



**Proposition 1 Grant Program 2017-18 Staff Recommendation**

**I. Project Overview**

<b>Project Title</b>	Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan		
<b>Applicant</b>	City of West Sacramento		
<b>Project Number</b>	Prop 1-1712		
<b>Category</b>	Planning	<b>Funding Request</b>	\$592,500
<b>County</b>	Yolo	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$592,500
<b>Score</b>	77.03	<b>Funding Recommended</b>	\$592,500
<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 Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan project (#Prop 1-1712) proposed by The City of West Sacramento conditional upon the submittal and approval of the items enumerated below.

**Conditions of Approval:**

- (1) Revised budget that moves ineligible costs from the subcontracts section of budget to the correct budget section.

Conditional approvals must be resolved by August 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, 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 Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan project will develop a detailed habitat restoration plan that will restore historic physical and ecological processes at Bees Lakes, which were originally created by a breach in the levee adjacent to the Sacramento River and that has been degraded by uncontrolled human activities. The purpose of the Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan is to restore disturbed riparian habitat, control non-native species, improve pond water quality, improve the ability of the Bees Lakes area to support listed species, and minimize its potential to adversely affect public safety by better managing recreational access. If off-channel habitat can be restored, this project would represent a unique opportunity to provide new habitat within the tidal limits of the Delta for listed fish species including salmon and steelhead and to connect two riverine habitat restoration projects being constructed on the Sacramento River. This project is located in Yolo County at the City of West Sacramento’s Southport community on the Sacramento River’s west bank. The project site is publicly

owned and consists of two ponds surrounded by riparian woodland. See Attachment 1 for a project location map.

Delta Conservancy funding will be used to convene and manage a stakeholder advisory group that will help develop, analyze, and evaluate, potential alternatives for this site, ultimately selecting and advancing a preferred alternative. Specific tasks include defining environmental baseline conditions, establishing and managing a stakeholder advisory group, developing conceptual restoration alternatives, analyzing and evaluating alternatives, defining a preferred alternative, preparing 65 percent design plans, completing the CEQA process and preparing a National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment, as well as project management. Conservancy staff will work with the grantee as an active member of the advisory group to evaluate alternatives.

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

The proposal project requests \$592,500 from the Delta Conservancy.

This project is ready to begin work as of October 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, the Conservancy's enabling legislation and strategic plan, and the Delta Plan. The project's consistency with State plans is listed below.

##### Prop. 1

- Section 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.

##### California Water Action Plan

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

##### Delta Conservancy's enabling legislation

- Section 32322(b)(1): Protect and enhance habitat and habitat restoration.
- Section 32322(b)(3): Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation in the Delta.

##### Delta Conservancy's Strategic Plan

- Goal 1: Promote multi-benefit Delta working landscapes and a robust Delta tourism economy, in collaboration with local stakeholders and the Delta Protection Commission, to enhance the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta.
- 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

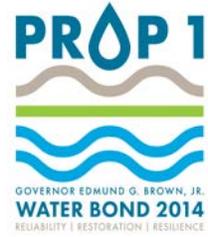
- ER P2: Restore Habitats at Appropriate Elevations.
- ER R2: Prioritize and Implement Projects that Restore Delta Habitat.
- DP R11: Provide New and Protect Existing Recreation Opportunities.



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

The proposal demonstrates strong local support from West Sacramento Flood Control Agency and the Yolo Habitat Conservancy. 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 Yolo 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

