

Meeting Date: January 24, 2018

Page 1



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

Request for Approval of Funding not to Exceed \$95,000 to support the Central Delta Corridor Partnership Regional Planning Process

Staff Report

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve funding not to exceed \$95,000 to support the Central Delta Corridor Partnership Regional Planning Process, consistent with the attached draft scope of work.

DESCRIPTION

The public landowners and owners of publically funded lands along the Central Delta corridor intend to develop an initial coordinated corridor strategy for management and restoration of these lands. The attached draft scope of work describes a 9 month process that will bring together the land owners, agencies and interested stakeholders to collaboratively develop the strategy.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the California Waterfowl Association (CWA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) own and manage approximately 50,000 acres of land in the Delta. These entities share many common regional objectives including flood management, agriculture sustainability, and conservation of aquatic, avian and terrestrial resources. In recognition of their capital Delta investments, the historical legacy of the Delta, and the State's policies to rehabilitate the Delta ecosystem, these entities are seeking to coordinate and assist in collaborative efforts with each other and with interested parties to implement actions that will achieve common goals and objectives. Based on preliminary discussions of concepts, these entities believe that creation and enhancement of wildlife habitat could go hand-in-hand with levee improvements and maintenance, and sustainable agriculture to provide benefits not only to target species, but also for flood protection, water quality and local economic and social vitality. Specifically, this would be achieved by using public lands to develop an ecologically significant habitat corridor linking the northeast Delta with the central and western Delta while providing for Delta sustainability by addressing agriculture, subsidence, flood management, climate change, habitat loss, long-term land management, and water quality. These entities believe this to be in alignment with Delta community interests and consistent with their request to focus restoration efforts on public lands first.

Meeting Date: January 24, 2018
Page 2

BUDGET

The total project cost is estimated to be \$130,000 with cost share provided according to the schedule below.

<i>Cost Share Partner</i>	<i>Cost Share Amount</i>
Delta Stewardship Council	\$10,000
Metropolitan Water District	\$25,000
Department of Water Resources	\$10,000
Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$10,000

Conservancy funding to support this effort would come from Proposition 1 which allows for 10% of the Conservancy's allocation to go toward planning and monitoring to ensure successful design, selection and implementation of projects. The Conservancy anticipates soliciting the services described in the attached draft scope of work, not to exceed \$95,000. A separate contract with the San Francisco Estuary Institute, Aquatic Science Center will provide scientific and technical support for this effort. Total costs for this support are approximately \$35,000 and will be paid by the Metropolitan Water District and the Delta Stewardship Council through task orders. The SFEI scope of work is attached.

BACKGROUND

The Central Delta Corridor Partnership has been meeting since early 2017 to conduct outreach to surrounding landowners and define the process described in the attached draft scope of work.

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) Identify priority projects and initiatives for which funding is needed; and (4) Protect, conserve and restore the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical and living resources.

This project is consistent with the following objectives as outlined in the Delta Conservancy's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, Goal 1, Delta Agriculture and Economic Enhancement.

- Objective 1: Work directly with local land owners, farmers, and others to analyze the state of Delta agriculture and identify priority agricultural investments and economic offset strategies for agricultural land conversions

Strategic Plan Goal 2, Delta Ecosystem Viability.

- 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

Meeting Date: January 24, 2018

Page 3

Proposition 1 allows for 10% of the Conservancy's allocation to go toward planning and monitoring to ensure successful design, selection and implementation of projects. The project is intended to identify restoration and agricultural sustainability projects that would meet criteria and be eligible for Proposition 1 funding, thereby improving the long-term efficacy of the public funding.

The need for regional planning in the Delta is called for in the Delta Plan, the current draft Delta Conservation Framework, has been articulated in the High Impact Science Action Agenda as approved by the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee, and has been specifically called for in the Governor's Eco Restore Program.

Contact

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
campbell.ingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 375-2089