



Proposition 1 Program Update Staff Report

Cycle 4 Update

At the May 22, 2019 Board meeting, the Board directed staff to work with applicants for three projects and present recommendations for each for consideration at a future Board meeting. Staff has worked with the three applicants as directed to address the concerns raised during the Cycle 4 review process. At the September 25, 2019 Board meeting, the Board approved funding for one of the three projects; it now appears in the Approved Project Update section with the Cycle 4 projects, below. An update on the remaining projects is provided here.

- *Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve, submitted by the Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust (#Prop 1-1801).* The project proponents have submitted materials. Staff are reviewing materials and plan to make a recommendation on this project to the Board at the January 2020 Board meeting.
- *Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta-Carbona, submitted by Banta-Carbona Irrigation District (#Prop 1-1810).* The project proponents have submitted materials. Staff are reviewing materials and plan to make a recommendation on this project to the Board at the January 2020 Board meeting.

Approved Project Update

In its first four grant cycles, the Conservancy committed approximately \$35.3 million for Proposition 1 projects. A brief overview of each grant cycle, including the status of each funded project for which there is an active or pending grant agreement, is provided herein.

Cycle 4 – Fiscal Year 2018-2019

The Board awarded approximately \$11.9 million for eight projects (seven planning and one implementation). Staff is working with grantees to negotiate eight grant agreements.

	Blacklock Restoration: Phragmites Control Study (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$387,440
County	Solano
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1803
Grantee	Department of Water Resources
Overview	Test methods for controlling invasive species in future restoration at the Blacklock restoration site.
Grant Agreement Status	Grant Agreement Pending
New Information	None

	Delta Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$347,481
County	Solano
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1804
Grantee	Solano Resource Conservation District
Overview	Planning for restoration and enhancement of waterways and edge habitats on working lands in Solano County.
Grant Agreement Status	Grant Agreement Pending
New Information	Grant agreement sent to the grantee for review.

	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Project, Phase 2 (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$265,254
County	San Joaquin
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1806
Grantee	San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
Overview	Outreach and planning to advance the Paradise Cut Flood Bypass in San Joaquin County.
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	None

	Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$984,695
County	Yolo
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1807
Grantee	Reclamation District 999
Overview	Planning for habitat and flood control enhancements along Elk Slough.
Board Action/Deadline	Approved – September 2019
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	Staff is developing a grant agreement.

	Lower San Joaquin Riparian Corridor (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$522,027
County	San Joaquin
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1808
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along the lower San Joaquin River.
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	None

	Marsh Creek Channel Restoration (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$519,494
County	Contra Costa
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1809
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Planning for Marsh Creek floodplain and riparian habitat restoration.
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	None

	Nutria Eradication Project, Phase 2 (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$8,483,080
County	Multiple
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1813
Grantee	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Overview	Surveys for and removal of invasive species to minimize or avoid impacts to wetland habitats and water quality.
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	None

	Oakley Creekside Park Restoration (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$436,465
County	Contra Costa
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1814
Grantee	City of Oakley
Overview	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along Marsh Creek.
Grant Agreement Status	Grant Agreement Pending
New Information	None

Cycle 3 – Fiscal Year 2017-2018

The Board awarded approximately \$16.0 million for eight projects (four planning and four implementation). Seven grant agreements have been executed; staff is negotiating one grant agreement.

	Bay Point Habitat Restoration Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$2,100,000
County	Contra Costa
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1701
Grantee	East Bay Regional Park District
Overview	Restore 44 acres of wetland and grassland and 5,595 linear feet of saline emergent marsh channel at Bay Point Regional Shoreline Park.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 4/10/19
New Information	Project has started construction.

	Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms: Improving aquatic habitat resiliency on working lands along the Sacramento River (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$661,189
County	Yolo
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1702
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Develop restoration design plans for seven different project sites at River Garden Farms to restore ecosystem function in floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitats and provide habitat connectivity on a working farm.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 1/22/19
New Information	New staff has been hired, and the project is starting to move forward as scheduled.

	Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$1,225,000
County	Contra Costa
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1709
Grantee	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Overview	Advance planning for restoring wetlands and managing and treating storm water on public land in Knightsen.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 3/20/19
New Information	This project is delayed and facing issues related to local support. The project timeline is delayed due to a delay in a previous project phase, not funded by the Conservancy. Additionally, the Knightsen Community Services District Board (KCSD) has withdrawn its support for implementation of a future project, pending responses to questions that will be addressed through the planning project. The Conservancy is working with the grantee and the KCSD to resolve issues.

	Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$8,700,800
County	Sacramento
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1710
Grantee	Department of Water Resources
Overview	Restore wetland and riparian habitat to the 334-acre site by breaching the levee and reintroducing tidal and seasonal flooding, and by establishing native vegetation.
Grant Agreement Status	Grant Agreement Pending
New Information	Grantee took several months to provide information requested by Conservancy staff (description of the previous and future phases of the project, and clarification of management roles among involved agencies). Staff is now finalizing a grant agreement.

	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2 (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$999,318
County	Contra Costa
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1711
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Add one acre of habitat to the current Three Creeks Parkway Restoration project, thereby enhancing the ecological benefits of that project, while satisfying flood conveyance needs to protect the local area and allowing the larger project to move forward.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 7/26/2019
New Information	The landowner (an HOA) has voted to sell the property where this project is located to the Contra Costa County Water Conservation and Flood Control District. This sale is projected to occur before the end of the calendar year and will simplify landowner access requirements for the implementation project.

	Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$592,500
County	Yolo
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1712
Grantee	City of West Sacramento
Overview	Develop a detailed habitat restoration plan to restore disturbed riparian habitat, control non-native species, improve pond water quality, and improve the ability of the Bees Lakes area to support listed species.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 1/9/19
New Information	The grantee is developing design alternatives for the site.

	Stone Lakes Restoration Project (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$635,573
County	Sacramento
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1713
Grantee	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Overview	Planning to restore approximately 257 acres of seasonal wetland and 39 acres of riparian seasonal wetland, and enhance 20 acres of existing low-quality wetland on the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 4/2/19
New Information	The grantee has completed the wetland delineation of the site.

	Nutria Eradication Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$1,125,577
County	Multiple
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1718
Grantee	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Overview	Eliminate nutria from all known and discovered locations in California to prevent nutria from causing significant ecological damage in the Delta.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 1/14/19
New Information	None

Cycle 2 – Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The Board awarded approximately \$4.4 million for four projects (one planning and three implementation).

	Dutch Slough Revegetation (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$2,900,000
County	Contra Costa
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1602
Grantee	Reclamation District 2137
Overview	Establish and maintain 468 acres of native tidal marsh, riparian, and grassland vegetation at the Dutch Slough restoration site.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 8/29/2019
New Information	None

	Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$444,795
County	Solano
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1605
Grantee	Solano Resource Conservation District
Overview	Restore 13.5 acres of riparian habitat and improve water quality through improved cattle management practices on approximately 525 acres of active farmland along Lindsey Slough.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 9/1/17
New Information	None

	Restoration of Priority Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$943,549
County	Sacramento
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1608
Grantee	Sacramento County Regional Parks
Overview	Restore 110 acres of freshwater wetlands to benefit listed species.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 1/8/18
New Information	None

	Investigations of restoration techniques that limit invasion of tidal wetlands (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$107,655
County	Contra Costa
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1612
Grantee	The Regents of the University of California (UC Davis)
Overview	Identify improved methods for tidal wetland revegetation that reduce invasion by non-native plants at Dutch Slough.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 1/8/18
New Information	None

Cycle 1 – Fiscal Year 2015-2015

The Board awarded approximately \$3.9 million to seven projects (four planning and three implementation). To date, two grants have closed.

	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$2,000,000
County	Yolo
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-003
Grantee	Ducks Unlimited
Overview	Implement habitat and working landscape enhancements in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 6/18/19
New Information	Grantee is seeking additional funding for construction costs. If additional funds are not secured from alternate sources, the grantee may request from the Conservancy an amendment to increase the award amount.

	Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$89,450
County	All Delta Counties
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-005
Grantee	California Land Stewardship Institute
Overview	Develop a program to work with farmers to improve water quality, that is specific to the crops and water quality concerns in Delta counties.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 1/9/17
New Information	Grantee has submitted a request to amend this grant agreement (see agenda item 8.1).

	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$836,409
County	Contra Costa
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-009
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Convert denuded flood control channel at the confluence of Marsh, Sand, and Deer Creeks into a healthy stream corridor.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 6/27/17
New Information	Project has been delayed due to complicated interactions between this project and the Prop 1-1711 project. The amendment approved by the Board on 12/10/2018 has not yet been finalized due to repeated, minor adjustments requested by the grantee. Staff has worked with the grantee through numerous iterations to address concerns including responsiveness, budget management, and managing the level of project complexity. Staff has communicated these concerns and will continue to check in regularly to assess performance. Grantee recently hired new staff, which will hopefully address concerns.

	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Planning Project (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$99,924
County	San Joaquin
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-012
Grantee	San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
Overview	Develop a conservation and flood management plan for a new flood bypass at Paradise Cut.
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 6/30/19
New Information	Closed

	Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$688,195.64
County	County Yolo
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-016
Grantee	Yolo Resource Conservation District
Overview	Restore up to 5 miles (22 acres) of floodway-compatible wildlife and pollinator habitat, providing a transit corridor for wildlife during floods.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 1/24/17
New Information	Project is experiencing issues with plant survival due to flood-related complications. Grantee may request to amend the agreement to allow for alternative planting mechanisms.

	Lower Marsh and Sand Creek Watershed Riparian Restoration Planning Project (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$73,493
County	Contra Costa
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-019
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Improve restoration project efficiency within the Marsh/Sand Creek watershed through development of a programmatic CEQA document and permit, including storm water planning.
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 10/19/16
New Information	The grantee has submitted the final deliverables. The project is on schedule and set to close on December 31, 2019.

Background

The Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program funds \$50 million in multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities. The Grant Program is a two-step process, requiring both a concept proposal and a full proposal. Full proposals are subject to a rigorous scoring and evaluation process by both staff and a professional review panel, and are recommended for funding based upon score and funding availability.

Contact

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