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Request for approval to receive funds from the Bureau of Reclamation in the total amount of \$2,664,767 and subsequently enter into a contract with the Water Education Foundation in the amount of \$828,453 to support environmental education and outreach in the Delta.

November 20, 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff requests approval to receive funds from the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) in the amount of \$2,664,767. Staff also requests Board authorization for staff to enter into a contract with the Water Education Foundation (WEF) for \$828,453 to implement specific tasks in the pending contract. Both agreements will be for a term of four years.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Conservancy, in partnership with the Bureau, is supporting environmental education and outreach in the Delta. This grant is a continuation of the 2012 grant from the Bureau and will provide funding for tours in the Delta, executive briefings and roundtables, a documentary, and support three Conservancy projects including the Delta Watershed Initiative Network, the Restoration Hub, and Delta Dialogues. The Grant Summary (Attachment 2) provides the description of tasks.

BACKGROUND

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 established the Conservancy and includes four relevant mandates: (1) protect and enhance habitat and habitat restoration; (2) protect and preserve Delta agriculture and working landscapes; (3) protect and improve water quality; (4) promote environmental education. These efforts are consistent with the following objectives as outlined in the Conservancy's 2012 Strategic Plan:

- Objective 1.3: Aid in protecting and improving water quality to protect the Delta ecosystem and economy
- Objective 3.1: Identify restoration priorities in collaboration with existing federal, state, regional and local governmental and non-governmental entities engaged in Delta restoration
- Objective 4.1: Gather and communicate additional technical expertise on matters relevant to the Conservancy's mission
- Objective 4.4: Promote shared understanding of key issues related to agriculture, the Delta economy, and restoration based on accurate information

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The Conservancy's current Three Year Work Plan specifically identifies this grant and the projects it will fund as a key component of the Conservancy's Environmental Education for Public Outreach Program.

BUDGET

The Bureau is awarding \$2,664,767, of which \$1,836,314 will support three Conservancy projects and \$828,453 will be contracted with WEF. The total project cost is \$3,580,347, which includes the amount awarded by the Bureau and \$915,580 provided in matching funds by the Conservancy, WEF, and the Department of Water Resources. The budget by task is shown in the Grant Summary (Attachment 2).

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