

*Proposition 1 Grant Program 2017-18 Staff Recommendation*

**I. Project Overview**

<b>Project Title</b>	Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project		
<b>Applicant</b>	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy		
<b>Project Number</b>	1709		
<b>Category</b>	Planning	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$1,225,000
<b>County</b>	Contra Costa	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$1,295,000
<b>Score</b>	78.5	<b>Funding Recommended</b>	\$1,225,000
<b>Staff Recommendation</b>	Approve requested funds conditional upon submittal and approval of the items enumerated in the recommendation below.		

**II. Staff Recommendations**

Delta Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve funding for the Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Prop 1-1709) proposed by East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC) conditional upon the submittal and approval of the items enumerated below.

**Conditions of Approval:**

- (1) Letter of authorization to apply for grant funding to the Conservancy.
- (2) Revised budget that clarifies the total amount requested and justifies equipment use.

If conditions are not cleared by August 1, 2018, the Conservancy will revoke the award.

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, and local governments and districts, water agencies, and tribes that responded to the local notification process. The Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District submitted comments indicating that the design, implementation, and maintenance of the project should take into consideration recommendations to prevent creation of vector habitat. The applicant must satisfactorily address these comments as a condition of the grant agreement. 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 Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project will advance planning for restoring wetlands, and managing and treating stormwater. The project will identify and further develop a preferred alternative from a range of conceptual alternatives currently under development. In the implementation phase, this project will yield flood protection, habitat restoration, water quality benefits, and recreational features. The project site is in the community of Knightsen in unincorporated Contra Costa County. The land is publicly owned and is currently cultivated agricultural land. See Attachment 1 for a project location map.

Delta Conservancy funding will be used for design and permitting to bring the project to “shovel ready” status. Specific tasks will include: 1) selecting a preferred alternative; 2) hydrologic and hydraulic modeling to support the design; 3) preparing geotechnical recommendations to inform the design of new levees to protect neighboring properties; 4) documenting the design of the preferred alternative in a report; 5) completing CEQA compliance and environmental permitting requirements; and 6) developing construction plans and specifications for wetland restoration, flood protection, and recreational features. Funds will also be used to cover project management.

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

The proposal requests \$1,225,000 from the Delta Conservancy. Cost share is provided by ECCCHC for a total contribution of \$70,000.

This project is ready to begin work as of November 2018. This planning project will advance planning for a specific, on-the-ground project the benefits of which align with Proposition 1 and State priorities.

#### **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, and the Conservancy's enabling legislation and strategic plan. Information pertaining to the project's link to the Delta Plan was not provided in the proposal. The project's consistency with State plans is listed below.

##### 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 instream flow.
- 79732(a)(9): Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.
- 79732(a)(11): Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.
- 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 8: Increase Flood Protection.

##### Delta Conservancy's enabling legislation

- Section 32301(i)(1): Protect and enhance habitat and habitat restoration.
- Section 32301(i)(3): Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation.
- Section 32301(i)(6): Protect and improve water quality.

##### Delta Conservancy's Strategic Plan

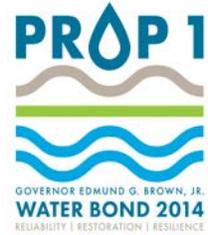
- Goal 2: Fund and implement high priority projects that increase Delta ecosystem viability through sustaining critical habitat, restoring ecological function, improving water quality, protecting listed species, increasing ecosystem diversity, and managing for climate change; and continue to work collaboratively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



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

*A California State Agency*



#### **V. Local Support**

The proposal demonstrates strong local support from the Knightsen Community Services District, the Contra Costa County Water Agency, the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the Contra Costa County Resource Conservation 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 Contra Costa 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.

Attachment 1. Project Map

