



**Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for the Discover the Delta Education Center Staff Recommendation**

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This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program funding for the Discover the Delta Center Planning project.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	Discover the Delta Foundation
<b>Project ID</b>	P6806
<b>Project Type</b>	Planning
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$223,456
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$223,456
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$223,456

**RECOMMENDATION**

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$223,456 in grant funding for the Discover the Delta Center Planning project (P6806) proposed by the Discover the Delta Foundation. Conservancy staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with members of Discover the Delta Foundation. Staff followed the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Grant Guidelines, approved by the Conservancy Board December 2019, in working with the applicant and assessing this proposal.

**DESCRIPTION**

This application seeks funds to review and update building plans, and to process a new building permit including payment of required Sacramento County fees. In 2009, Discover the Delta Foundation completed site and building plans prepared by DCC Engineering for the proposed Discover the Delta Education Center. The project and plans were reviewed by Sacramento County and a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) negative declaration, use permit, building permit, and grading permit were issued. Grading at the site started, however the building was not constructed. Due to the ten-year span since completion, Sacramento County now requires the building plans be updated to meet current building codes and that a new building permit be issued.

The overall purpose and goals of the Delta Education Center is to inform visitors about the Delta region at a highly visible site, accessible by State Highways 160 and 12. The Center’s landmark water tower is visible from both the highway and the Sacramento River, orienting visitors to the Center. Through a combination of interpretive signage and displays, docent-led tours, and an interactive website, the project will educate the public on the environmental, historical, and cultural influences that created

the region, how the region has evolved over time, and the possibilities for the future of the Delta. In addition, the Delta Education Center will serve as a physical Gateway to the Delta—an identifiable landmark to locate and orient residents and visitors. The Delta Education Center will provide the public with information about the Delta, while serving as a destination for the public to learn, understand, and better know one of the unique geographic regions in the State.

In preparation for the Delta Education Center, Discover the Delta Foundation has purchased the project site, developed plans for the project, initiated local agency project approvals, and designed various fundraising and management scenarios.

### **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)). Located in Sacramento County, at the intersection of State Highway 12 and State Highway 160, the Discover the Delta Center Planning project serves a severely disadvantaged community.

### **Cost Share**

The Discover the Delta Foundation, a nonprofit organization, will not contribute cost share. While the Foundation does not have qualifying cost share during the funding term, it is notable that they have secured considerable commitments of time, labor, donations, and monetary support for other components of the project. The California Natural Resources Agency provided a \$500,000 Proposition 13 River Protection grant in October 2010 to assist with site acquisition, a \$200,000 grant was received from Hilton Foundation, and donations and in-kind support have been provided by local businesses and individuals.

### **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**

Led by an engaged group of board members and volunteers, building the Delta Education Center has been a core goal of the Discover the Delta Foundation since its formation in 2006. The project has received significant support from past fundraising efforts. Additionally, the project enjoys wide community support, including letters of support from the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, Isleton Chamber of Commerce, Oakley Union Elementary School District, and Clarksburg Winegrower and Vintners Association.

### **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 will use Proposition 68 funds to support projects in 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 Discover the Delta Center Planning project is the second of three projects being presented to the Conservancy Board for consideration today.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Move to award funding up to \$223,456 to the Discover the Delta Foundation from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Discover the Delta Center Planning project.

**CONTACT**

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FIGURE 1. MAP OF DELTA EDUCATION CENTER

