



Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act Lead Agency Exemption Declaration and Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center Staff Recommendation

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to approve the Lead Agency declaration prepared by staff in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and a recommendation to award Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program funding for the Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Applicant	Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
Project ID	P6802
Project Type	Implementation (Acquisition)
County	Yolo
Funding Request	\$310,373
Total Project Cost	\$310,373
Funding Recommendation	\$310,373

RECOMMENDATIONS

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board adopt Resolution 2021-01 declaring that this project is categorically exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19 Section 15316, subsection (a), and Section 15325, subsections (a) and (e) and the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Contingent upon adoption of Resolution 2021-01, Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$310,373 in grant funding for the Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center project (Project ID P6802) proposed by the Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse. Conservancy staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with members of the Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse. Staff followed the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Grant Guidelines, approved by the Conservancy Board in December 2019, in working with the applicant and assessing this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will allow Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse to acquire a 1.13-acre parcel located at 36446 Riverview Drive in Clarksburg, California to serve as the permanent home for the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse. Once restored, the schoolhouse will host a Delta Welcome Center

and Education Center that will showcase Clarksburg's history and culture, provide a community gathering space, and provide information about tourism and recreational opportunities and the natural and historical resources of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Following site acquisition, the second phase of the project will be restoration of the historic building, including development of indoor and outdoor exhibits. As lead agency for the implementation phase of the project, Yolo County has determined that the restoration activities are exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Public Resources' Code Section 21080 (b) (1). Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse intends to use a combination of private donations and grants to fund the second phases. Since 2015, Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse has raised more than \$300,000 in private donations and grants, as well as \$150,000 in in-kind donations, and has secured at least 10,000 donated hours from the Clarksburg community. This funding and community commitment helped Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse reach the point at which the organization is ready to purchase the land for a permanent home. Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse intends to submit a second grant application to the Delta Conservancy's Community and Economic Enhancement Program to help fund the second phase.

Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse came together as a nonprofit organization in 2015 when the owners of the historic building donated it to the Clarksburg community, with the stipulation that the building be used for community purposes. The organization considered five potential sites before selecting the site under discussion. This site, across the levee from the Sacramento River and canopied by heritage oak trees is highly visible to tourists, making it an excellent location for a Delta Welcome Center. Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the current landowner, allowing them to move the building to the site while also seeking funding to purchase the land.

Upon completion of the second phase of the project, the building will house a free Delta Welcome Center and Education Center, as well as an event venue available for rental. Maintenance costs for the site will be covered through venue rentals and use of low cost or volunteer labor and tools provided by community members.

Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC)

Proposition 68 requires that at least 20 percent of all funding be spent on projects that serve severely disadvantaged communities, which are defined as "a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average" (PRC 45 Sec. 80008(a)(1)). The Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center project does not serve a severely disadvantaged community.

Cost Share

The Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse, a nonprofit organization, will not contribute cost share. While Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse does not have qualifying cost share during the funding term, it is notable that they have secured considerable commitments of time, labor, and money for other phases as described in the project description and local and institutional support sections.

CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND LOCAL PRIORITIES

The project is consistent with Proposition 68 and the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code sections 32300-32381) and strategic plan. This project is consistent with priorities outlined in the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan and the Delta Protection Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan.

LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Local support is evident through the submission of letters of support from local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and school districts. Additionally, Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse has conducted extensive community fundraising that raised \$450,000 in monetary and in-kind donations, and more than 10,000 volunteer hours have been donated by community members to advance the project to this stage.

The Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse have secured the following institutional support for acquisition of the land and restoration of the Schoolhouse: two \$50,000 Rural Initiative grants from Yolo County, a \$30,000 grant from the Delta Protection Commission to conduct a formal feasibility study on the project, and a \$20,000 grant from the Delta Stewardship Council to support an interpretive planning document. Additional institutional support is demonstrated in letters of support from the two relevant reclamation districts, the Delta Protection Commission, Yolo County Supervisor Oscar Villegas, and the Clarksburg Citizens Advisory Commission.

BACKGROUND

Proposition 68 is the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Public Resources Code Division 45) that made \$12,000,000 available to the Conservancy for uses specified in its governing statute (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act, Public Resources Codes, Division 22.3). The Conservancy uses Proposition 68 funds to support projects through the Conservancy's Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program. Unlike traditional grant programs, this program was designed to allow Conservancy staff to collaborate with project applicants to develop proposals that meet the Conservancy and Proposition 68 goals. When applicants submit concept proposals, staff review the proposal to assess viability and appropriateness with program goals. If the concept proposal is suitable, staff then guide applicants as they develop a full proposal for consideration of Proposition 68 funding. The Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center project is the first acquisition project proposal staff has presented for the Conservancy Board to consider award of grant funds.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Two separate motions are required.

Move that the Board adopt Resolution 2021-01, which finds that the Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center project is categorically exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19 Section 15316, subsection (b), and Section 15325, subsection (e).

Move to award funding up to \$310,373 to the Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center project.

CONTACT

Robyn Krock, Community Projects Supervisor

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

robyn.krock@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

(916) 375-2088

FIGURE 1. MAP OF LAND ACQUISITION FOR THE CLARKSBURG SCHOOLHOUSE AND DELTA WELCOME CENTER PROJECT AREA

