Proposition 68 Program Update

Staff Report

UPDATE

Proposition 68 is the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 45) that was passed by California voters on June 5, 2018. Proposition 68 makes $12,000,000 available to the Conservancy to use for the purposes specified in its governing statute (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act, Public Resources Code, Division 22.3). The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy’s (Conservancy) Proposition 68 Grant Program will fund projects that support community and economic development in the Delta in a manner that is complementary to ecosystem restoration and other Conservancy programs.

Proposition 68 enables the Conservancy to fulfill parts of its governing statute that have not previously been fully addressed, such as:

- Protecting and preserving Delta agriculture and working landscapes;
- Providing increased opportunities for tourism and recreation;
- Promoting Delta legacy communities and economic vitality;
- Protecting, conserving, and restoring the region’s physical, agricultural, cultural, historical, and living resources;
- Promoting environmental education.

-- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act (section 32301(i))

The Conservancy hired a Community Projects Supervisor in March 2019. That position is leading development of the Proposition 68 program, beginning with developing the grant program guidelines, and will be supported by a Community Projects Analyst. Staff is currently conducting research and interviews to understand what approach other conservancies have taken, answer questions in areas in which the bond language is broad, and work towards developing guidelines most appropriate to the Conservancy’s mission and that meet General Obligation Bond Law.

Staff is designing a program intended to increase the Conservancy’s network and help to establish the Conservancy as a resource and trusted partner in the Delta. The program will fund projects through a non-competitive grant program. Project proponents will submit high level concepts to Conservancy staff who will then work closely with proponents to develop the concept. Those projects that are viable, are consistent with the Conservancy’s grant program, and meet Conservancy priorities will be presented to the Board for consideration of funding.

Staff will conduct public outreach through activities such as presentations at existing community meetings, sending electronic notifications, and holding informal conversations with stakeholders.
Outreach will allow staff to receive input and address questions early in the process of drafting the grant guidelines, which will be presented to the Board for consideration this fall. If the Board approves the draft Guidelines, staff will post them for public comment. During the public comment period, staff will hold three public workshops in different geographic regions of the Delta. Staff will take public comments into consideration in developing final guidelines to be presented to the Board for consideration. Once the Board approves the Guidelines, they will be posted on the Conservancy’s web site and proponents may bring project ideas to the Conservancy. Staff anticipates opening the grant program by the end of 2019.

Contact
Robyn Krock, Community Projects Supervisor
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
robyn.krock@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 375-2088