



Consideration of Amendment to the Budget and Scope of Work for the Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project

Staff Report

Project Title	Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
Grantee	Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Project Number	Prop 1-1516
Award Year	2016
County	Yolo
Category	Implementation
Current Agreement Budget	\$693,195.64
Budget If Amended	\$836,234.00
Amendment Request (Term, Scope or Budget)	Scope and budget

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a request to amend the scope of work and budget for the Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area project.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve an amendment to the scope of work to allow for a new planting plan and approve an additional \$143,038.36 to increase the total award to \$836,234.00.

DESCRIPTION

The grantee requested amendments due to several environmental factors that have had significant negative effects on the project. In November of 2017, the grantee seeded half of the project footprint with native grass species. Due to a prolonged period with no rain and severe frosts, the seedlings matured more slowly than expected. In winter of 2019, water flowed over the Fremont Weir and the entire project site was under water for three consecutive months. The planned 2018-2019 seeding could not take place, and the existing, immature seedlings had not built up enough root mass to withstand the long flood event. The grantee estimates that the percent coverage of native grass which survived from the original planting is less than ten (10) percent.

To adaptively manage the project in response to these environmental factors, the grantee developed a new planting plan. The plan calls for seeding in the spring/summer of 2020, accompanied by the installation of an irrigation system to provide consistent water for the plants until the winter rains begin. This planting timeframe and irrigation system should allow the plants to grow to a size sufficient to withstand flooding if the 2020-2021 winter has large amounts of precipitation, or to provide supplemental water if there is below average precipitation.

Specifically, the requested amendments include:

1. Increase of award by \$143,038.36, as follows.
 - a. Increase Operating Expenses (General) cost category by \$7,527.00 for purchase of plants, seeds, and irrigation supplemental parts
 - b. Increase Operating Expenses (Subcontractor) cost category by \$120,000.00 for rental of an irrigation system
 - c. Increase Operating Expenses (Equipment) cost category by \$8,700.00 for additional costs for tractor rentals and other planting equipment.
 - d. Increase the Indirect Cost category by \$6,811.35 correspondingly with the increases to the Operating Expenses (General), Operating Expenses (Subcontractor), and Operating Expenses (Equipment) budgets.
2. Addition to the Scope of Work to add rental and operation of a summer irrigation system.

The Conservancy will also update the budget cost categories to better align them with the budget cost categories used in more recent grant agreements. According to the Board-approved process for amendments, the budget cost category changes do not require Board approval; Conservancy staff will process the cost category changes if the Board approves the proposed budget augmentation.

Augmenting the budget will provide funds sufficient to re-seed and establish native vegetation and complete the project, delivering on all the outputs originally proposed and approved by the Board. If this amendment request is not approved, the grantee likely will be unable to establish 22 acres of grassland vegetation as specified in the grant agreement.

BACKGROUND

In May of 2016, as part of the Cycle 1 Proposition 1 grant program solicitation, the Board approved an award of \$688,195.65 for this project. This project was amended in December of 2018 to add \$5,000 to the budget to cover the increased costs of obtaining a Central Valley Flood Protection Board encroachment permit. This project is restoring up to 5 miles (22 acres) of floodway-compatible wildlife and pollinator habitat in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, providing a transit corridor for wildlife during floods.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

Move that, for the Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area project, the Board approve an additional award of \$143,038.36 and an amendment to the Scope of Work to include rental and operation of a summer irrigation system.

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