



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

A California State Agency

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***Consideration of Staff Recommendation Related to Proposition 1 Grant Funding for the Implementing Resilient Circulation and Drainage Project in Suisun Marsh Managed Wetlands for Improved Wildlife Habitats and Water Quality Project***

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This agenda item presents to the Board for its consideration staff's recommendation related to the application for funding for the Implementing Resilient Circulation and Drainage Project in Suisun Marsh Managed Wetlands for Improved Wildlife Habitats and Water Quality project submitted by the Suisun Resource Conservation District (#Prop 1-1811) as part of Cycle 4 of the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program (Proposition 1 Grant).

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board deny funding because this project, after review by the Professional Review Panel and Conservancy staff using the scoring criteria adopted by the Board, received a score of 64.3, which does not meet the 75-point minimum threshold to be considered for funding, as set forth in the publicly-reviewed and Board-approved Cycle 4 Grant Guidelines.

**DESCRIPTION**

The application for Proposition 1 Grant funding for the Implementing Resilient Circulation and Drainage Projects in Suisun Marsh Managed Wetlands for Improved Wildlife Habitats and Water Quality project received a score of 64.3 points. The minimum threshold to be considered for funding is 75 points. Conservancy staff and the Professional Review Panel (consisting of the following agencies: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delta Protection Commission, State Water Resources Control Board, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries), and United States Fish and Wildlife Service) scored the proposal against the established criteria.

The proposal received inadequate scores on criteria related to Long Term Viability, Readiness, and Scientific Merit and Performance Measures. Reviewers felt that the proposal was not clear or complete to the extent that reviewers were unable to adequately evaluate the merits of the proposed project. Some parts of the application were left blank and others were missing. Ultimately, reviewers did not feel confident that the project would yield watershed benefits.

**BACKGROUND**

This grant application was initially brought to the Board for consideration at the May 22, 2019 meeting. The applicant contested staff's recommendation, noting that the application was not well-prepared but requesting that the Board approve funding regardless. The Board was unable to obtain six affirmative votes, which is the minimum required for a motion to pass, necessitating that the matter be brought back before the Board for consideration.

The project proposes to implement drainage projects in the Suisun Marsh with the stated goal of maximizing ecological benefits of managed wetland habitats and functions for a range of resident and migratory fish and wildlife species. The project is an implementation project that would take place in Solano County. The applicant requested \$1,318,460 in Proposition 1 funds from the Conservancy.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:**

*Move to deny funding for the Implementing Resilient Circulation and Drainage Projects in Suisun Marsh Managed Wetlands for Improved Wildlife Habitats and Water Quality project.*

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