A. Program Description

The Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program funds competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities. The Conservancy will fund projects that protect and restore rivers, lake, streams and watersheds within the Delta while addressing at least one of the following programmatic focal areas:

- Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement
- Water Quality
- Water-related Agricultural Sustainability

Water-related Agricultural Sustainability

The objective of this focal area is to promote water-related agricultural sustainability projects that also provide ecosystem and/or watershed protection and/or restoration benefits. Examples of water-related agricultural sustainability projects include those that:

- Improve water management to support agriculture and provide other benefits within watersheds.
- Develop infrastructure or implement other improvements that enhance agricultural productivity and provide ecosystem or watershed benefits.
- Minimize the detrimental impacts of water diversions for agriculture, including by consolidating existing intakes and screening new intakes.
- Sustain agricultural productivity and enhance the ecosystem and/or watershed value of agricultural lands, including:
 - Planting hedgerows and native vegetation to increase support for native terrestrial wildlife (e.g., native pollinators) beneficial to agricultural productivity).
 - Modifying planting, harvesting, irrigating, or other practices on productive fields to provide ecosystem and watershed benefits and to increase agricultural productivity.

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- Implementing flexible management in agricultural areas to support diverse and dynamic ecosystems and watersheds.
 such as by managing agricultural fields in a way that mimics seasonal wetland or floodplain habitat.
- Install livestock exclusion fencing along drainage canals and other sensitive waterways to improve water quality and/or reduce habitat disturbance.
- Support continued farming and minimize detrimental impacts to water quality, including:

- Developing and implementing best management practices to improve the quality of agricultural discharges.
- Assisting with the exclusion or drainage of seepage water to reduce salinity intrusion <u>affecting agricultural lands</u> and improve the quality of agricultural discharges.
- Projects that acquire an interest in real property to protect agricultural and ecosystem benefits.
- Projects that support agricultural sustainability in areas where agriculture is impacted by restoration or other water-related projects and that provide ecosystem and watershed benefits.

The examples provided above are offered as guidance for potential applicants and are not exhaustive nor a guarantee of individual project eligibility or funding. Eligibility and funding determinations will be made on a project-by-project basis. Projects must comply with all legal requirements, including the <u>State General Obligation Bond Law</u>, to be eligible.