



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

A California State Agency

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**Michael Villines**  
Central Valley Flood  
Protection Board

**Erik Vink**  
Delta Protection Commission

**AGENDA**

**Meeting of the  
Board of Directors and Liaison Advisors for the  
SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY**

**Monday, November 21, 2016**

**9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Delta Conservancy Conference Room  
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento, CA**

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Roll Call/Oath of Office**
4. **Public Comments (New Business)**
5. **Consent Calendar (*Action Item*)**
  - *September 28, 2016 Meeting Summary and Action Items (Attachment 1)*
6. **Executive Officer's Report, Campbell Ingram**
  - *Program Update (Attachment 1)*
  - *September 28, 2016 - Board Meeting Directives and Responses*
  - *FY 2016-17 Expenditure Report (Attachment 2)*
  - *Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix (Attachment 3)*
  - *Correspondence(Attachment 4)*
7. **Program and Policy Subcommittee Update, Campbell Ingram (Attachment 1)**
8. **Request for Approval for the Proposition 1 Grant Program Project Amendment Process, Laura Jensen (Attachment 1) (*Action Item*)**
9. **Proposition 1 Grant Program Approved Project Updates, Laura Jensen (Attachment 1)**
10. **Request for Approval for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project Responsible Agency Findings and Final Grant Award, Laura Jensen (Attachment 1) (*Action Item*)**
11. **Request for Approval of Recommended Proposition 1 Grant Program Concept Proposals to Submit Full Proposals, Laura Jensen (Attachment 1) (*Action Item*)**
12. **CA Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways Aquatic Weed Control Program Update, Wendy Pratt**
13. **Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan Update, Campbell Ingram (Attachment 1)**
14. **Delta Marketing Project Update, Brandon Chapin (Attachment 1)**



15. **Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan Update**, *Jessica Law*
  16. **California Water Fix and Eco Restore Updates**, *B.G. Heiland and David Okita*
  17. **Delta Protection Commission Update**, *Erik Vink*
  18. **Potential Agenda Items January 25, 2016** ([Attachment 1](#))
  19. **Public Comments**
  20. **ADJOURN**
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- Attachments and additional information can be found on the Delta Conservancy's website at: <http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov> .
- If you have any questions or need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Brandon Chapin, Delta Conservancy (916) 375-2091.
- Public comments are generally limited to three minutes or at the discretion of the Chair.
- The agenda items listed above may be considered in a different order at the Delta Conservancy Board meeting pursuant to the determination of the Board Chair. At the discretion of the Delta Conservancy Board, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action.

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1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
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**MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS**  
**Board Meeting – September 28, 2016**  
**Jean Harvie Community Center**  
**14273 River Road, Walnut Grove**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Chair Jim Provenza.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

**Board Members Present:** Jim Provenza, Mike Eaton, Todd Ferrara, Karen Mitchoff, Don Thomas, Skip Thomson  
**Ex Officio Members Present:** Senator Lois Wolk  
**Liaison Advisors Present:** Sandra O’Roak, Dan Welsh, Jim Waters, Erik Vink

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judah Grossman with The Nature Conservancy introduced himself and encouraged the Delta Conservancy to pursue real estate interests in the Delta (fee title or easements). Mr. Grossman expressed that it is the right time and that the Delta Conservancy is the right organization to pursue these interests given its mission and role in the Delta.

Board Member Eaton thanked Mr. Grossman and agreed that this will be an important part of the discussion concerning the Delta Conservancy’s strategic plan.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS TAKEN**

**1. Agenda Item 5 – Consent Calendar (*Action Item*)**

**MOTION:** Board Member Thomson moved, seconded by Board Member Mitchoff, to approve the summary of the August 24, 2016 Board meeting. No other issues were included in the consent calendar.

*A voice vote was taken with all Board Members present voting to approve the motion.*

**2. Agenda Item 6 – Executive Officer’s Report**

The Executive Officer opened his report by welcoming the Board and public to Walnut Grove. Brandon Chapin presented on the history of Walnut Grove and the Jean Harvie Center, as well as the economic development activities in the Walnut Grove area. The Executive Officer presented on the ecosystem restoration activities surrounding the city. The Board thanked staff for the overview of the surrounding area.

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The Executive Officer introduced new Office Technician, Sarah Ward, and also thanked Jessica O'Connor for her work filling in while the Deputy Executive Officer position has been vacant. The Executive Officer presented updates on the Proposition 1 Grant Program, Arundo Control and Restoration Project, the Delta Conservation Framework, and the Delta Marketing Program. The Executive Officer also presented the meeting matrix and the Board Directives from the previous Board meeting. Jessica O'Connor presented the expenditure report for the current fiscal year.

**3. Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 1 Grant Program Approved Project Update**

Laura Jensen presented an update on the Proposition 1 Grant Program, the project tracking matrix, and the template for concept proposal staff recommendations. Currently:

- Three projects are being routed for execution;
- One project is being finalized and will be routed by the end of September;
- Two projects have met the conditions of their approval with grant agreements being prepared;
- One project will be brought to the board for approval at the November Board meeting; and
- Two projects are on track with their deadlines for satisfying their conditional approval.

The current 2016/2017 solicitation period will end on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Conservancy held a solicitation workshop on September 8<sup>th</sup>. At the workshop, information about the current grant cycle was presented, along with presentations by the Delta Stewardship Council (Delta Plan consistency), Delta Science Program (adaptive management), and State Water Resources Control Board (monitoring). Fifteen people attended or called in to the workshop.

The Board thanked staff for their hard work on the grant program and urged staff to continue to hold workshops for future Proposition 1 Grant Program solicitation cycles to further improve the quality of applications. Future capacity building and planning for the grant program were also discussed. The Board requested that a status update and discussion about improving the Proposition 1 Grant Program continue to be on the agenda for future board meetings. No issues were raised regarding the template for concept proposal staff recommendations.

**4. Agenda Item 8 – Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan Update: Survey Results and Initial Feedback**

Mike Harty, from Kearns & West, presented on the process for updating the Conservancy's strategic plan. To date, Kearns & West has held working sessions with staff and distributed targeted surveys to the board, key stakeholders, and the public. There will be two workshops for the public to provide input on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Jean Harvie Center in Walnut Grove and the Big Break Center in Oakley, respectively. After the workshops targeted interviews may be undertaken to fill in any gaps. All input will be compiled into a document for the Board at the Strategic Plan Board Retreat that will be held during the regularly scheduled Board Meeting in January. The draft strategic plan will be released at the March board meeting with an opportunity for a 30-day public comment period prior to final approval of the strategic plan at the May or June board meeting.

The Executive Officer went over the accomplishments of the Conservancy to date for context. Mr. Harty presented the results of the board member survey and encouraged any board members who have not completed the survey to do so.

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Mr. Harty presented the general feedback received from the board member survey. One preference that emerged included funding requests and staff reports to link back to the strategic plan more explicitly. There was also consensus to reduce the size of the plan and to make it more streamlined and user-friendly. The Board discussed how to oversee progress on the strategic plan's goals and objectives, including options such as quarterly progress reports, a tracking matrix, or work plans. The Board also discussed the need to establish a constant dialogue in the Delta and increase awareness of the Conservancy.

The Board also discussed the program priorities and challenges that emerged from the responses to the survey. The main priority that emerged was the Proposition 1 Grant Program. Agricultural sustainability and economic development were also mentioned. The Board discussed opportunities for further collaboration with other Delta agencies on goal and objective development, such as with the Delta Protection Commission on economic development. The process for developing performance measures was also discussed.

The Board discussed the Conservancy's role as a land owner and the costs, benefits, and staffing needs the Conservancy would need to pursue a land management role. There was also discussion about the need to understand the activities of other Conservancies that have the authority to own land and how those conservancies use that authority. There was consensus among the Board to continue to explore this issue within the context of the strategic plan, including focusing the upcoming public outreach around the topic.

**5. Agenda Item 9 – Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan Update**

The Executive Officer presented the update on the Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan. The Stewardship Council will meet on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Agenda Item 10 – California Water Fix and Eco Restore Updates**

The Executive Officer presented the update on California Water Fix and EcoRestore. California Water Fix has postponed the date for the release of the Final EIS/EIR to the end of the calendar year.

EcoRestore had a groundbreaking at the Tule Red project in the Suisan Marsh in September. Additionally, a white paper on an Adaptive Management Program for EcoRestore is close to release and a draft of the white paper will be circulated at the next EcoRestore steering committee meeting to be held on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Agenda Item 11 – Delta Protection Commission Update**

Erik Vink gave an update on the Delta Protection Commission. The Commission is finalizing the feasibility study on mechanisms for funding levee improvements in the Delta and just held the final meeting with the stakeholder group. The current focus is a combination of local funding through landowner-based assessment and state funding through levee programs. The Commission last met

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on September 15<sup>th</sup>, where there were discussions about blue-green algae and a presentation by the Metropolitan Water District.

Mary Piepho is leaving her position as Contra Costa County Supervisor and therefore her position on the Delta Protection Commission. Conservancy Board Member Skip Thomson is expected to become the next chair of the Commission.

**8. Agenda Item 12 – Potential Agenda Items for November 21, 2016**

The next Board Meeting will be held on November 21, 2016 at the Delta Conservancy offices in West Sacramento from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Board will be presented with recommendations on the Proposition 1 Grant Program concept proposals received during the 2016-2017 solicitation period and receive an update on the strategic planning process.

**9. Agenda Item 13 – Public Comments**

No public comment received.

**10. Agenda Item 14 – Board Closed Session for Executive Officer’s Annual Performance Review and other personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a).**

**BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

- 1) The Board requested that a status update and discussion about improving the Proposition 1 Grant Program continue to be on the agenda for future board meetings.
- 2) The Board requested staff to continue to hold workshops for future Proposition 1 Grant Program solicitation cycles to further improve the quality of applications.

**MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Provenza at 7:29 pm**

**EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNED at 7:56 pm**

**BOARD MEETING CLOSED at 7:56 pm**

*Respectfully submitted on October 11, 2016*  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

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**Contact Person:**

Brandon Chapin, Board Liaison  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
Phone: (916) 375-2091

Audio files of Board meetings are available on the Board Meeting Materials section of the Delta Conservancy web page at [www.DeltaConservancy.ca.gov](http://www.DeltaConservancy.ca.gov). Board meetings are typically three hours in length; using the meeting agenda to help locate topics of interest within the audio file is recommended.

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT November 21, 2016

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### ~ PROGRAM UPDATE ~

#### *Ecosystem Restoration*

Proposition 1 Grant Program: The Conservancy's Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program (Grant Program) focuses on the restoration of important species and habitat, on improving water quality, and on agricultural sustainability. The Grant Program identifies projects to protect and restore California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds that may be funded with Prop. 1 funding (Sec. 79732 et seq). On September 30th, the Conservancy closed its concept proposal solicitation for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The Conservancy received 13 proposals, three of which are for planning projects (category 1) and 10 of which are for implementation projects (category 2). Proposals have been received for projects in all five Delta counties. In total, applicants requested \$15.98 million. Staff reviewed and scored all of the eligible proposals (11 total) and is recommending that the Board request full proposals for 9 projects that have requested \$15.10 million in total. More information is provided in the concept proposal staff report. For the 2015-2016 funding cycle, the Conservancy has approved, conditionally approved, or reserved funding for 9 projects that have requested approximately \$6.3 million in grant funding. To date, one grant agreement has been fully executed and four others are in the routing process.

Arundo Control and Restoration Project: The Arundo Control and Restoration Program permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Ulatis Creek restoration site are still in progress. This process has been delayed due to comments from the Yocha Dehe tribe to the US Army Corps of Engineers. To address these comments, agency, tribal, and Conservancy representatives will be conducting a site visit to tour the project area. Once the Army Corps permits are issued, these permits will be sent to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), which will allow CVFPB to issue an encroachment permit. This will be the final permit required for the habitat restoration work at Ulatis Creek. The final process to receive signatures from the Army Corps, and the final issuance of the encroachment permit from the CVFPB extended beyond the October first deadline for work to begin this year imposed to avoid take of Giant Garter snakes. This means that we will have to wait until May of 2017 when the Giant Garter snake work season opens to begin ground preparation and plant installation at this site. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has approved a time extension for our agreement to December 2019 and expanded the geographic scope of Arundo control efforts along the Sacramento River. The Conservancy, with its partners Sonoma Ecology Center and Solano Resource Conservation District, submitted a proposal to DWR on October 27 with an update on our Phase 1 status and a request for an additional \$2.2 million for Phase 2 habitat restoration and Arundo control activities.

Delta Conservation Framework: The third Delta Conservation Framework outreach workshop was held on October 20, 2016 at the Jean Harvie Center in Walnut Grove. The workshop focused on gathering input focusing on success evaluation and potential opportunity areas. The final workshop is scheduled for Wednesday November 30th, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Jean Harvie Community Center and a fifth evening workshop is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at a location to be determined.

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Cache Slough Regional Planning: On November 7<sup>th</sup>, there was a kickoff meeting of the Cache Slough Planning project held at the Solano County administrative building. The meeting was attended by representatives from Solano and Yolo Counties, the Solano County Water Agency, Reclamation District 2068, several state agencies and consultants. The group discussed the purpose and objectives of the project, reviewed a draft charter and began to discuss data and information that should be incorporated into the planning process. The group also discussed the need for additional outreach to ensure all interests are represented. The group will meet at least monthly through May of 2017. The next meeting is scheduled for the morning of Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Water Quality**

National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant: The Delta Conservancy, in coordination with the US Geological Survey, Department of Water Resources, and the State Water Board, partnered with SFEI to submit an application to National Environmental Information Exchange Network for a \$300,000 grant. Building upon existing water quality work by the supporting agencies, the proposal seeks funding to establish tools for standardization of continuous data. The expected award date for this grant is July 31, 2017.

Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP): The Delta MERP signs are ready for posting in the Delta. The sign was developed by the Delta MERP team with input from the community and displays information about how to safely eat fish that have been caught in the Delta. The Conservancy will be reaching out to the agencies who donated in-kind resources to request their help with posting. The next Delta MERP Stakeholder meeting is scheduled on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Economic Development**

Delta Marketing Program: The Delta Marketing website and marketing plan are the second phase in the Delta Awareness Campaign. Phase one was the development of the Delta logo, which was completed by the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) in 2014. Conservancy staff has been working closely with DPC staff on the project. On October 27<sup>th</sup>, the Delta Conservancy reconvened the Delta Marketing Taskforce in order to introduce the new contractor and solicit feedback on two potential themes for the website. The Taskforce was pleased with the quality and direction of the project and will reconvene in November to review a draft of the full website and begin reviewing a draft marketing plan for their needs. Design Media is currently developing the website based on feedback received during the October Taskforce meeting, and is developing the marketing strategy based on feedback from previous Taskforce meetings in 2015.

### **BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF – August 28<sup>th</sup>**

1. Staff will continue to provide a status update and opportunity for discussions about improving the Proposition 1 Grant Program on the agenda for future Board Meetings.

*Staff Response: At each Board meeting, staff will update the Board on the status of all active grants and the current solicitation cycle. Staff will solicit feedback from the Board during the presentation of these reports.*

2. Staff will continue to hold workshops for future Proposition 1 Grant Program solicitation cycles to further improve the quality of applications.

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*Staff Response: Prior to the next grant cycle, staff plans to hold workshops to solicit public comment and provide information and training to potential applicants. Staff is currently working on developing a program development approach that will be brought before the Board prior to the next grant cycle. Additionally, the regional restoration planning efforts will provide specific guidance on measurable objectives for the completed regions. At future workshops staff will be able to direct applicants to priority restoration needs, clearly defined objective and specific performance measures to gage progress toward meeting objectives the regions.*

### **DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE**

Agenda Item 6.2: Expenditure Report

### **OUTREACH-DELTA MEETING MATRIX**

Agenda Item 6.3: Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Agenda Item 6.4: Letter from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation regarding the Arundo Control and Restoration Project.

#### **Contact Person:**

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

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Outreach – Delta Meeting Matrix					
ACTIVITY	MTG	PRES	SUMMARY	DATE	CONSERVANCY REPRESENTATIVE
Delta Conservation Framework Outreach Workshop #2, Hosted by the Delta Restoration Network	X	X	Provided welcoming remarks	9/21/16	Campbell Ingram
Delta Wetland Foundation Introduction	X		Attended an overview of the Delta Wetland Foundation and recent restoration efforts	9/28/16	Campbell Ingram
Delta Stewardship Council meeting	X		Council was briefed by SFEI on materials that will be used for upcoming Delta Plan amendments	9/30/16	Laura Jensen, Beckye Stanton
Climate One – Fluid State of Water Symposium	X		Attended a water focused dialogue with water leaders from around the State	9/30/16	Campbell Ingram
Delta agency coordination – Proposition 1	X	X	CFWF, DSC, and the Conservancy met to discuss Prop 1 funding and tracking	10/6/16	Laura Jensen, Beckye Stanton, Kathryn Kynett
Wallace Weir Groundbreaking Ceremony	X		Attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the reconstruction of the weir and fish collection facility in the upper By-pass	10/6/16	Campbell Ingram
CDFW Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan Update meeting	X		Meeting of agency staff supporting CDFW's update of the 2008 Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan	10/14/16	Beckye Stanton
Strategic Plan Public Workshop, Jean Harvie Community Center	X	X	Public workshop in Walnut Grove to gather input for the Update to the Delta Conservancy's Strategic Plan	10/19/2016	Campbell Ingram, Brandon Chapin
Delta Protection Commission Meeting		X	Provided an update of priority Conservancy activities to the Commission	10/20/16	Campbell Ingram
California Inter-Agency Noxious and Invasive Plants coordination call	X		Bi-annual call of agency staff involved in invasive plants; provided brief update on Delta Conservancy's Arundo project	10/25/16	Beckye Stanton
Drought Workshop, Stockton Civic Center	X		Workshop to discuss the effects that the drought has had on the Delta	10/25/16	Campbell Ingram, Kathryn Kynett, Debra Kustic, Brian Keegan, Brandon Chapin, Jessica O'Connor, Sarah Ward
EcoRestore Adaptive Management Steering Committee	X		Attended the first EcoRestore Adaptive Management Steering Committee meeting to review the white paper and discuss options for an adaptive management program	10/25/16	Campbell Ingram
Strategic Plan Public Workshop, Big Break Community Center	X	X	Public workshop in Oakley to gather input for the Update to the Delta Conservancy's Strategic Plan	10/26/2016	Campbell Ingram, Brandon Chapin

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Outreach – Delta Meeting Matrix					
ACTIVITY	MTG	PRES	SUMMARY	DATE	CONSERVANCY REPRESENTATIVE
Tribal Liaisons Quarterly Meeting	X		Quarterly informational meeting of tribal liaisons from all state agencies	10/26/2016	Aaron Haiman
Delta Marketing Project Stakeholder Taskforce Meeting	X	X	Meeting of the Delta Marketing Taskforce to review website themes and reintroduce the Delta Marketing Project	10/27/2016	Brandon Chapin, Campbell Ingram
Inter-agency Adaptive Management Integration Team (IAMIT) meeting	X		Continue work on EcoRestore Adaptive Management white paper	10/28/16	Becky Stanton
Delta Corridor Management Discussion	X		Mediated an initial discussion between TNC, DWR, MWD and DFW regarding the potential to coordinate planning, restoration and management of publically owned and publically financed lands in the Delta	10/28/16	Campbell Ingram
Science Enterprise Workshop	X		Two-day workshop on scientific programs for large-scale restoration efforts across the country	11/1-11/2/16	Campbell Ingram, Laura Jensen, Aaron Haiman, Becky Stanton
Cache Slough Restoration Planning Kickoff Meeting	X	X	Conducted the first meeting of the Cache Slough Planning Process	11/7/16	Campbell Ingram
CA Estuary Monitoring Workgroup Habitat Subcommittee Meeting	X		Participated in the Subcommittee meeting	11/8/16	Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon
CA Estuary Monitoring Workgroup Meeting	X		Participated at the CEMW meeting	11/9/16	Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon
EcoRestore Meeting	X	X	Attended a regularly scheduled EcoRestore meeting and updated the group on Conservancy activities	11/10/16	Campbell Ingram, Debra Kustic
Delta Inter-agency Invasive Species Coordination meeting	X		Lead quarterly coordination meeting on invasive species efforts in the Delta	11/10/16	Becky Stanton
Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee	X	X	Attended the bi-annual DPIIC meeting and updated the group on the Conservancy's planning and restoration efforts	11/14/16	Campbell Ingram
Bay-Delta Science Conference	X	X	Three-day biennial workshop on science in the Bay-Delta	11/15-11/17/16	Campbell Ingram, Debra Kustic, Laura Jensen, Aaron Haiman, Becky Stanton, Brian Keegan

Key Events and Upcoming Dates	
Organization	Date
Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) Meeting	December 15, 2016
Delta Protection Commission (DPC) Meeting	January 2017
Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Meeting	December 6, 2016



YOCHA DEHE  
CULTURAL RESOURCES

October 10, 2016

Geneva Kraus  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

RE: Ulatis Creek Arundo Control and Restoration Project

Dear Ms. Kraus:

Thank you for your project notification letter dated September 2, 2016 regarding cultural information on or near the proposed Ulatis Creek Arundo Control and Restoration Project, Solano County, CA. We appreciate your effort to contact us and wish to respond.

The Cultural Resources Department has reviewed the project and concluded that it is within the aboriginal territories of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Therefore, we have a cultural interest and authority in the proposed project area.

Based on the information provided, the Tribe has concerns that the project could impact undiscovered archaeological deposits. Additionally, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation requests a site visit to the project area to evaluate our cultural concerns.

Please contact the following individual to coordinate a date and time for the site visit.

Mr. James Sarmento  
Cultural Resources Manager  
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation  
Office: (530) 723-0452, Email: [jsarmento@yochadehe-nsn.gov](mailto:jsarmento@yochadehe-nsn.gov)

Please refer to identification number YD – 06162016-02 in any correspondence concerning this project.

Thank you for providing us with this notice and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

James Kinter  
Tribal Secretary  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

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## PROGRAM AND POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

October 19, 2016

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### SUMMARY

A quorum was established with the following Subcommittee members present: Dolly Sandoval, Jim Provenza, and Steve Chappell. Board Members Don Thomas and Todd Ferrara, Liaison Advisors Erik Vink and Sandra O’Roak, and Legal Counsel Nicole Rinke were also present. Two public members were present.

The meeting agenda included an update on the Proposition 1 grant program, an update on the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan, and a staffing update.

#### [Proposition 1 Grant Program Update](#)

The Executive Officer presented an overview of Proposition 1 Grant Program. The Conservancy closed its concept proposals solicitation for the 2016/2017 fiscal year on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Conservancy received 13 proposals. In total, applicants requested \$15.98 million in funding. Staff will present their recommendations for which projects to request submission of full proposals at the November Board Meeting.

The Executive Officer and Laura Jensen also presented the proposed amendment process for projects that have been approved by the Board. For amendments to extend the term of a grant agreement, staff recommended that the amendment decisions be made at the staff level, as long as the extension is within required spending timeframes. For changes to the scope of work, staff also recommended that the decision be made at the staff level, although significant decisions to the scope of work will not be considered. For amendments to budget, staff recommended that amendment approvals be made by the Executive Officer for any budget increase that is less than 10 percent of the total budget or less than \$50,000, whichever amount is lesser. Requests that go beyond these limits would be brought before the Board.

The Subcommittee discussed the amendment process and recommended that the process be amended as follows:

1. **Request.** Grantee submits formal, justified amendment request in writing to Project Manager.

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2. **Review.** Amendment request is reviewed and approved or denied by Grant Project Manager, Proposition 1 Program Manager, Proposition 1 Grant Manager, and Executive Officer using the attached routing sheet.
3. **Approval.**
  - a) The Board will consider approval on the consent calendar for:
    - i. budget amendments that exceed 10 percent of the total budget or \$50,000, or any budget amendments that are not time sensitive; and
    - ii. any amendments to scope that are not time sensitive.
  - b) Staff will determine approval for:
    - i. time sensitive budget amendments that are 10 percent or less of the total budget, not to exceed \$50,000;
    - ii. time sensitive amendments to scope; and
    - iii. all amendments to grant term.
4. **Execution.** Upon receiving appropriate authorizations, Proposition 1 Grant Manager will draft and route amendment agreement for execution.
5. **Reporting.** Once executed, the amendment will be presented at the succeeding Board meeting.

### Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan Update

The Executive Officer presented an overview of the upcoming public workshops to gather input for updating the Conservancy's strategic plan. The two public workshops will be held from 6-9 P.M. on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Jean Harvie Community Center and the Big Break Community Center, respectively. The Executive Officer also presented the agenda for the public workshops and the presentation that will be given.

### Staffing Update

The Executive Officer presented a staffing update. The Conservancy has finished the process of hiring a Deputy Executive Officer and has hired Debra Kustic, coming from CalRecycle. Debra will be starting on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Future Agenda Items

The Subcommittee requested staff to include a discussion of the Proposition 1 Grant Program and the Strategic Plan update process.

### Contact Person:

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

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(916) 375-2089

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## ***Request for Approval for the Proposition 1 Grant Program Project Amendment Process***

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### **Staff Report**

#### **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL**

Staff recommends that the Board approve the amendment process described below for use in the Proposition 1 Ecosystem and Water Quality Grant Program.

#### **AMENDMENTS BACKGROUND**

Delta Conservancy staff is now in the process of executing its first round of grant agreements. To prepare for requests from grantees to amend their grant agreements, staff would like to formalize a grant agreement amendment process for three factors:

- Extending the term of grant agreement,
- Changing the scope of work, and/or
- Changing the budget.

As proposed, requests for changes to one or more of these factors would follow the process outlined below for all of the factors for which an amendment is being requested. To the extent possible, as time allows and within the process described below, amendment requests for changes to scope and budget will be presented to the Board for consideration before execution. Staff will provide the Board with information about all amendments to active grants. A template for presenting amendment requests to the Board is included at the end of this report.

The proposed amendment process outlined below describes how to amend grants for the three factors discussed above. In drafting the process, staff consulted other Proposition 1 Chapter 6 granting agencies regarding their Prop 1 amendment processes; the proposed process is based most closely on the processes followed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Grantees will be required to submit all amendment requests to the Conservancy in writing. The Grant Project Manager, Proposition 1 Program Manager, Proposition 1 Grant Manager, and Executive Officer will review all amendment requests. For requests to extend the term of grant agreement, staff recommends that amendment decisions be made at the staff level. Staff will continue to track the timeframe for spending encumbered funds and will not extend a grant term beyond allowable timeframes. For scope of work changes that do not significantly alter the project's intent, deliverable, and/or outputs and outcomes, staff recommends that amendment decisions be made at the staff level. To maintain the integrity of the Delta Conservancy's competitive grant program, requests for significant changes to the scope of work will not be considered. For changes to budget, the terms of the grant agreement state "changes to the line-item budget within a specific task may be made

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016

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without formal amendment (not to exceed 10% and no more than \$5,000 of line item(s) to be reduced or increased).” Outside of these line item budget adjustments, and when exceptional unanticipated circumstances warrant, staff recommends that amendment approvals be made at the staff level –by the Executive Officer – for any budget increase that is 10 percent or less of the total budget, not to exceed \$50,000 or the maximum solicitation amount as stated in the Grant Guidelines. Requests for budget amendments that exceed this limit will be presented to the Board for review.

### **Grant Agreement Amendment Process**

Changes to one or more of the factors (term, scope, and/or budget) will be required to follow the process outlined below.

- 1) **Request.** Grantee submits formal, justified amendment request in writing to Project Manager.
- 2) **Review.** Amendment request is reviewed and approved or denied by Grant Project Manager, Proposition 1 Program Manager, Proposition 1 Grant Manager, and Executive Officer using the attached routing sheet.
- 3) **Approval.**
  - a) The Board will consider approval on the consent calendar for:
    - i) budget amendments that exceed 10 percent of the total budget or \$50,000, or any budget amendments that are not time sensitive; and
    - ii) any amendments to scope that are not time sensitive.
  - b) Staff will determine approval for:
    - i) time sensitive budget amendments that are 10 percent or less of the total budget, not to exceed \$50,000;
    - ii) time sensitive amendments to scope; and
    - iii) all amendments to grant term.
- 4) **Execution.** Upon receiving appropriate authorizations, Proposition 1 Grant Manager will draft and route amendment agreement for execution.
- 5) **Reporting.** Once executed, the amendment will be presented at the succeeding Board meeting.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Delta Conservancy’s Proposition 1 (Prop. 1) Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program is focused on restoring Delta ecosystems, improving water quality, and enhancing agricultural sustainability. The Grant Program identifies projects to protect and restore California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds that may be paid for with Prop. 1 funding (Sec. 79732 *et seq*). Both Prop. 1 and the Delta Conservancy’s enabling legislation emphasize focusing on projects that use public lands and that maximize “voluntary landowner participation in projects that provide measurable and long-lasting habitat or species improvements in the Delta.”

**Meeting Date: November 21, 2016**

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During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Delta Conservancy ran its first grant cycle for the Prop. 1 Grant Program. The Delta Conservancy anticipates administering at least one grant cycle each fiscal year for five years. The Grant Program is a two-part competitive program, with a concept proposal solicitation open to the public, and a full proposal solicitation open to qualifying concept proposal applicants. 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 2015-2016 fiscal year, \$9.3 million was allocated to the Delta Conservancy for the Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality grant program. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, \$9.3 million will be available for the grant program.

#### **Contact Person**

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

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016  
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**Prop 1 Grant Program  
Amendment Request for Board Review**

<b>Project Title</b>			
<b>Applicant</b>			
<b>Project Number</b>		<b>Category</b>	
<b>Award Year</b>		<b>Original Award Amount</b>	\$
<b>County</b>		<b>Amended Request Amount</b>	\$
<b>Amendment Request</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Term	<input type="checkbox"/> Scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Budget

**Recommendation to the Board**

*Summarize staff recommendation to the Board.*

**Amendment Description and Basis of Recommendation**

*Describe the proposed amendment and any important considerations.*

- *Type of amendment (term, scope, budget)*
- *The authority of the Conservancy to make this amendment*
  - *Is the extended term reasonable given encumbrances on the funding source?*
  - *Is the new scope similar to the original scope and intent of the project?*
  - *Will a budgetary increase put the project over the funding cap for the grant cycle through which it was originally proposed?*
- *How the proposed amendment impacts the project as it was originally proposed to the Conservancy*
- *How the proposed amendment impacts the grant program (e.g., capacity needs, impact to funding resources, progress toward performance measures)*
- *Summary of comments expressed during routing*
- *The risk of executing versus the risk of not executing the agreement*
- *Justification for recommended action*

- Amendment routing sheet attached
- Amendment justification attached

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**Amendment Routing Sheet**

<b>Project Title</b>			
<b>Applicant</b>			
<b>Project Number</b>		<b>Category</b>	
<b>Award Year</b>		<b>Original Award Amount</b>	\$
<b>County</b>		<b>Amended Request Amount</b>	\$
<b>Amendment Request</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Term	<input type="checkbox"/> Scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Budget

**I. Amendment Request**

Formal, justified amendment request from grantee attached  
Date Received:

**II. Review by Project Manager**

Project Manager Name:  
Date Reviewed:

Comments:

*Note how this request will impact the delivery of the project as it was originally proposed, whether the amendment would significantly alter the project's intent, deliverables or output/outcomes, and any concerns about the grantees' performance to date.*

Recommendation and Justification:

*Recommend a course of action and justify your recommendation.*

Approved       Approved with modifications       Not approved

**III. Review by Program Manager**

Program Manager Name:  
Date Reviewed:

Comments and Recommendations:

*Note how this request will impact the delivery of the grant program, including capacity demands, funding concerns, or progress toward programmatic performance measures, whether a funding increase will put the project over the funding cap for the grant cycle through which it was originally funded, and whether the amendment would significantly alter the project's intent, deliverables or output/outcomes.*

Recommendation and Justification:

*Recommend a course of action and justify your recommendation.*

Approved       Approved with modifications       Not approved

**Meeting Date: November 21, 2016**  
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**IV. Review by Grant Manager**

Grant Manager Name:  
Date Reviewed:

**Comments and Recommendations:**

*Note if the Conservancy has the authority to enter into this amendment: Is the extended term reasonable given encumbrances on the funding source? Does the Conservancy have the funding to accommodate the request? Will the Conservancy have the capacity to manage the grant if the term is being extended?*

**Recommendation and Justification:**

*Recommend a course of action and justify your recommendation.*

Approved       Approved with modifications       Not approved

**V. Review by Executive Officer**

Executive Officer Name:  
Date Reviewed:

**Comments and Recommendations:**

*Note the legal, financial, reputational, and ecological risk of executing versus the risk of not executing the amendment.*

**Recommendation and Justification:**

*Recommend a course of action and justify your recommendation.*

Approved       Approved with modifications       Not approved

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016

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1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
[www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov)

## ***Proposition 1 Grant Program Approved Project Updates***

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### **Staff Report**

#### **APPROVED PROJECT UPDATE**

The Conservancy has fully executed one grant agreement, Lower Marsh and Sand Creek Watershed Riparian Restoration Planning (Prop 1-Y1-2015-019). This grant will be managed to ensure that the project meets its stated objectives. The first progress report is due by January 31, 2017.

At this time, Conservancy staff is working with all other conditionally approved and reserved funding projects to ensure that they move forward within the timeframes initially approved by the Board. One grant agreement is being routed for signature:

1. Habitat Improvement for Swainson's Hawk at Elliott Ranch (Prop 1-Y1-2015-014)

Three draft grant agreements are currently under development and will be routed by the end of November:

1. Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Prop 1-Y1-2015-005)
2. Sherman Island Wetland Restoration Project Phase III (Prop 1-Y1-2015-008)
3. Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (Prop 1-Y1-2015-016)

One project has had the conditions of its approval removed and a grant agreement is being prepared:

1. Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan (Prop 1-Y1-2015-012)

The CEQA findings for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Prop 1-Y1-2015-009) are being recommended for approval at this meeting (agenda item 10). The remaining two projects are on track to meet their deadlines for removing conditional approvals.

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the May 25, 2016 and June 27, 2016 Board meetings, the Delta Conservancy's Board approved, conditionally approved, or reserved funding for nine projects that advance ecosystem restoration, water quality, and agricultural sustainability in the Delta. These projects have requested approximately \$6.3 million in grant funding.

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Each of the nine projects has been assigned a Conservancy staff member who is acting as the grant manager for that grant. Grant managers are responsible for working with grantees to gather all of the required information needed prior to drafting a grant agreement. Once the required information has been gathered, the grant manager drafts the scope of work and budget for the grant agreement, then hands off the grant agreement to the administrative team to review and assemble the complete grant agreement, and to route it for execution. Complete grant agreements will first be sent to the Conservancy's legal counsel for review, then to the grantee for signature, and finally executed by the Conservancy's Executive Officer.

The attached tracking sheet lists all of the 2015-2016 projects for which the Board approved, conditionally approved, or reserved funding. Project information, Board action, and comments/notes are included for all projects. For conditionally approved projects, the tracking sheet also lists the items required for full approval, the date by which those items are required, and the date that they were received (if applicable). For all projects for which funding has been reserved, the Conservancy must make Responsible Agency findings under CEQA. As grant agreements are executed, this information will be filled out, as well.

The Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program is focused on restoring Delta ecosystems, improving water quality, and enhancing agricultural sustainability. The Grant Program identifies projects to protect and restore California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds that may be funded with Prop. 1 funding (Sec. 79732 *et seq*). Both Prop. 1 and the Conservancy's enabling legislation emphasize focusing on projects that use public lands and that maximize "voluntary landowner participation in projects that provide measurable and long-lasting habitat or species improvements in the Delta."

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Conservancy ran its first grant cycle for the Prop 1 Grant Program. The Conservancy anticipates administering at least one grant cycle each fiscal year for five years. The Grant Program is a two-part competitive program, with a concept proposal solicitation open to the public, and a full proposal solicitation open to qualifying concept proposal applicants. 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 2015-2016 fiscal year, \$9.3 million was allocated to the Conservancy for the Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality grant program. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, \$9.3 million will be available for the grant program.

**Meeting Date: November 21, 2016**  
**Page 3**

**Contact Person**

Laura Jensen, Program Manager  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
Phone: (916) 375-2087

**Delta Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Program  
FY15-16 Conditionally Approved Project Tracking**

	Project Information	Board Action	Deadline	Requirement	Date Completed	Comments/Notes - 11/8/16	Contract Execution Date
<b>Project #</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-003	Reservation of Funds and Conditional Approval	Mar-2017	Completion of CEQA and approval of Responsible Agency Finding		-Waiting on grantee to send information regarding water rights.	
<b>Project Name</b>	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project			Verification of Adequate Water Rights		-CEQA expected to be complete in Spring 2017	
<b>Applicant</b>	Ducks Unlimited			Landowner Agreement	Post-Execution	-Meeting scheduled for 11/21 to discuss how the Conservancy project relates to the implementation project proposed to CDFW	
<b>SSJDC Staff Lead</b>	Laura Jensen			Habitat Maintained for 15 Years			
				Bylaws	7-Jun-2016		
<b>Project #</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-005	Board Approved				-Grant Agreement submitted to Grantee as of 12-Sept-2016.	
<b>Project Name</b>	Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta					-Grantee requested to extend the schedule in the contract from June 19 to Sept 19 (Page 1) to match the schedule on page 7.	
<b>Applicant</b>	California Land Stewardship Institute					-Waiting for Conservancy legal review revised copyright language.	
<b>SSJDC Staff Lead</b>	Aaron Haiman						
<b>Project #</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-008	Conditional Approval		Bylaws	7-Jun-2016	Grant Agreement in review by admin staff as of 14-Jul-2016.	
<b>Project Name</b>	Sherman Island Wetland Restoration Project Phase III					Grant Agreement not yet sent to grantee.	
<b>Applicant</b>	Ducks Unlimited						
<b>SSJDC Staff Lead</b>	Laura Jensen						
<b>Project #</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-009	Reservation of Funds and Conditional Approval	Sep-2016	Completion of CEQA and approval of Responsible Agency Finding	11/21/2016	Scope of Work drafted and sent to PM for review	
<b>Project Name</b>	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project			Verification of Adequate Water Rights	10/17/2016	CEQA docs have been reviewed and responsible agency findings have been prepared for Board approval	
<b>Applicant</b>	American Rivers			Landowner Agreement	Post-Execution		
<b>SSJDC Staff Lead</b>	Aaron Haiman			Habitat Maintained for 15 Years	Landowner Agree.		
<b>Project #</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-010	Reservation of Funds and Conditional Approval	Mar-2017	CEQA Filed and Approved by Board		Have drafted memo on consistency w/ Delta Plan; found that the project is exempt. Will send to us as soon as SJIC RCD Board approves.	
<b>Project Name</b>	Paradise Cut Flood and Conservation Easement Acquisition			Checklist 1			
<b>Applicant</b>	San Joaquin RCD						
<b>SSJDC Staff Lead</b>	Laura Jensen						
<b>Project #</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-012	Conditional Approval	Jul-2016	Monitoring Plan	27-Jul-2016	Have requested to shift money between budget line items consistent with the de minimis exception language in the grant agreement. Budget revision currently under review.	
<b>Project Name</b>	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan						
<b>Applicant</b>	San Joaquin RCD						
<b>SSJDC Staff Lead</b>	Laura Jensen						
<b>Project #</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-014	Conditional Approval	31-Aug-2016	Applicant to Appear at Meeting	27-Jun-2016	Grant agreement under review by Legal; will be sent to grantee for execution following	
<b>Project Name</b>	Habitat Improvement for Swainson's Hawk at Elliott Ranch			Habitat Maintained for 15 Years	Landowner Agree.	Legal review	
<b>Applicant</b>	Environmental Defense Fund			Verification of Adequate Water Rights	27-Jun-2016		
<b>SSJDC Staff Lead</b>	Aaron Haiman			Landowner Agreement	Post-Execution		
				Local Outreach	27-Jun-2016		
<b>Project #</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-016	Conditional Approval	Sep-2016	Verification of Adequate Water Rights	23-Aug-2016	Grant agreement under review by Admin team.	
<b>Project Name</b>	Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area			Landowner Agreement	Post-Execution	Draft land tenure agreement has been reviewed; grantee is seeking legal descriptions in order to record.	
<b>Applicant</b>	Yolo RCD			Habitat Maintained for 15 Years			
<b>SSJDC Staff Lead</b>	Becky Stanton						
<b>Project #</b>	Prop 1-Y1-2015-019	Board Approved				Grant Agreement executed 10/19/2016	10/19/2016
<b>Project Name</b>	Lower Marsh and Sand Creek Watershed Riparian Restoration Planning						
<b>Applicant</b>	American Rivers						
<b>SSJDC Staff Lead</b>	Aaron Haiman						

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016

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## ***Request for Approval for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project Responsible Agency Findings and Final Grant Award***

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### **Staff Report**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared by the lead agency for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Prop 1-Y1-2015-009) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), make the CEQA responsible agency findings, adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and file the Notice of Determination.

Contingent upon the adoption of the responsible agency findings, the staff recommends that the Board release the reserved funds for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project and authorize the Executive Director to execute the grant agreement.

#### **CEQA BACKGROUND**

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), which is the lead agency for CEQA, made their [lead agency findings](#) based on the [August 2016 CEQA](#) document, confirming that the CEQA process for this project had been completed. The CEQA document has been reviewed by Conservancy staff and is included with this report for the Board's review. Staff concurs with the findings of the lead agency. These findings include measures that will alleviate potential deleterious effects to air, biological, cultural, geologic or soil, and noise resources that may result from the project. The final step in the CEQA process is for the Delta Conservancy Board to review the final CEQA document, which includes the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, to make responsible agency findings, and to file the Notice of Determination with the Contra Costa County Clerk's Office and the State Clearinghouse. These materials are provided as attachments to this report. By voting to adopt and sign the responsible agency findings, the Delta Conservancy is agreeing that the lead agency sufficiently explained and proposed mitigation measures that are likely to alleviate any significant negative environmental effects that may result from the implementing the project.

#### **PROJECT AND PROPOSITION 1 BACKGROUND**

At the May 25, 2016 Board meeting, the Delta Conservancy's Board reserved funds for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Prop 1-Y1-2015-009) until the project completed CEQA and the

**Meeting Date: November 21, 2016****Page 2**

Board made its responsible agency findings. The Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project was proposed by American Rivers and their partners – the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed (FOMCW), and the City of Brentwood – as a multibenefit ecosystem restoration project at the confluence of Marsh, Sand, and Deer Creeks (Three Creeks) that will convert a denuded flood control channel into a healthy riparian corridor. The Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project will restore native vegetation on 12.5 acres along nearly a mile of Marsh Creek, and floodplain and riparian habitat along 4,000 linear feet of creek. These restoration actions will provide important habitat, increase flood protection, and contribute to achieving water quality objectives in the Delta.

The Board's reservation of funds pending the completion of CEQA was conditional upon the following: (1) submittal of proof and verification of adequate water rights; and (2) a signed agreement with the landowner, the District, that formalizes the applicant's right to implement and maintain the proposed project and the District's role in the proposed project. The project's water rights were reviewed and approved by staff, after verification by the Delta Watermaster, on October 17, 2016. Therefore, American Rivers has met the first condition. As decided by the Board at the July 27, 2016 meeting, the second condition has become a condition of the grant agreement required after the grant agreement is executed. The landowner agreement will be finalized after the grant agreement has been executed in accordance with Delta Conservancy procedures.

## **BUDGET**

The Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project included a project budget of \$836,409. This total will cover costs of obtaining the required permits, project design, construction, revegetation, coordination with local entities, and monitoring and maintenance. This project was considered as part of the Delta Conservancy's first Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality grant program cycle, for which up to \$9.3 million was allocated to the Conservancy for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. The Conservancy approved, conditionally approved, or reserved funding for nine projects that have requested approximately \$6.3 million in grant funding for the first grant cycle.

### **Contact Person**

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

**Meeting Date: November 21, 2016**  
**Page 3**

**Attachments**

Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Lead Agency) District Action C. 2 - Adoption of Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (CEQA). September 27, 2016 – available online at [http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Prop-1-Y1-2015-009\\_CEQA-LeadAgencyApproved-Board-Order\\_9-27-16a.pdf](http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Prop-1-Y1-2015-009_CEQA-LeadAgencyApproved-Board-Order_9-27-16a.pdf)

Contra Costa County Public Works Department, 2016. Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration for Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project including Notice of Public Review. August 3, 2016 – available online at [http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Prop-1-Y1-2015-009\\_CEQA-NOI-IS-MND-MMRP-Reduced-File.compressed.pdf](http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Prop-1-Y1-2015-009_CEQA-NOI-IS-MND-MMRP-Reduced-File.compressed.pdf)

Contra Costa County Public Works Department, 2016. Appendix B - Response to Comments on the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration for Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project). September 21, 2016 – available online at [http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Prop-1-Y1-2015-009\\_CEQA\\_Appendix-B-Response-to-Comments-FINAL\\_9-21-16\\_cmp.pdf](http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Prop-1-Y1-2015-009_CEQA_Appendix-B-Response-to-Comments-FINAL_9-21-16_cmp.pdf).



**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY ADOPTING RESPONSIBLE AGENCY FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) FOR THE THREE CREEKS PARKWAY RESTORATION PROJECT.**

**Whereas**, the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (“Project”) is a proposal put forth by the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to widen and improve an approximately 4,000-foot section of Marsh Creek in the City of Brentwood to provide additional flood conveyance capacity and restore riparian habitat along the creek; and

**Whereas**, the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (“District”) is the lead agency pursuant to CEQA (Public Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR § 15000 et seq.); and

**Whereas**, the District prepared an Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to CEQA in order to analyze all potential adverse environmental impacts of the project; and

**Whereas**, on 27-Sep-2016, the Board of Supervisors of the District considered and certified the IS/MND, adopted findings as required by CEQA, including a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (attached as Exhibit A), and approved the Project ; and

**Whereas**, the District has requested funding from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) for the Project and must, therefore, as a responsible agency, make certain findings prior to its approval of funding for the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY AS FOLLOWS:**

- a. The Delta Conservancy has, in its independent judgment, reviewed and considered the IS/MND and the District’s findings, which are incorporated herein by reference, and finds, as to those potential impacts within the Board’s powers and authorities as a responsible agency, that the IS/MND contains a complete, objective, and accurate reporting of the Project’s potential impacts and that mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Project that avoid and/or substantially lessen any of the potentially significant effects of the Project.
- b. Further, the Board adopts the Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program.
- c. The Board further finds that no additional feasible mitigation measures within the Board’s authority are necessary to reduce the environmental impacts of the project to less than significant levels.
- d. The Delta Conservancy hereby authorizes and directs staff to file a Notice of Determination with the state clearinghouse and the County Clerk’s Office of the county of Contra Costa.
- e. The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings for this Resolution are located on the Delta Conservancy’s website.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY BOARD THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2016.**

**VOTE**

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

---

Jim Provenza, Board Chair

Exhibit A

C. 2



Contra  
Costa  
County

To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Julia R. Bueren, Public Works Director/Chief Engineer  
Date: September 27, 2016

Subject: ADOPTION OF Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (CEQA)

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. CONSIDER the proposed Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Project) together with any comments received during the public review process.
2. FIND on the basis of the whole record, including the proposed Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and any comments received and staff responses thereto, that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment, and that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the lead agency, Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District).
3. ADOPT the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project.
4. SPECIFY that the Contra Costa County Conservation and Development Director is the custodian of the documents and other material that constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Board’s decision is based, and that the record of proceedings is located at 30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA.

APPROVE

OTHER

RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR

RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD  
COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **09/27/2016**  APPROVED AS  
RECOMMENDED

OTHER

Clerks Notes:

**VOTE OF SUPERVISORS**

AYE: John Gioia, District I Supervisor  
Candace Andersen, District II  
Supervisor  
Mary N. Piepho, District III Supervisor  
Karen Mitchoff, District IV Supervisor  
Federal D. Glover, District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: September 27, 2016

David J. Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Contact: Claudia Gemberling (925)  
313-2192

By: Stacey M. Boyd, Deputy

cc:

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of the environmental review of this Project totaled approximately \$80,000, to be funded by the District with Flood Control Zone 1 funds (50 percent) and American Rivers, Inc. (American Rivers) State Grant Funds and other private funds (50 percent).

### BACKGROUND:

During the 1960s and early 1970s, approximately 7.9 miles of Marsh Creek from the mouth of the creek near Big Break in Oakley to the Dry Creek confluence in Brentwood were channelized into steep earthen and armored trapezoidal flood control channels to provide conveyance capacity and riparian vegetation was removed. The channel was designed for a 50-year flood event in an agricultural setting. Over the last 25 years, the population of the lower Marsh Creek watershed has increased dramatically, transforming the watershed into a dense residential and commercial area, covering open space with impervious surfaces, substantially increasing runoff volume and degrading water quality. The District has constructed detention basins on each of Marsh Creek's three tributaries (Dry, Deer, and Sand Creeks) to accommodate increased run-off associated with urban development and impervious surfaces; however, urban and agricultural runoff remain issues.

The Three Creeks Parkway Project described in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) combines two separate projects. The first is the Three Creeks Restoration Project on Marsh Creek, in which the District partnered with American Rivers to apply for and receive \$744,404 in DWR Urban Streams Grant Funding. The project limits of that project are from the Union Pacific Railroad tracks crossing of Marsh Creek to its confluence with Sand Creek (identified as the Lower Reach in the IS/MND). The second project is Phase 2 of the Marsh Creek Widening Project. The District is the sponsor of that project, and American Rivers is providing the District with State grant funds and other private funds to provide a multi-benefit flood control project. The project limits of the second project are from Sand Creek to just upstream of Dainty Avenue (identified as the Middle and Upper Reaches in the IS/MND). The two projects were addressed together because they are adjacent and cumulative impacts needed to be considered.

The objective of the Project would be to improve the ecological functions of Marsh Creek by reducing flow velocities, creating wetlands, and restoring riparian habitat. Although much of the watershed has been constrained by urbanization, the Project site is the longest remaining stretch of undeveloped land along the creek where there is still an opportunity to widen the channel and provide a more natural creek system that is connected to the historic floodplain that can be enjoyed by trail users.

The District, in partnership with American Rivers, developed the proposal to widen and restore approximately 4,000 linear feet of the Marsh Creek channel identified in three reaches (Upper, Middle, Lower) from Dainty Avenue downstream to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks with a floodplain (or in sections where more constrained, floodplain benches) that will meet the District's standards for 100-year flood protection and restore native riparian vegetation and enhance habitats and recreation. The segment just upstream of Dainty Avenue was widened in 2000 by the District. Native riparian vegetation may also be planted in this segment as part of the Project to provide a continuous riparian corridor with the existing riparian vegetation upstream of this segment.

The Project calls for widening the creek above the low-flow channel, but some areas will require work within the low-flow channel in order to create in-stream habitat using boulders and large woody debris, and to place rock slope protection. The Project would also include slight relocation of the existing East Bay Regional Park District Marsh Creek trail along the top of the eastern bank to the new top of grade from Dainty Avenue to Sand Creek (in the Upper and Middle Reaches). The trail from Sand Creek to the railroad tracks (in the Lower Reach) is to be relocated by the adjacent subdivision developer (Pulte) separately from the Project; however, the Project would reduce the gradient of the steep slope between the creek and the trail in this reach and would provide a new unpaved foot trail within the floodplain benches. The relocated trail section within the Upper Reach would be routed to pass under the Central Boulevard bridge.

Approval of the Project is not recommended at this time because the District and American Rivers have not yet

completed their negotiation of a separate agreement that outlines their respective obligations under the DWR Urban Streams grant agreement (for the Three Creeks Restoration Project) and terms and conditions that will apply to the work that American Rivers plans to perform. Without this agreement, the District would become obligated to perform the obligations of both parties under the grant agreement upon approval of the Project. District staff also anticipates the need for an agreement that sets forth the District's and American Rivers' roles under the Marsh Creek Widening Phase 2 Project. District staff anticipates returning to the Board in February 2017 to seek Board approval of the agreement(s) and the Project.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program are not adopted before October 1, 2016, American Rivers may lose conditionally-approved grant funding for the Project.

ATTACHMENTS

CEQA

# Notice of Determination

## Appendix D

**To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
*U.S. Mail:* Street Address:  
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk  
 County of: Contra Costa  
 Address: Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder  
P.O. Box 350 Martinez, CA 94553

**From:**

Public Agency: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Co.  
 Address: 1450 Halyard Dr.  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
 Contact: Aaron N.K. Haiman  
 Phone: 916-376-4023

Lead Agency (if different from above):  
Contra Costa County Department of Conservation  
 Address: 30 Muir Rd. Martinez, CA 94553  
 Contact: Jason Kopchik, Director  
 Phone: 1-855-323-2626

***SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.***

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project

Project Applicant: American Rivers

Project Location (include county): Along Marsh Creek in the City of Brentwood, Contra Costa County, CA

**Project Description:**

The Three Creeks Parkway Restoration project is a multi-benefit flood control and creek restoration project proposed by the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District" or "CCCFCD") and American Rivers, a non-profit organization that protects wild rivers and restores damaged rivers. It proposes to improve flood conveyance capacity and restore native vegetation along an approximately 4,000 linear feet section of Marsh Creek located in Brentwood by widening the channel with a floodplain (or sections where more constrained, floodplain benches) and planting with native +

This is to advise that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has approved the above  
 ( Lead Agency or  Responsible Agency)

described project on 21-Nov-2016 and has made the following determinations regarding the above  
 (date)  
 described project.

1. The project [ will  will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2.  An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [ were  were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [ was  was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [ were  were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

The California Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research and the Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder Office

Signature (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016  
Page 1



1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
[www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov)

## ***Request for Approval of Recommended Proposition 1 Grant Program Concept Proposals to Submit Full Proposals***

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends that the Delta Conservancy request full proposals for the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program from the nine projects indicated in Table 1.

### **RECOMMENDATION BACKGROUND**

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Conservancy closed its concept proposal solicitation for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The Conservancy received 13 proposals, three of which are for planning projects (category 1) and 10 of which are for implementation projects (category 2). Proposals have been received for projects in all five Delta counties. In total, applicants requested \$15.98 million. A summary of Concept Proposal recommendations is provided in Table 1.

Conservancy staff has reviewed all 13 proposals and scored the 11 projects determined to be eligible. Two staff reviewed and scored each proposal. These scores were averaged to determine the final score for each proposal. Where scores varied across the minimum qualifying point threshold (75 points), with one falling above 75 points and the other below, a third score, provided by the Executive Officer, was used as a "tie breaker" and averaged with the two original scores to determine the final score. Nine projects scored 75 points or above. Staff recommends requesting full proposals from all projects that met or exceeded the minimum point threshold, for an anticipated total funding request of \$15.10 million. Recommendations for the nine recommended projects are included as attachments; the projects are in the order they appear in the table below.

Pending Board approval of concept proposals, staff proposes to open the full proposal solicitation period on November 28, 2016, and to close the solicitation on January 13, 2017 at 5pm. Staff will provide all applicants with information about the status of their proposal and detailed feedback on their concept proposals. All applicants will be invited to schedule follow-up conversations with Conservancy staff to provide them with the opportunity to ask questions.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Conservancy's Proposition 1 (Prop. 1) Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program is focused on restoring Delta ecosystems, improving water quality, and enhancing agricultural sustainability. The Grant Program identifies projects to protect and restore California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds that may be funded with Prop. 1 funding (Sec. 79732 *et seq*). Both Prop. 1 and the Conservancy's enabling legislation emphasize focusing on projects that use public lands and that maximize "voluntary landowner participation in projects that provide measurable and long-lasting habitat or species improvements in the Delta."

**Meeting Date: November 21, 2016**

**Page 2**

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Conservancy ran its first grant cycle for the Prop. 1 Grant Program. The Conservancy anticipates administering at least one grant cycle each fiscal year for five years. The Grant Program is a two-part competitive program, with a concept proposal solicitation open to the public, and a full proposal solicitation open to qualifying concept proposal applicants. 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 2015-2016 fiscal year, \$9.3 million was allocated to the Conservancy for the Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality grant program. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, up to \$10 million will be available for the grant program.

#### **Contact Person:**

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

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016  
Page 3

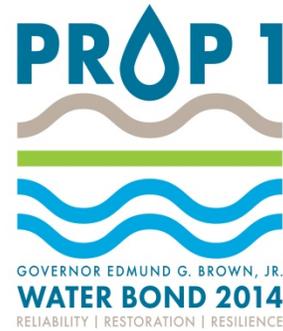
Table 1: Summary of Concept Proposals

ID Number	Project Name	Applicant	County	Category	Funding Priority	Amount Requested	Final Score
<b>Applications Qualifying for Full Proposal</b>							
Prop 1-1602	Dutch Slough revegetation	Reclamation District 2137	Contra Costa	2	Restoration and Enhancement	\$2,900,000	89.0
Prop 1-1609	Elliot Ranch Conservation Easement Project	Yolo County Habitat/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (Yolo Habitat Conservancy)	Yolo	2	Water Quality Water-related Agricultural Sustainability	\$3,000,000	85.0
Prop 1-1603	Mello Conservation Easement	Sacramento Valley Conservancy	Sacramento	2	Water-related Agricultural Sustainability	\$2,000,000	83.0
Prop 1-1605	Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project	Solano Resource Conservation District	Solano	2	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality Water-related Agricultural Sustainability	\$444,795	81.5
Prop 1-1604	San Joaquin River Setback Levee	Reclamation District No. 1601 – Twitchell Island	Sacramento	2	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality	\$1,898,600	77.0
Prop 1-1612	Investigations of restoration techniques that limit invasion of tidal wetlands	The Regents of the University of California	Contra Costa	1	Restoration and Enhancement	\$107,655	76.0
Prop 1-1608	Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve	Sacramento County Regional Parks	Sacramento	2	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality	\$943,549	75.7
Prop 1-1613	Implementation of rice on Staten Island for sustainability, ecosystem, and water quality benefits	Conservation Farms & Ranches	San Joaquin	2	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality Water-related Agricultural Sustainability	\$2,642,000	75.5
Prop 1-1607	Agricultural Crossings in the Yolo Bypass	County of Yolo	Yolo	2	Water-related Agricultural Sustainability	\$1,167,433	75.3
<b>Applications Not Qualifying for Full Proposal</b>							
Prop 1-1601	Bay Point Restoration and Public Access Project	East Bay Regional Park District	Contra Costa	1			67.0
Prop 1-1606	Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project	Ducks Unlimited INC	Solano	2	Restoration and Enhancement	\$410,964	64.0

ID Number	Project Name	Applicant	County	Category	Funding Priority	Amount Requested	Final Score
<b>Ineligible Applications</b>							
Prop 1-1610	Headwater Mercury Source Reduction Strategy: Hydraulic Mines and Debris Control Dams Inventory, Evaluation and Pilot Project Remediation for the Yuba and Bear River Watersheds	The Sierra Fund	Nevada County	1	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality	\$181,620	DQ
Prop 1-1611	Plant and Microbial interactions and their effects on the ecosystem restoration and water quality	University of California- Davis		2	Restoration and Enhancement Water Quality	\$279,576	DQ



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA CONSERVANCY**  
 A California State Agency



***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.

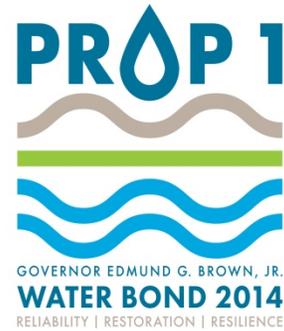
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

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.

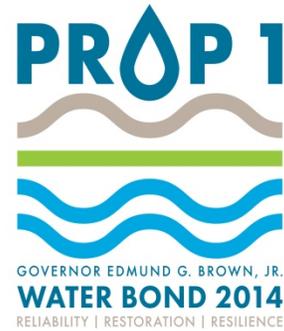
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

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.

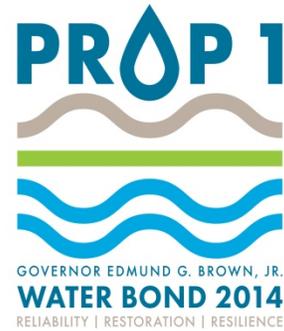
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

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.

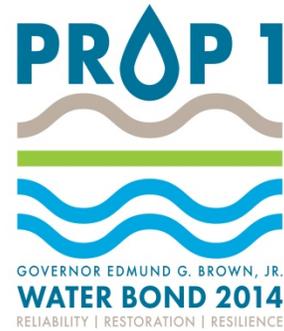
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

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.

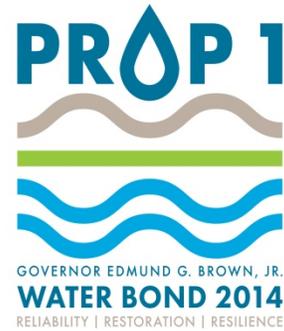
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

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.



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>	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.

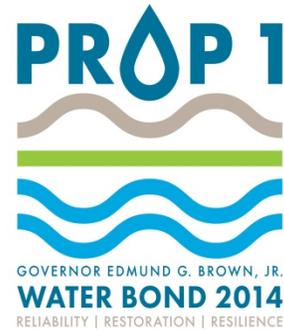
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

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.

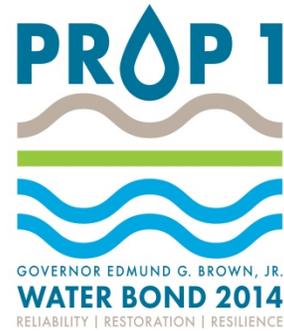
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

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.

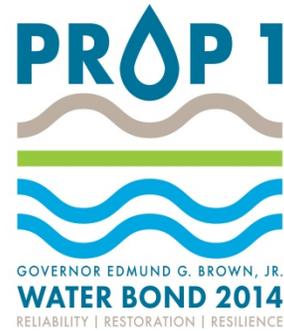
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

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.

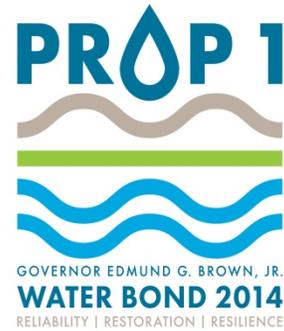
**Consistency with Proposition 1 and State Priorities:**

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:**

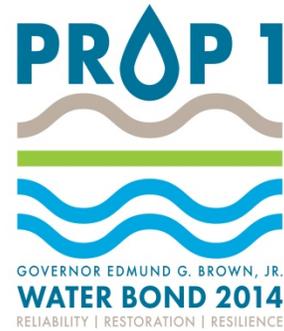
Delta Conservancy staff does not recommend that the Board request the East Bay Regional Park District submit a full application for the Bay Point Restoration and Public Access (Prop 1-1601) to the Delta Conservancy’s Proposition 1 grant program.

**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:**

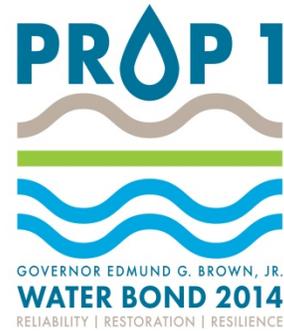
Delta Conservancy staff does not recommend that the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement (Prop 1-1606) project submitted by Ducks Unlimited, INC submit a full application to the Delta Conservancy’s Prop 1 grant program.

**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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***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:**

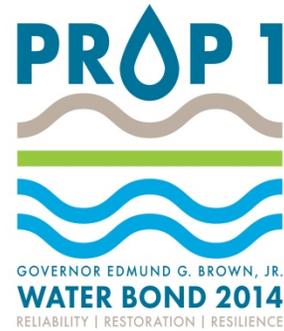
The Headwater Mercury Source Reduction Strategy: Hydraulic Mines and Debris Control Dams Inventory, Evaluation and Pilot Project Remediation for the Yuba and Bear River Watersheds (Prop 1-1610) project submitted by the Sierra Fund was disqualified from consideration for funding for the Delta Conservancy’s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



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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.

**Meeting Date: November 21, 2016**  
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### ***Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan Update***

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#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Delta Conservancy has contracted with the firm Kearns & West to update the Delta Conservancy's 2012 Strategic Plan. Kearns & West also developed the Conservancy's 2012 Strategic Plan.

On October 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, the Delta Conservancy held public workshops in the Delta to gather input from the public on the Delta Conservancy's priorities. Six members of the public attended the first workshop and 4 attended the second workshop.

Conservancy staff will now work with Kearns & West to take the key themes from the input received from the public, Board, and staff and begin developing the revised goals and objectives of the updated strategic plan. These goals and objectives will then be presented to the Board for input at the Strategic Plan Board Retreat, occurring during the Conservancy's regularly scheduled Board Meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

#### **CURRENT IMPORTANT DATES**

January 25, 2017: Strategic Plan Board Retreat during regularly scheduled Board Meeting

March 22, 2017: Board Meeting for review of the Draft Update to the Strategic Plan

April 2017: Public Comment Period on Draft Strategic Plan

May 24, 2017: Board Meeting for approval of Final Update to the Strategic Plan

#### **Contact Person:**

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

**Meeting Date: November 21, 2016**  
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## ***Delta Marketing Project Update***

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### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

In 2015, the Conservancy received a grant from the federal Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration to form a Delta Marketing Taskforce, develop a marketing plan to suit the Delta's needs, and create an infrastructure for the Delta community to manage the Delta's marketing needs long term. The Delta Marketing website and marketing plan is the second phase in the Delta Awareness Campaign, which started with the Delta Brand. The Delta Protection Commission is a partner in this effort.

In 2015, initial work on the project included working with the contractor to pitch ideas to the Delta Marketing Taskforce and to begin work on the website. Due to challenges with the past contractor and staffing changes, the Conservancy terminated the contractor for convenience to the state and requested an extension to the grant with the Economic Development Administration in order to hire a new contractor and finish the work under the grant agreement. This request was granted with a six month extension of the grant term to March 31, 2017.

### **PROJECT UPDATE**

Since the granting of the extension, and after a month-long solicitation period, the Conservancy hired Design Media in August to create the tourism website and develop the 5-year marketing strategy and promotional campaign. Delta Conservancy staff began meeting with the contractor in September to inform them of the status of the project, previous taskforce input, and current assets. Throughout September and October, a project schedule was developed and planning for the website and marketing plan was undertaken.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, the Delta Conservancy reconvened the Delta Marketing Taskforce in order to introduce the new contractor and solicit feedback on two potential themes for the website. The Taskforce was pleased with the quality and direction of the project and will reconvene in late November/early December to review a draft of the full website and begin reviewing a draft marketing plan for their needs. Design Media is currently developing the website based on feedback received during the October Taskforce meeting, and is developing the marketing strategy based on feedback from previous Taskforce meetings in 2015.

**Meeting Date: November 21, 2016**  
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### **CURRENT IMPORTANT DATES**

Early December: Task Force Meeting to review draft marketing plan  
January: Task Force Meeting to review final marketing plan and website  
February: Task Force Meeting to discuss Next Steps  
March: Task Force Meeting to discuss Next Steps

#### **Contact Person:**

Brandon Chapin, Economic Development Lead  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
Phone: (916) 375-2091

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016  
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### January 25, 2016 **PROPOSED AGENDA**

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Staff is seeking input from the Board regarding additional agenda items for the January 25, 2016 meeting at the Delta Conservancy's office in West Sacramento.

A tentative list of agenda items includes:

- **Executive Officer's Report**
  - **Proposition 1 Grant Program Approved Projects Update**
  - **Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan Retreat**
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**Contact Person:**

Brandon Chapin, Board Liaison  
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