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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

A California State Agency

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West Sacramento, CA 95691  
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***Request for Approval of the California Environmental Quality Act Responsible Agency Findings and Grant Award for the Restoration of Priority Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve Project***

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**Staff Report**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board consider the [Final Mitigated Negative Declaration](#), prepared by the County of Sacramento Office of Planning and Environmental Review as the lead agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and adopt Resolution 17-002 which finds that the Board concurs with the CEQA responsible agency findings (Attachment 8.2), adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (Attachment 8.2, Exhibit B) and finds that no additional mitigation measures within the Board's authority are necessary, and direct staff to file the Notice of Determination (Attachment 8.3) with the State Clearinghouse.

Contingent upon the adoption of the responsible agency findings, staff recommends that the Board approve the grant request for the Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve project, for which the board previously reserved funds as part of the second Proposition 1 grant cycle, and authorize the Executive Officer to execute the grant agreement.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Sacramento County Regional Parks is proposing to restore 110 acres of priority wetlands on the Cosumnes River Preserve at Horseshoe Lake. The project would benefit State and federally-listed "threatened" Giant Garter Snake, State-listed "threatened" and "State fully protected" Greater Sandhill Crane, and many other species of special concern and federal-trust species. The project would restore hydrologic function of Horseshoe Lake by removing Uruguayan Water Primrose. The goals are to: 1) contribute to the survival of both listed and non-listed species by providing perennial water with adequate aquatic prey in Horseshoe Lake, and 2) restore local water storage capacity along the Cosumnes River to help recharge shallow perched was and deep aquifers.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

At the April 2017 Board meeting, the Board reserved \$942,631.40 in Proposition 1 grant funding for the Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve project proposed by Sacramento County Regional Parks. The funds were reserved because Sacramento County had not completed the CEQA process. The approval was also conditional upon

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verification of water rights and designation of funds to cover reporting requirements. The Board requested that Sacramento County clear these conditions by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Sacramento County cleared all conditions and completed the agency CEQA process as of September 12, 2017 when Sacramento County, as the lead agency, made findings of no significant effect, and adopted the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration, including the Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program. The Delta Conservancy, as a Responsible Agency, has reviewed these documents and findings, and staff recommends that the Board make Responsible Agency Findings concluding that all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the project to eliminate any significant effects on the environment. Staff further recommends that the Delta Conservancy approve the requested grant and authorize the Executive Officer to execute the grant agreement.

**Contact**

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