delta Conservancy's strategic plan's goal of to establish itself as a valuable partner with Delta growers and agriculture-related businesses to enhance the Delta's agricultural and working landscapes , and with the enabling legislation (§32300) that underpins those strategic goals. Creating important habitat for critical species and reversing subsidence on Delta islands while contributing to carbon sequestration is a multibenefit approach to ecosystem enhancement.



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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Agricultural Crossing in the Yolo Bypass		
<b>Applicant</b>	County of Yolo		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1607	<b>Category</b>	2
<b>County</b>	Yolo	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$1,167,433.03
<b>Score</b>	75.3	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$1,415,633.03

**Staff Recommendation:**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board request a full application from the County of Yolo for the Agricultural Crossings in the Yolo Bypass (Prop 1-1607) project.

**Project Description:**

The project defined in this concept proposal proposes to prioritize, permit, construct, and monitor performance of three of the 28 agricultural crossings identified in Yolo County’s 2014 Yolo Bypass Drainage and Water Infrastructure Improvement Study. Construction will involve removing the existing degraded crossing and replacing them with free span structures. Improving agricultural crossings will help sustain agriculture and improve wetland management in the Yolo Bypass, building on decades of local and state efforts to manage the Yolo Bypass for multiple beneficial uses. Existing crossings consist of undersized or degraded culverts covered with gravel and dirt that impede drainage. During and after flood events, this slow drainage restricts land access and limits planting seasons due to inundated soils. Slow drainage after spring flood events diminishes agricultural productivity by delaying planting and thus reducing crop yields. It also diminishes wetland productivity by delaying drainage of winter wetlands and therefore decreasing waterfowl food supplies.

**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

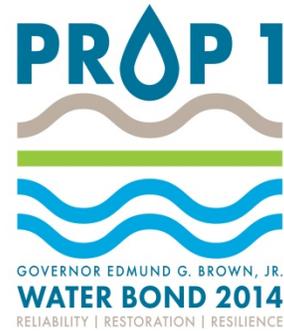
This project is consistent with Proposition 1 and other priorities of the State as noted in the Grant Guidelines. The project is a multibenefit sustainable agriculture project that will also provide ecosystem benefits to wetland managers for waterfowl and fish habitat consistent with the purposes outlined in chapter 6 of Proposition 1. The project’s ecological objectives implement the California Water Action Plan’s Action 3: Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta and

Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems. The project is consistent with criteria described in the Delta Plan's Recommendation DP R10 to encourage habitat enhancement and wildlife friendly farming systems on agricultural lands. The project's agricultural crossings improvements align with the Delta Conservancy's strategic plan's goal of protecting and enhancing the Delta's agricultural and working landscapes, and with the Conservancy's enabling legislation that calls for protection and preservation of Delta agriculture and working landscapes. Improving the agricultural crossings in the Yolo Bypass to allow for more effective water management will benefit agricultural operations and wetland species.

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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Bay Point Restoration and Public Access Project		
<b>Applicant</b>	East Bay Regional Park District		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1601	<b>Category</b>	1
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$ Budget not included in the application
<b>Score</b>	67.0	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$ Budget not included in the application

**Staff Recommendation:**

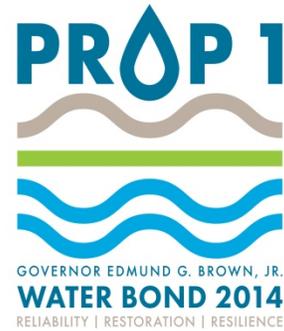
Delta Conservancy staff does not recommend that the Board request the East Bay Regional Park District submit a full application for the Bay Point Restoration and Public Access (Prop 1-1601) to the Delta Conservancy’s Proposition 1 grant program.

**Project Description:**

The project defined in this concept proposal is a planning project to design habitat within the Bay Point Regional Shoreline, a 150-acre area located on the shore of Suisun Bay, approximately 1.5 miles outside the legal Delta. Of those 150 acres, approximately 27 are diked former marshland that has been used for sand dredging operations from the early 1950’s to the 1980’s. This 27 acre section is the focus of this planning project. The proposed planning process is for an implementation project that will provide long-term habitat value for key species by incorporating an adaptive retreat approach to sea level rise. Habitat design will ensure a mix of diverse habitat types, including transition zone and high marsh, to help offset sea level rise impacts to key species including salt march harvest mouse, and ridgeway’s rail. The planning process will yield a project that will contribute to the recovery of special status plant and animal species by creating or restoring tidal wetlands, seasonal wetlands, and coastal prairie. Due to the lack of a budget, it is unclear exactly what portions of the planning for this project would be funded by under a Proposition 1 grant from the Delta Conservancy.



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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project		
<b>Applicant</b>	Ducks Unlimited, INC		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1606	<b>Category</b>	2
<b>County</b>	Solano	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$410,964.30
<b>Score</b>	64.0	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$523,134.30

**Staff Recommendation:**

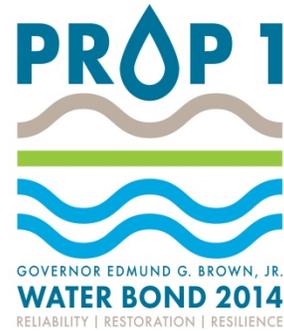
Delta Conservancy staff does not recommend that the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement (Prop 1-1606) project submitted by Ducks Unlimited, INC submit a full application to the Delta Conservancy’s Prop 1 grant program.

**Project Description:**

The proposed project requests \$410,964.30 in funding from the Delta Conservancy to add an additional pump to achieve the habitat benefits of increased wetland habitat productivity and diversity through soil salinity reduction and vegetation diversity and health for 2,468 acres on the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. The proposed project enhances 2,468 acres of managed seasonal wetland habitat on the southern half the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, and focuses on one of three critical elements to enhance the quality of wetland habitat and provide ecosystem benefits. The addition of the pump will allow the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area staff to be able to reduce salt build up in the soils, improve germination and seed production of wetland plant communities, and improve habitat diversity and interspersion. All three benefits provide better wildlife habitat and forage for migratory avian species, as well as Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse.



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**DELTA CONSERVANCY**  
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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Headwater Mercury Source Reduction Strategy: Hydraulic Mines and Debris Control Dams Inventory, Evaluation and Pilot Project Remediation for the Yuba and Bear River Watersheds		
<b>Applicant</b>	The Sierra Fund		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1610	<b>Category</b>	1
<b>County</b>	Nevada	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$181,619.86
<b>Score</b>	Disqualified	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$321,744.86

**Staff Recommendation:**

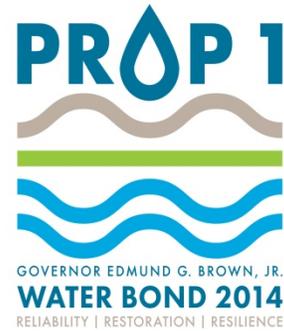
The Headwater Mercury Source Reduction Strategy: Hydraulic Mines and Debris Control Dams Inventory, Evaluation and Pilot Project Remediation for the Yuba and Bear River Watersheds (Prop 1-1610) project submitted by the Sierra Fund was disqualified from consideration for funding for the Delta Conservancy’s Prop 1 grant program.

**Project Description:**

This project proposes to develop of a Headwater Mercury Source Reduction Strategy that will inventory, rank, prioritize, and select headwater mercury sources for remediation. The strategy would be used by the US Forest Service to prioritize one to two mine remediation projects per year for federal funding. Mercury from these upper watersheds contributes to the mercury load present in the Delta. Since the project is a planning effort and is not directly related to a specific Category 2 implementation project, it was considered ineligible per the Conservancy’s grant guidelines.



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA CONSERVANCY**  
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***Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program***

**2016-17 Concept Proposal Staff Recommendation**

<b>Project Title</b>	Plant and Microbial Interactions and their Effects on Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality		
<b>Applicant</b>	University of California - Davis		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1611	<b>Category</b>	2
<b>County</b>	Multiple	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$279,576
<b>Score</b>	Disqualified	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$509,552

**Staff Recommendation:**

The Plant and Microbial Interactions and their Effects on Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality (Prop 1-1611) project submitted by the University of California - Davis was disqualified from consideration for funding for the Delta Conservancy’s Proposition 1 grant program.

**Project Description:**

The project evaluates the interaction of plants and microbes in habitat restoration success at 14 wetland sites in the Delta. The project includes identification and comparison of plant and sediment microbes at historic, restored, and deteriorating marshes, and subsequent experimental manipulations across sites. The applicants propose to identify methods by which active management of microbial communities could improve restoration success and water quality. Since the project is a scientific study and is not directly related to a specific Category 2 implementation project, it was considered ineligible per the Conservancy’s grant guidelines.