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Request for Approval of Proposition 68 Grant Guidelines Draft for Public Review

Staff Report

This agenda item presents the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Draft Grant Guidelines (Grant Guidelines) to the Board for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Draft Grant Guidelines, so that it may be released for public comment.

DESCRIPTION

Staff has prepared a draft of the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Draft Grant Guidelines (Grant Guidelines). The grant program has been designed to promote a robust Delta economy and support the vitality of Delta communities.

Staff conducted community outreach to gather information on potential projects and help inform development of the Grant Guidelines, ensuring that the Conservancy's Proposition 68 program meets the needs of Delta communities within the scope of the Conservancy's mission and priorities. Outreach included presentations at community meetings; meetings organized by other agencies, such as the Delta Protection Commission; providing public comment at city council meetings; and informal conversations with stakeholders. Staff will maintain outreach once the program is open for proposals.

Additionally, staff participates in agency-wide bond coordination meetings, has met with other conservancies, and has reviewed other Proposition 68 programs to aid in developing a program that is consistent with state implementation of the bond.

Staff received support for the general application process and program methodology from the Board at the May and July 2019 Board meetings and from the Delta Protection Commission. Staff presented a discussion draft of the Grant Guidelines to the Program and Policy Subcommittee in August 2019. Feedback from the subcommittee and Delta Protection Commission has been incorporated into the draft document presented to the Board in this agenda item.

If the Board approves the draft Grant Guidelines, staff will:

1. Post the draft Grant Guidelines for public comment by October 1, 2019.
2. Notice, through the Conservancy's email listserve and social media, that the Grant Guidelines are available for public comment.
3. Host a public meeting to solicit comments on the draft Grant Guidelines.
4. Close the public comment period on October 31, 2019.

5. Review and edit the Grant Guidelines as appropriate based on comments received.
6. Request that the Board approve the final Grant Guidelines at the December 4, 2019 Board meeting.
7. Open the program to project proponents on January 2, 2020, contingent upon Board approval of the Grant Guidelines in December.

The Draft Grant Guidelines are included as an attachment to this report.

BACKGROUND

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 Conservancy's 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.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

I move that the Board approve the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Draft Grant Guidelines.

Contact

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