



**Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for the Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments Planning Project  
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 Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments Planning Project.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	County of Sacramento
<b>Project ID</b>	P6808
<b>Project Type</b>	Planning
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$223,277
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$223,277
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$223,277

**RECOMMENDATION**

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$223,277 in grant funding for the Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments project (P6808) proposed by the County of Sacramento. 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 County of Sacramento. 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**

The Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments project is a two phase project that seeks to ultimately install two gateway monuments (freestanding structure or sign) and one interpretive sign in the unincorporated community of Freeport. The purpose of the project is to highlight Freeport's role as: one of the eleven designated Legacy Communities in the Delta; the Northern Gateway to the Delta; the last leg of the National Memorial Victory Highway; and an important historical role in the California gold rush. This proposal (Phase One) will develop a conceptual signage plan, conduct community outreach, prepare preliminary design, and complete environmental clearance for the second phase of the project. The exact gateway monument types will be determined during the Phase One effort. The County will also seek to obtain Caltrans preliminary approval for the project concept and signage infrastructure located within their State right-of-way. The subsequent Phase Two effort, not part of this grant proposal, will include right-of-way acquisition, final design, and construction contract award, implementation, and project management.

### **Environmental Compliance**

This planning project is not considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project does include the completion of the CEQA process for the implementation phase of the project (Phase Two). The County will act as the CEQA Lead Agency and expects to prepare an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for Phase Two of the project.

### **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 Cosumnes River Boulevard and Freeport Boulevard (State Route 160), the Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments project serves a severely disadvantaged community.

### **Cost Share**

Although the County of Sacramento will not contribute cost share, it is notable that they have secured considerable commitments of time, labor, donations, and monetary support for other components of the project as described in the Local and Institutional Support section above.

### **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**

Residents and businesses in the Freeport community established the Freeport Citizens Community, a citizens advisory committee to spearhead the renovation of Freeport. Working with the County, the committee is an important supporter of this project, providing their dedication, time, and expertise to the project. Additionally, the project has wide community support, as evidenced by 17 letters of support from local businesses, community organizations, and area governments, including Delta Legacy Communities, Delta Shores Development, California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau, County of Sacramento, Regional Parks, and a number of local businesses in and around Freeport.

### **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 competitive 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 Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments project is the eighth full proposal staff has presented for the Conservancy Board to consider an award of grant funds.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Move to award funding up to \$223,277 to the County of Sacramento from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Freeport Delta Gateway Monuments project.

**CONTACT**

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FIGURE 1. MAP OF THE FREEPORT DELTA GATEWAY MONUMENTS PROJECT AREA

