

Meeting Date: September 27, 2017

Page 1



1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6
West Sacramento, CA 95691
www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov

Request for Approval to Enter into an Agreement totaling \$57,750 in Support of Regional Restoration Planning in the Suisun Marsh

Staff Report

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the request to enter into an agreement with the Suisun Marsh Resource Conservation District in the amount of \$57,750 to support the Suisun Marsh Improvements Assessment (SMIA).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Suisun Resource Conservation District, the Department of Water Resources, and the Delta Conservancy have formed a partnership to address the need for water infrastructure improvements in the Suisun Marsh. These improvements will be required to achieve the ecological objectives for the marsh set out in the Suisun Marsh Management Plan (SMP) and the recently released Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy (DSRS). In order to maximize the benefits of improved managed wetland operations for listed species, and to minimize negative impacts of managed wetlands, the flood/drainage infrastructure of the individual wetlands needs to be in optimal working order. The first step is to undertake a Marsh-wide infrastructure assessment to determine the quantity, quality, location, and resiliency of the existing marsh flood/drain infrastructure. The completion of this assessment will result in a prioritized list of actions for flood/drainage infrastructure improvements on individual managed wetlands that will be eligible for future funding through Proposition 1 and also local/regional grants and landowner assistance programs.

The total project cost is \$118,550, with \$60,800 paid by DWR's Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy and \$57,750 requested from the Delta Conservancy's Proposition 1 planning funds. The assessment will result in a prioritized list of Proposition 1 eligible projects. Suisun Resource Conservation District staff will implement and manage the project. A detailed scope of work is attached.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 established the Conservancy and includes two relevant mandates; (1) to protect and enhance habitat and habitat restoration; and (2) to protect and improve water quality. These efforts are consistent with the following objectives as outlined in the Conservancy's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, Goal 2, Delta Ecosystem Viability.

Meeting Date: September 27, 2017

Page 2

- Objective 1: Protect, restore or enhance habitat and improve water quality through implementation of grant funding projects
- Objective 3: Complete regional restoration strategies and priorities for the Cache Slough Complex and for additional region(s) in coordination with Delta stakeholders; collaborate with partners to implement high priority projects identified in regional plans

Contact

Aaron N.K. Haiman, Environmental Scientist

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Phone: (916) 376-4023