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Proposition 1 Grant Program Update

Staff Report

CYCLE 4 – FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 SOLICITATION PLANNING

Staff will bring draft Grant Guidelines to the Board for consideration in May. If the draft Guidelines are approved, they will be posted for public comment for the month of June, and final Grant Guidelines will be brought to the Board for consideration in July. The Cycle 4 solicitation would open on August 1, 2018.

CYCLE 3 – FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 SOLICITATION UPDATE

An update on the Delta Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program third cycle is provided as agenda item 7.

APPROVED PROJECT UPDATE

In its first two grant cycles, the Conservancy awarded or reserved \$10.3 million of Proposition 1 funds for eligible projects. A brief overview of each grant cycle, the status of each project by grant cycle (in numerical order of the assigned grant number), and a map of all approved project locations (Figure 1) are included herein .

CYCLE 2 – Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The Board awarded or reserved \$4.4 million for four projects (one Category 1 planning and three Category 2 implementation). Three grant agreements have been executed, and one has been delayed due to permitting issues. All new information is highlighted.

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Project Dutch Slough Revegetation (Category 2)

Amount Awarded \$2,900,000

County Contra Costa

Conservancy ID Prop 1-1602

Grantee Reclamation District 2137

Overview Establish and maintain 468 acres of native tidal marsh, riparian, and grassland vegetation at the Dutch Slough restoration site

Board Action/Deadline Conditional Approval – July 2017

Conditions/Status All conditions have been met.

Grant Agreement Status Grant Agreement Pending

Update Due to permitting delays, construction did not begin during the 2017 construction window. Therefore, the revegetation phase, to which Conservancy funds are being applied, will also be delayed. Staff plans to delay execution of the grant agreement until 2019 to ensure implementation does not exceed the 3-year grant funding term.

Project Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project (Category 2)

Amount Awarded \$444,795

County Solano

Conservancy ID Prop 1-1605

Grantee Solano Resource Conservation District

Overview Restore 13.5 acres of riparian habitat and improve water quality through improved cattle management practices on approximately 525 acres of actively farmland along Lindsey Slough

Board Action/Deadline Conditional Approval – May 2017

Conditions/Status All conditions have been met.

Grant Agreement Status Active as of 9/1/17

Update Half of the working waterways that make up the project footprint have been treated and planted; the remaining waterways will be completed this coming summer and fall. All fencing to keep cows out of sensitive habitat has been installed.

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Project Restoration of Priority Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Category 2)

Amount Awarded \$943,549

County Sacramento

Conservancy ID Prop 1-1608

Grantee Sacramento County Regional Parks

Overview Restore 110 acres of freshwater wetlands to benefit listed species

Board Action/Deadline Funding Reserved – September 27, 2017

Conditions/Status All conditions have been met.

Grant Agreement Status Active as of 1/8/18

Update The grantee has begun to purchase supplies. The first progress report is due in May.

Project Investigations of restoration techniques that limit invasion of tidal wetlands (Category 1)

Amount Awarded \$107,655

County Contra Costa

Conservancy ID Prop 1-1612

Grantee The Regents of the University of California (UC Davis)

Overview Identify improved methods for tidal wetland revegetation that reduce invasion by non-native plants at Dutch Slough

Board Action/Deadline Conditional Approval – May 2017

Conditions/Status All conditions have been met

Grant Agreement Status Active as of 1/8/18

Update The grantee is in the process of hiring a post-doctoral researcher to complete the work of the grant. Work is scheduled to begin in July 2018.

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CYCLE 1 – Fiscal Year 2015-2016

The Board awarded or reserved funding \$5.9 million for eight projects (four Category 1 planning and four Category 2 implementation). To date, six grant agreements have been fully executed; staff is working with grantees to prepare grant agreements for the remaining two projects. All new information is highlighted.

Project Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project (Category 2)

Amount Awarded \$2,000,000

County Yolo

Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-003 (1503 on map)

Grantee Ducks Unlimited

Overview Implement habitat and working landscape enhancements in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

Board Action/Deadline Funding Reserved – original March 22 2017, 1st extension to July 26, 2017, 2nd extension to January 24, 2018

Conditions/Status 1. Completion of CEQA and approval of Responsible Agency Findings - incomplete, expected January 24, 2018
2. Landowner Agreement – required as a condition of the agreement
3. Habitat Maintained for 15 Years – required as a condition of the landowner agreement

Grant Agreement Status Grant Agreement Pending

Update The Board awarded funding for this project at the January 2018 Board meeting. A grant agreement will be executed this fiscal year.

Project Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Category 1)

Amount Awarded \$89,450

County All Delta Counties

Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-005 (1505 on map)

Grantee California Land Stewardship Institute

Overview Develop a program for working with farmers to improve water quality, which is specific to the crops grown and water quality concerns in Delta counties

Conditions/Status All conditions have been met.

Grant Agreement Status Active as of 1/9/17

Update The grantee has completed data review to identify Delta crops for which Best Management Practices will be developed. The project team held its first advisory team meeting in February.

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Project Sherman Island Wetland Restoration Project Phase III (Category 1)

Amount Awarded \$100,000

County Sacramento

Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-008 (1508 on map)

Grantee Ducks Unlimited

Overview Plan and design for the restoration of 1600 acres of emergent wetlands

Board Action/Deadline Conditional Approval – July 2016

Conditions/Status All conditions have been met.

Grant Agreement Status Active as of 10/20/2017.

Update The first progress report was submitted in February 2018. The grantee has begun modelling and is negotiating a site access agreement with the Department of Water Resources.

Project Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Category 2)

Amount Awarded \$836,409

County Contra Costa

Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-009 (1509 on map)

Grantee American Rivers

Overview Convert denuded flood control channel at the confluence of Marsh, Sand, and Deer Creeks into a healthy stream corridor

Board Action/Deadline Funding Reserved – September 2016

Conditions/Status

1. Landowner Agreement – required as a condition of the agreement
2. Habitat Maintained for 15 Years – required as a condition of the landowner agreement

Grant Agreement Status Active as of 6/27/17

Update The grant agreement has been executed. Landowner Access Agreement is being finalized between the Grantee and the Contra Costa County Water Conservation and Flood Control District.

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**Project Paradise Cut Flood and Conservation Easement Acquisition Project
(Category 2)**

Amount Awarded \$2,000,000

County San Joaquin

Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-010 (1510 on map)

Grantee San Joaquin Resource Conservation District

Overview Purchase flood and conservation easements to protect agriculture for Swainson's Hawk and to protect the opportunity to build a new flood bypass at Paradise Cut in the future

Board Action/Deadline Funding Reserved – March 2017

Conditions/Status All conditions have been met.

Grant Agreement Status Grant Agreement Pending

Update The grantee is pursuing several avenues for advancing this acquisition given the complex legal issues surrounding the project. The grantee has committed to making a decision regarding the viability of this project by August 2018 with a goal of closing escrow in June 2019.

**Project Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Planning Project
(Category 1)**

Amount Awarded \$99,924

County San Joaquin

Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-012 (1512 on map)

Grantee San Joaquin Resource Conservation District

Overview Develop a conservation and flood management plan for a new flood bypass at Paradise Cut

Board Action/Deadline Conditional Approval – July 2016

Conditions/Status All conditions have been met.

Grant Agreement Status Active as of 7/6/17

Update The project is meeting conditions per the grant scope of work. A progress report was submitted in February 2018.

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Project Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project (Category 2)

Amount Awarded \$688,195.64

County Yolo

Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-016 (1516 on map)

Grantee Yolo Resource Conservation District

Overview Restore up to 5 miles (22 acres) of new, floodway-compatible wildlife and pollinator habitat, providing an exit and transit corridor for wildlife during floods

Conditions/Status All conditions have been met.

Grant Agreement Status Active as of 1/24/17

Update The project has encountered a permitting delay due to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board's concerns regarding the project's impacts on the Yolo Bypass's flood capacity. The grantee and Conservancy staff are meeting with the Flood Board on March 20, 2018. The grantee has completed half of the disking and seeding described in the grant agreement. These activities do not require a Flood Board permit.

Project Lower Marsh and Sand Creek Watershed Riparian Restoration Planning Project (Category 1)

Amount Awarded \$73,493

County Contra Costa

Conservancy ID Prop 1-Y1-2015-019 (1519 on map)

Grantee American Rivers

Overview Improve restoration project efficiency within the Marsh/Sand Creek watershed through development of a programmatic CEQA document and permit, including stormwater planning.

Conditions/Status All conditions have been met.

Grant Agreement Status Active as of 10/19/16

Update The grantee has selected a consultant to complete the programmatic CEQA document and is working closely with project partners on the C3 Stormwater Handbook for Contra Costa County.

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BACKGROUND

The Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program funds \$50 million in multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities. The Grant Program is a two-step process, requiring both a concept proposal and a full proposal. Full proposals are subject to a rigorous scoring and evaluation process by both staff and a professional review panel, and are recommended for funding based upon score and funding availability.

Contact

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