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Request for Approval to Amend the Scope of Work for the Nutria Eradication Project, Phase 2

Project Title	Nutria Eradication Project – Phase Two
Grantee	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Project Number	Prop 1-1813
Award Year	2019
County	Multiple
Category	Implementation
Original Award Amount	\$8,483,080.00
Amended Request Amount	\$8,483,080.00
Amendment Request (Term, Scope or Budget)	Scope

Staff Report

This agenda item presents to the Board for consideration a request to amend the scope of work for the Nutria Eradication Project – Phase Two grant (#Prop 1-1813).

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve an amendment to the scope of work for the Nutria Eradication Project – Phase Two to reduce the nutria detector dog project from three years to two, add purchase of twelve vehicles, and add construction of nutria pens.

DESCRIPTION

The grantee (California Department of Fish and Wildlife) has requested an amendment to the scope of work and budget for the Nutria Eradication Project – Phase Two. The requested changes to the scope of work are being presented to the Board for consideration. This agreement has not yet been executed; changing the scope prior to executing the grant agreement will allow this grant to move forward in the most efficient manner.

The grantee is requesting to change the scope as follows.

- 1) Reduce the nutria detector dog project from three years to two; due to delays in the start of this project, there is insufficient time to spend all of the funds in the current grant budget within the grant funding term.
- 2) Purchase additional project vehicles that are needed for project personnel to carry out nutria eradication activities throughout the extensive area of this project.

- 3) Construct nutria pens to hold captive nutria that will be necessary for the Judas nutria project. Judas nutria are sterilized, collared nutria that will be used to detect remaining wild nutria during the final stages of eradication. The grantee will capture and breed Judas nutria now, to ensure that they are available as nutria become scarce over the course of the project.

The requested changes to the scope of work will require corresponding budget changes, which Conservancy staff can process should the Board approve the amended scope of work. The budget changes will reduce the amount of funding in the nutria detector dog subcontractor line item. Those funds will be moved into a new line item for the procurement of twelve (12) project vehicles, a new line item for the construction of nutria holding pens, and to the personnel and indirect cost categories to cover the hiring of scientific aids to allow project staff to economically cover twice the area.

Specifically, the budget changes necessary if the scope of work is amended are:

1. Reduce the nutria detector dog subcontract line item by \$1,046,835;
2. Add a new line item for the procurement of twelve (12) vehicles with a budget of \$420,000;
3. Add a new line item for the construction of nutria holding pens with a budget of \$400,000;
4. Increase the personnel budget by \$189,030 to allow hiring of additional scientific aides; and
5. Increase the indirect costs associated with personnel by \$37,805

This amendment will not impact Proposition 1 program delivery or capacity, nor will it impact programmatic performance measures. The changes, when incorporated into the grant agreement, will not make any difference in the overall Proposition 1 budget. If the Board does not approve this amendment, the grant scope and budget will remain unchanged and the grantee will not be able to procure vehicles for staff and build infrastructure for captive nutria, impeding the grantee's ability to start, sustain, and finalize eradication efforts.

BACKGROUND

On May 22, 2019, the Conservancy Board awarded \$8,483,080 to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the Nutria Eradication Project – Phase Two. This project seeks to eradicate Nutria from California, and builds on the Conservancy's award of \$1,125,577 to CDFW on March 28, 2018 for the first phase of the Nutria Eradication project. CDFW has described a five- to seven-year program requiring up to \$35 million. With Conservancy funding, CDFW has secured \$16.1 million to be spent over the next three years with funding coming from general fund, CDFW, US Department of Agriculture, and the Wildlife Conservation Board. CDFW continues to seek additional funding. Nutria cause significant negative ecological and economic impacts, including damage to wetlands, riparian habitat, restoration efforts, levees and other infrastructure, agriculture crops, and water supplies. This project is proposed to prevent the spread of Nutria further into the Delta, limiting their ability to harm Delta ecosystems, water quality, infrastructure, and agriculture. This project is to be carried out across the state of California in areas of suitable Nutria habitat. This project will take place both inside and outside of the legal Delta on both public and privately-owned land that is currently in a wide range of uses including commercial agriculture, private duck clubs, and public preserves and refuges.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

Move that the Board approve an amendment to the scope of work for the Nutria Eradication Project – Phase Two grant to:

- *Reduce the nutria detector dog program from three years to two,*
- *Add purchase of twelve vehicles, and*
- *Add construction of nutria pens.*

Contact

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