Proposition 1 Grant Program Cycle 4 Staff Recommendation

PROJECT OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Marsh Creek Channel Restoration</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicant</td>
<td>American Rivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Number</td>
<td>Prop 1-1809</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Type</td>
<td>Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Request</td>
<td>$519,494</td>
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<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Contra Costa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Project Cost</td>
<td>$525,208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Score</td>
<td>86.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Recommended</td>
<td>$519,494</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Recommendation</td>
<td>Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve funding for the Marsh Creek Channel Restoration project (#Prop 1-1809) proposed by American Rivers.</td>
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Staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application. Conservancy staff and the Professional Review Panel (consisting of the following agencies: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delta Protection Commission, Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – National Marine Fisheries Service, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service) have scored this proposal against the established criteria. Additional comments on the proposal have been provided by the Delta Stewardship Council, and any 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.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Marsh Creek Channel Restoration project is proposed to complete design and permitting for a multi-benefit ecosystem restoration project that will improve riparian and floodplain habitat on 3 acres along 775-linear feet of the Marsh Creek channel. It will create an ecological corridor through the communities of Brentwood and Oakley and restore habitat for native birds, fish, and other native species. This project will advance planning for restoration of riparian vegetation and frequently inundated floodplain to provide habitat for native fish and wildlife, improve water quality, increase resiliency to a changing climate, and enhance the trail user experience along Marsh Creek. This project is located in Contra Costa County (a map is included at the end of this document). The project site is comprised of a publicly owned flood control channel and a privately owned parcel slated for development.

The applicant has requested $519,494 from the Conservancy for this project. Cost share of $5,715 is provided by the applicant. Conservancy funding will be used to engage with the general public and State and local agencies to coordinate development of restoration plans and secure access to sites;
complete California Environmental Quality Act processes, environmental permitting, and site surveys; create detailed plans, hydrologic modelling, and cost estimates; monitor baseline conditions; and secure implementation funding.

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

This project has a proposed start date of February 2020. This planning project will advance planning for a specific, on-the-ground project, the benefits of which align with Proposition 1 and State priorities.

**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, the Delta Plan and other state and regional plans. The project’s consistency with State plans is listed below.

**Proposition 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 instream flow.

**California Water Action Plan**

- Action 3: Achieve the Co-equal Goals for the Delta.
- Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems.
- 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)(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.
- Section 32301(i)(12): Promote environmental education.

**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: Funding and implementing high priority projects to increase Delta ecosystem viability through sustaining critical habitat, restoring ecological function, improving water quality, protecting listed species, increasing diversity, and managing for climate change.

**Delta Plan**

- Chapter 4: Protect, Restore and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem.
• Chapter 5: Protect and Enhance the Unique Cultural, Recreational, Natural Resource, and Agricultural Values of the California Delta as an Evolving Place.
• Chapter 6: Improve Water Quality to Protect Human Health and the Environment.
• Chapter 7: Reduce Risk to People, Property, and State Interests in the Delta.

LOCAL SUPPORT
The proposal demonstrates strong local support from State Assemblyman Jim Frazier, Contra Costa County Supervisor Diane Burgis, the Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, the East Bay Regional Park District, the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, the City of Brentwood, the City of Oakley, Rainflow Developments, LLC, EarthTeam, and Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed. 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 does include a county resolution of support.

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 with sufficient capacity and resources to implement that approach. The proposal addresses climate impacts/benefits and provides a mechanism for incorporating climate change considerations into the project.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE
Move that the Board approve a grant not to exceed $519,494 to American Rivers for the Marsh Creek Channel Restoration project.
Project Location Map:Marsh Creek Channel Restoration Project

Applicant: American Rivers
Project Location Map: Marsh Creek Channel Restoration Project

Legend:
- Green: Marsh Creek Channel Restoration Project
- Yellow: Adjacent private properties
- Red: 75-foot HCP/NCCP stream setback from top of bank
- Blue: Marsh Creek channel owned by Flood Control District (only area under roads and railroad)

Applicant: American Rivers

Meeting Date: May 22, 2019

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Meeting Date: May 22, 2019

Project Map