



Proposition 1 Grant Program 2017-18 Staff Recommendation

I. Project Overview

Project Title	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2		
Applicant	American Rivers		
Project Number	Prop 1-1711		
Category	Implementation	Funding Request	\$999,318
County	Contra Costa	Total Project Cost	\$5,864,894
Score	85.5	Funding Recommended	\$999,318
Staff Recommendation	Reserve funds pending CEQA document submittal and approval of the responsible agency findings and conditioned upon submittal and approval of the items enumerated in the recommendation below.		

II. Staff Recommendations

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board reserve funds for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2 (Prop 1-1711) to allow the applicant to complete the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and pursue Board approval of the Responsible Agency findings. Reserving funds does not constitute approval of funding for the project and the Board reserves the discretion to approve or reject the funding request. CEQA documents must be submitted and approved by the Delta Conservancy by October 1, 2018.

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve conditions that will apply if the project is subsequently approved after the completion of the CEQA process. Funding for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2 is conditional upon the submittal and approval of the items enumerated below.

Conditions of Approval:

- (1) Revised budget that clarifies and/or justifies the outreach and general direct expenses funding request, and that corrects inconsistencies in the amount and timing of funding requested.
- (2) Additional information explaining the decision not to hire an engineer to aid in project design.
- (3) Appropriate engineering design documents to qualify as an implementation project.
- (4) Plan for addressing Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District comments indicating that the design, implementation, and maintenance of the project should take into consideration recommendations to prevent creation of vector habitat.
- (5) Memo addressing Delta Stewardship Council comments recommending that the project ensure that it is aligned with the Delta Plan’s policy recommendations regarding restoring habitat at appropriate elevations and avoiding the spread of invasive nonnative species.

Conditional approvals must be resolved by October 1, 2018.

Staff has prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application. The Conservancy has received comments on the proposal from the Professional Review

Panel, the Delta Stewardship Council, the Office of the Delta Watermaster, and local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes that responded to the local notification process. Prior to entering into a grant agreement, staff will work with the applicant to further refine the project's scope of work and to address any remaining comments.

III. Project Summary

The Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2 will incorporate the Carmel Estates stormwater basin into the larger Three Creeks Parkway Restoration project that is currently being coordinated by American Rivers and funded, in part, by the Delta Conservancy. A related project was approved for funding in Cycle 1 that will establish 12.5 acres of riparian habitat along approximately 4,000 linear feet of Marsh Creek; the grant was executed on June 27, 2017. This new phase of the project will enhance and facilitate the existing project: it will add one acre of habitat to the current Three Creeks Parkway Restoration project, thereby enhancing the ecological benefits of that project while satisfying flood conveyance needs to protect the local area, and it will allow the project team to design around a sewer line that bisects the restoration, an issue that must be addressed for the larger project to move forward. This project will expand the size of the current restoration project by one acre, maintain flood conveyance capacity of Three Creeks Project, improve the functionality of the water quality detention basin to reduce the flow of polluted stormwater into Marsh Creek and the Delta, and maximize the amount of revegetation that can occur throughout the 4,000 linear feet of the Three Creeks Project. This project is located in Contra Costa County in the City of Brentwood, CA. The project site is privately owned, but negotiations are underway for the landowner to donate the one acre parcel to the Contra Costa County Water Conservation and Flood Control District. Land tenure must be secured before the Conservancy can reimburse any grant expenses. See Attachment 1 for a project location map.

Delta Conservancy funding will be used for project construction, revegetation, and public outreach and agency coordination, as well as project management, monitoring and maintenance activities, and indirect expenses.

The project is proposed by American Rivers, which has demonstrated that the project team has sufficient expertise, capacity, and partnerships to successfully carry out this project.

The proposal requests \$999,318 from the Delta Conservancy. Cost share commitments were not supported by commitment letters and in-kind funds were not matched.

This project is ready to begin work as of October 2018. The Contra Costa County Water Conservation and Flood Control District as the CEQA Lead Agency prepared and approved an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the larger Three Creeks Restoration Project. The Lead Agency will not approve the project or file a Notice of Determination until a funding agreement is signed between the Lead Agency and the applicant. The Delta Conservancy made responsible agency findings for the larger Three Creeks Restoration Project at the November 21, 2016 Board meeting. The new phase of the project presently proposed for funding was not included within the project area analyzed in the CEQA document previously prepared for the project and will, therefore, require preparation and approval of further environmental documentation prior to the Conservancy's approval of the requested funding. This implementation project will provide benefits that align with Proposition 1 and State priorities, and that will be maintained for at least 15 years.

IV. Consistency with State Priorities

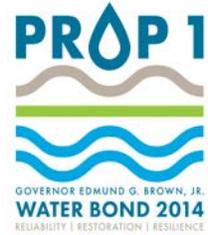
The project is consistent with and directly and specifically links to multiple actions and priorities identified in Proposition 1, the California Water Action Plan, the Conservancy's enabling legislation and strategic plan, and the Delta Plan. The project's consistency with State plans is listed below.



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Prop. 1

- 79732(a)(4): Protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for in-stream flow.
- 79732(a)(12): Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.

California Water Action Plan

- Action 3: Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta.
- Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems.

Delta Conservancy's enabling legislation

- Section 32301 (i)(1): Protect and enhance habitat and habitat restoration.
- Section 32301 (i)(5): Increase the resilience of the Delta to the effects of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission.
- Section 32301 (i)(6): Protect and improve water quality.
- Section 32301 (i)(9): Protect, conserve, and restore the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical, and living resources.

Delta Conservancy's Strategic Plan

- Goal 2: Fund and implement high priority projects that increase Delta ecosystem viability through sustaining critical habitat, restoring ecological function, improving water quality, protecting listed species, increasing ecosystem diversity, and managing for climate change; and continue to work collaboratively to define multi-benefit restoration.

Delta Plan

- ER P2: Restore Habitats at Appropriate Elevations.
- ER R2: Prioritize and Implement Projects that Restore Delta Habitat

V. Local Support

The proposal demonstrates strong local support from the Contra Costa County Water Conservation and Flood Control District, the City of Brentwood, the Carmel Estates Homeowners Association, Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed, Assemblyman Frazier, Senator Glazer, and the East Bay Regional Park District. The proposal details an approach to inform and consult with all affected parties and to avoid/reduce/mitigate conflicts with existing and adjacent land uses. The proposal includes a resolution of support from the Contra Costa County Water Conservation and Flood Control District, but it does not include a county resolution of support.

VI. Scientific Merit

The proposal describes and references the scientific basis of the project and incorporates the best available science. The proposal demonstrates efforts to develop an adaptive management approach and sufficient capacity and resources to implement it. The proposal addresses climate impacts/benefits and

provides a mechanism for incorporating climate change considerations into the project. Outcomes and outputs utilize standard measures, are achievable and connect to objectives and goals. The proposal includes a clear process for measuring and monitoring progress towards stated outcomes and outputs and demonstrates an approach for collecting and managing data, and for reporting results beyond the applicant's organization.



Attachment 1. Project Map

