



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

January 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Remote Access Meeting

Please click the following link to join the webinar: <https://ca-water-gov.zoom.us/j/84573209524>

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, Board members, staff, and the public may participate remotely. The public may observe, provide public comment during the public comment periods, and otherwise observe remotely in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act. Questions and public comment can be addressed to contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov prior to and during the meeting. If you have not used the Zoom teleconference platform before, you will be prompted to download an application. This is quick and there is no cost.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions**
3. **Public Comment** (*New Business*)
4. **Consent Calendar** (*Action Item*)
 - *Approval of October 28, 2020 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items (Attachment)*
5. **Executive Officer's Report**, *Campbell Ingram*
 - *Program Update, (Attachment)*
 - *Nutria Eradication Program Update, (Attachment)*
 - *Budget and Expenditure Report, Jessica Adel (Attachment)*
6. **Proposition 68 Program Update**, *Robyn Krock (Attachments)*
7. **Proposition 1 Program Update**, *Aaron Haiman (Attachments)*
8. **Consideration of the Cycle 5 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines**, *Aaron Haiman (Attachments)*
(Action Item)
9. **Consideration of the Delta Conservancy's Modifications and Amendments Process**, *Aaron Haiman (Attachments)* *(Action Item)*
10. **Delta Invasive Species Coordination Update**, *Rachel Wigginton (Attachment)*
11. **Delta Conservancy 2020 Implementation Plan Status Update and Consideration of 2021 Implementation Plan**, *Debra Kustic (Attachments)* *(Action Item)*
12. **Program and Policy Subcommittee Update**, *Campbell Ingram (Attachment)*
13. **Delta Stewardship Council Update**, *Amanda Bohl*
14. **Delta Protection Commission Update**, *Erik Vink*

15. **Delta Conveyance Update**, *Carrie Buckman*

16. **EcoRestore Update**, *Charlotte Biggs (Attachment)*

17. **Potential Agenda Items for the March 24, 2021 Board Meeting**, *Campbell Ingram (Attachment)*

18. **Public Comment**

19. **ADJOURN**

- To view the members of the Delta Conservancy Board, please visit <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/delta-conservancy-board>.
- Attachments and additional information are on the Delta Conservancy's website at: <http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>.
- If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, or require printed copies of meeting materials, please contact us at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date at contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov. This contact information may also be used for any questions you may have.
- Public comments are generally limited to three (3) minutes but may be more or less at the discretion of the Board Chair.
- The Board may consider the agenda items listed above in a different order, pursuant to the determination of the Board Chair. All items appearing on this agenda, whether or not listed expressly for action, may be deliberated upon and subject to action at the discretion of the Delta Conservancy Board.
- Additional Zoom meeting access here:
 - Please click this link to join the webinar: <https://ca-water-gov.zoom.us/j/84573209524>
 - Or via telephone, dial:
 - 214-765-0479 (US toll)
 - 888-278-0296 (US toll-free)
 - Conference code: 596019



Board Meeting Summary and Action Items
October 28, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chair Karen Mitchoff.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

The Executive Officer provided instruction on participating in public comment using the Zoom webinar format. Roll call was taken and agenda items were heard by the Board in the order indicated below.

Board Members Present: Karen Mitchoff, Leo Winternitz, Skip Thomson, Katherine Miller, Bryan Cash, Dolly Sandoval, Sandi Matsumoto, Larry Ruhstaller, Don Nottoli

Ex-Officio Members Present: Assemblymember Timothy Grayson

Liaison Advisors Present: Jim Waters, Moira McEnespy

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar

MOTION: *Vice Chair Winternitz moved, seconded by Board Member Sandoval, that the Board approve the following:*

- *July 22, 2020 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items*
- *Consideration of Amendment to the Term of the Nutria Eradication Project Grant (Prop 1-1718)*
- *Consideration of Amendment to the Term of the Stone Lakes Restoration Project Grant (Prop 1-1713)*

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer introduced newly hired staff member Sarah Lesmeister, Environmental Program Manager I, who will oversee the Conservancy’s ecological and community programs, including grant programs, and staff. Conservancy staff continue to work from home in response to COVID-19. This will continue until state guidelines are provided for transition. Contact tracer, Larry Hughes, completed his training and has been assigned to work in Lake County. A Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee has been regularly meeting and all staff received implicit bias training. The Conservancy continues to develop pilot projects and support landowners in their efforts to explore carbon market opportunities. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) Offset Protocol Taskforce has recommended that CARB conduct additional review for potential adoption of the American Carbon Registry protocol into the AB-32 Compliance Program. Conservancy staff will present at the California Traffic Control Devices Committee on November 5, 2020 to request approval to place Welcome to the Delta signs in the Caltrans rights of way. Staff provided updates on Delta science activity for the previous quarter. The Board directives and responses from the July 22, 2020 Board meeting were addressed. Staff presented the fiscal year 2020-2021 Budget and Expenditure Report.

Agenda Item 6 – Proposition 1 Program Update

Staff presented highlights from the Proposition 1 Program Update Staff Report.

- **Cycle 4:** Staff is continuing to execute Cycle 4 grants, with five executed and five being completed with grantees. There have been delays related to COVID-19 and wildfires, but none have been critical to project completion.
- **Cycle 3:** Bay Point Restoration Habitat Project has completed construction. Both the Nutria Eradication Project and the Stone Lakes Restoration Project are on the consent calendar for consideration to extend the grant funding term.
- **Cycle 2:** All four grants are in progress. Restoration of Priority Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve will be closing and staff participated in a virtual site visit.
- **Cycle 1:** Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project has completed construction. Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta has closed.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 68 Program Update

Staff presented highlights from the Proposition 68 Program Update Staff Report. Staff is developing eight full proposals. The proposals are in various stages of development with a variety of project types, including historical preservation and environmental education. The Conservancy is increasing outreach to attract additional proposals.

Agenda Item 8 – Nutria Eradication Program Update by Department of Fish and Wildlife

Valerie Cook, Nutria Eradication Program Manager at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided a slideshow presentation updating the Board on nutria eradication efforts.

Agenda Item 9 – Program and Policy Subcommittee Update

The Executive Officer presented an update on the September 16, 2020 Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting. An overview of the Conservancy' authorities pertaining to easements and land ownership options were discussed. Staff provided Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 program updates.

Agenda Item 10 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

Amanda Bohl, Special Assistant for Planning and Science at the Delta Stewardship Council, presented an update.

Agenda Item 11 – Delta Protection Commission Update

This agenda item was tabled.

Agenda Item 12 – Delta Conveyance Update

Carrie Buckman, Environmental Program Manager at the California Department of Water Resources, presented an update.

Agenda Item 13 – EcoRestore Update

Charlotte Biggs, Program Manager II at the California Department of Water Resources, presented an update.

Agenda Item 14 – Potential Agenda Items for the January 27, 2021 Meeting

- Virtual tours of project sites.

Agenda Item 15 – Public Comment

None

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Board members requested that photographs or videos that show progress on Conservancy funded project sites, be presented at future Board meetings.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Mitchoff at 10:55 a.m.

Contact

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
January 27, 2021

PROGRAM UPDATE

COVID-19 UPDATE

All Conservancy staff continue to work from home with the expectation that this will continue until a vaccine is approved and widely distributed. Staff have done an excellent job adapting to our new reality and continue to be very productive with only minor disruptions in our workflow. We are currently conducting virtual project site visits for both the Proposition 1 and 68 programs. Larry Hughes, who volunteered to be our designated Contact Tracer, has had his assignment extended by six months and has been asked to take on the role of Case Investigator.

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (JEDI)

The Conservancy's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee developed a teaching and learning curriculum and began holding collaborative learning discussions for all-staff in late September 2020. To complement these learning sessions, the committee developed a supplemental brown bag lunch series to invite further discussion on selected topics. Staff will continue participating in these discussions throughout 2021 and will begin development of a formal framework for advancing the Conservancy's long-term JEDI goals.

DELTA CONSERVANCY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Conservancy updates its Strategic Plan every five years, the most recent update covering the years 2017 to 2022. We are beginning the process of updating the plan for 2022 to 2026. We envision conducting this update in-house over the course of this calendar year, with Board consideration of a final draft in January 2022. We will begin the process with a staff review of the current document to assess potential updates and further define the process and timeline for completing the update. We will provide an update to the Board and request initial feedback on the process, timeline and potential update topics at the March 24, 2021 meeting.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

Nutria Eradication:

Please see the most recent update from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife included in this agenda item (Attachment 2).

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Delta Marketing:

Through an interagency agreement, staff have been working with the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) to implement elements of the Five-Year Delta Marketing Plan and the Delta Sign Plan, which was a recommendation in the Marketing Plan. Applications for the 11 encroachment permits for the “Welcome to the Delta” signs proposed in the Delta Sign Plan were initially denied by Caltrans. At the suggestion of Caltrans, Conservancy and Commission staff created revised draft signs that include language for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area. On November 5, 2020, Conservancy staff presented a proposal to the California Traffic Control Devices Committee to revise the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to allow for such signs to be posted within and near National Heritage Areas. This proposal was approved and Commission staff are now working to obtain the necessary permits and execute agreements for sign printing and installation.

DELTA SCIENCE

Conservancy staff continue to work collaboratively with the broader Delta science community to advance science in the region. Conservancy staff are contributing to planning of the 2021 Adaptive Management Forum, an effort lead by the Delta Science Program’s Adaptive Management Unit. The three-day virtual event is scheduled for February 3-5, 2021. Staff will present in the Mechanisms of Adaptive Management session regarding strategies for incorporating adaptive management into funding considerations. Several other speakers at the forum will be presenting adaptive management lessons learned from projects funded by the Conservancy. The agenda and registration can be found at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/adaptive-management>.

At the November 18, 2020 Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting, staff discussed the initial results of research and analysis to understand if and how land conversion from row crops to woody perennial crops impacts terrestrial habitat value for wildlife, particularly birds. Based on feedback from the group, staff are exploring grant opportunities to expand on this work. During the same meeting, the group discussed the potential of relaunching the Delta Restoration Network (DRN) as a forum for engagement and coordination. Since that meeting, staff have had a coordination meeting with the other relevant working groups in the region and are developing a draft description of the DRN’s role and objectives. Conservancy staff facilitate the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team, on which staff will be presenting an update to the Board at this meeting as Agenda Item 10.

FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

A completed Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests, is due by April 1, 2021 for all Board Members, Board Member Alternates, and Liaison Advisors. Forms are completed on the Fair Political Practices Commission online portal. The Conservancy’s Board Liaison sent reminder emails this week. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Jessica Adel at Jessica.adel@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- 1) Board members requested to be provided with photographs or videos that show progress at Conservancy funded project sites.
 - Staff requested grantees produce short videos of completed projects or projects under construction and near completion. Staff is presenting one video today as part of the Proposition 1 Program Update (Agenda Item 10) and anticipate showing one or more videos at the March 2021 meeting.

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 5 (Attachment 3): Budget and Expenditure Report

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CONTACT

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Nutria Eradication Program Update

Field Update

Since March 2018, the nutria eradication efforts in California have:

- Completed full and/or rapid assessments on over 1 M acres
- Executed entry permits with over 3,500 landowners
- Set up 3,183 camera stations (687 currently active)
 - Conducted 22,790 camera checks
- Confirmed nutria within 442 sites
- Deployed 4,617 trap sets for a total of 58,487 trap nights
- Taken or accounted for the take of 2,083 nutria (since Mar 2017)
 - Merced- 1,334
 - Stanislaus- 630
 - San Joaquin- 105
 - Mariposa- 12
 - Fresno- 2

Of 1,769 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.17 sex ratio (M:F)
- Of the females captured:
 - 23% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 60% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 69% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
- 1,974 fetal nutria have been removed from the population
- Litter size ranged from 1-13, with an average of 5.7
 - Average litter size for adult females (> 14 mos.) in California is 6.4

**SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY
BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE REPORT
July 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020**

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Personal Services (PS)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
1	Salaries & Wages	\$1,055,318	\$405,389	\$649,929	38%
2	Temporary Help	\$77,246	\$24,034	\$53,212	31%
3	Benefits	\$598,867	\$249,767	\$349,100	42%
4	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	\$1,731,431	\$679,190	\$1,052,241	39%

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Operating Expenditures and Equipment (OE & E)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
5	General Expense	\$51,566	\$280	\$51,286	1%
6	Printing	\$5,000	\$1,031	\$3,969	21%
7	Communications	\$6,100	\$1,070	\$5,030	18%
8	Postage	\$252	\$0	\$252	0%
9	Travel-In State	\$8,365	\$0	\$8,365	0%
10	Training	\$10,625	\$0	\$10,625	0%
11	Facilities Operation	\$115,994	\$44,456	\$71,538	38%
12	Contracts & Personal Services-External	\$172,540	\$0	\$172,540	0%
13	Contracts & Personal Services-Interdepartmental	\$138,177	\$10,231	\$127,946	7%
14	Information Technology	\$43,100	\$184	\$42,916	0%
15	Central Administrative Service	\$26,061	\$0	\$26,061	0%
16	Unallocated Operating Expense & Equipment	\$331,096	\$0	\$331,096	0%
17	Grants and Subventions	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
18	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES & EQUIPMENT	\$908,876	\$57,252	\$851,624	6%

Line Number	TOTALS	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
19	TOTAL PS & OE & E	\$2,640,307	\$736,442	\$1,903,865	28%
20	REIMBURSEMENT	(\$144,456)	\$0	(\$144,456)	0%
21	GRAND TOTAL	\$2,495,851	\$736,442	\$1,759,409	30%

Unallocated Operating Expense and Equipment:
General Fund \$69,550 Prop 1 \$248,946 Prop 68 \$12,600



**Proposition 68 Program Update
Staff Report**

PROGRAM UPDATE

The Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program is designed to promote a robust Delta economy, support the vitality of Delta communities, and allow staff to partner with project proponents to develop proposals that meet these goals. The Conservancy has received 11 concept proposals as of January 8, 2020. One was deemed ineligible under General Obligation Bond law, one was determined not to be a viable project, and one has been placed on hold at the request of the applicant. Staff is currently working with seven applicants to develop eight full proposals.

Staff developed an Outreach Plan for 2021 and will continue to evaluate opportunities for outreach and collaboration to develop projects as appropriate.

ACTIVE PROPOSALS

ID #	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	DAC / SDAC*	Status
P6811	Asian American Heritage Park	Delta Educational Cultural Center	Implement	\$340,974	Sacramento	DAC	Developing full proposal
P6810	Bees Lake Public Access	City of West Sacramento	Implement	\$495,900	Yolo	N/A	Initial submission received
P6809	Pacific Flyway Center	Pacific Flyway Fund	Implement	\$900,000	Solano	N/A	Developing full proposal
P6806	Discover the Delta Foundation Education Ctr	Discover the Delta Foundation	Implement	\$1,500,000	Sacramento	DAC	Initial submission received
P6805	Converting Bing Kong Tong Building into a Museum	Isleton Museum	Implement	\$55,000	Sacramento	DAC	Developing full proposal
P6804	Revitalization of Pittsburg Boat Launch Facility & Park	City of Pittsburg	Planning	\$172,155	Contra Costa	SDAC	Initial submission received

ID #	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	DAC / SDAC	Status
P6803	Southport Levee Recreational Trail	City of West Sacramento	Planning	\$341,668	Yolo	N/A	Initial submission received
P6802	Restoration of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse & Creation of a Delta Welcome Center	Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse	Implement	\$981,500	Yolo	N/A	Developing full proposal
Total Amount Requested:				\$4,787,197			

*The DAC/SDAC column indicates if the project serves a disadvantaged community (DAC) or a severely disadvantaged community (SDAC), as confirmed by Conservancy staff.

INACTIVE PROPOSALS

ID #	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	DAC / SDAC	Status
P6807	Clarksburg Branch Line Trail	City of West Sacramento	Planning	\$250,000	Yolo	N/A	On hold

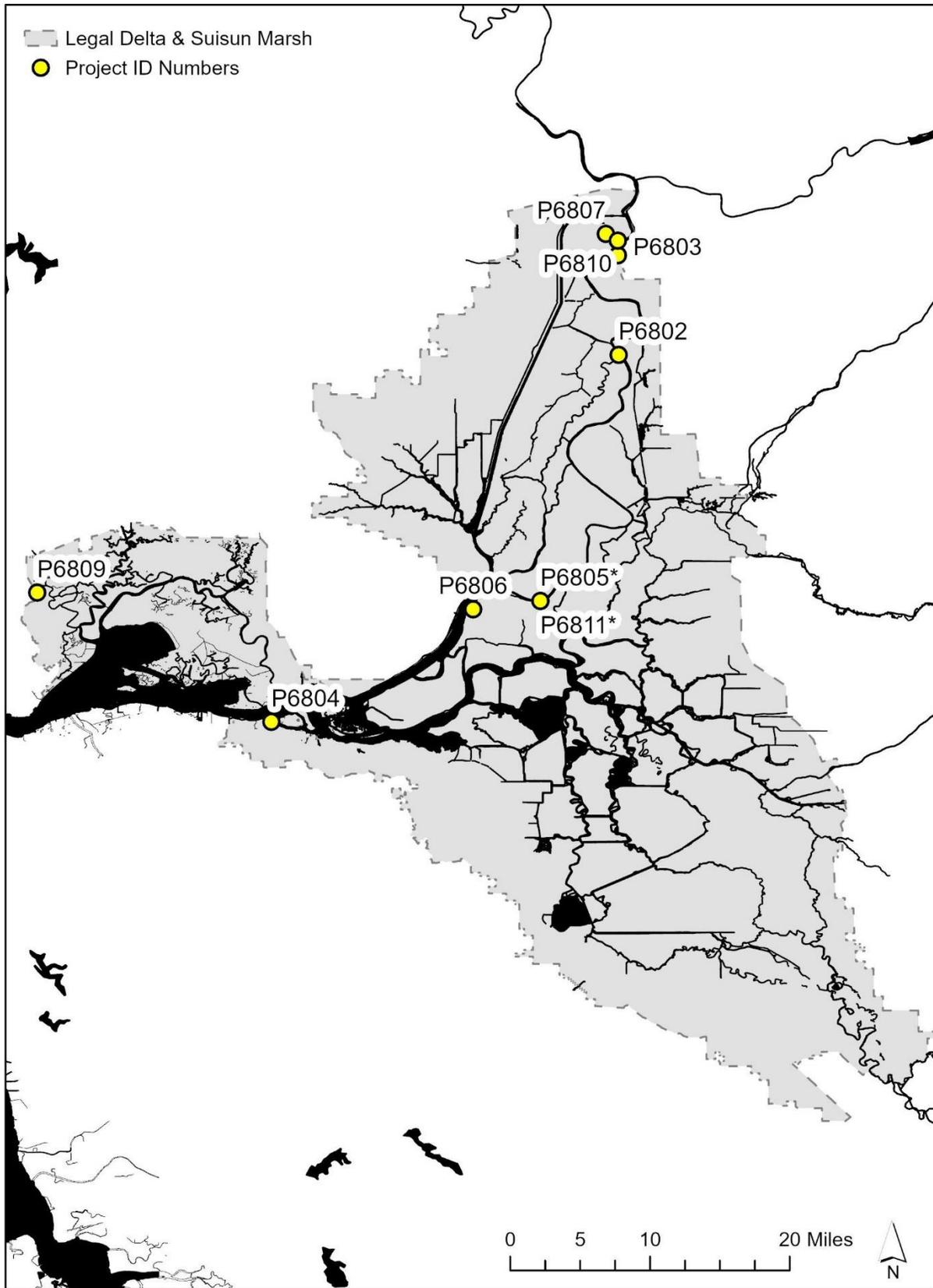
BACKGROUND

Proposition 68 is the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 45) that was passed by California voters on June 5, 2018. Proposition 68 makes \$12,000,000 available to the Conservancy to use for the purposes specified in its governing statute (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act, Public Resources Codes, Division 22.3). The Conservancy is using the Proposition 68 funds to fund projects in the Conservancy's Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program to support community and economic development in the Delta in a manner that is complementary to ecosystem restoration and other Conservancy programs. The grant program began accepting concept proposals on January 6, 2020.

CONTACT

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Proposition 68 Proposed Project Locations



*Note: Projects P6805 and P6811 are very close to one another and appear as one point on this map.



**Proposition 1 Program Update
Staff Report**

Approved Project Update

To date, the Conservancy has approved a total of 29 projects, committing approximately \$39.3 million for Proposition 1 grants. A brief overview of each grant cycle, including the status of each funded project for which there is a pending, active, or closed grant agreement, is provided herein.

Cycle 4 – Fiscal Year 2018-2019

The Board awarded approximately \$14.9 million for ten projects (eight planning and two implementation). Seven grant agreements have been executed; staff is working with grantees to negotiate three grant agreements.

Project Name	Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$2,273,469
County	Sacramento
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1801
Grantee	Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust
Overview	Acquire a conservation easement on 275 acres of farmland to ensure that it remains as wildlife friendly agriculture
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/29/2020
New Information	Grant agreement has been executed.

Project Name	Blacklock Restoration: Phragmites Control Study (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$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	Active as of 3/17/2020
New Information	Phragmites treatments are underway.

Project Name	Delta Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$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	Active as of 12/19/2019
New Information	None

Project Name	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	Active as of 9/23/2020
New Information	Grant agreement has been executed.

Project Name	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
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 7/10/2020
New Information	Grantee is forming the Technical Advisory Committee.

Project Name	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	Grant agreement has been sent to the grantee for review.

Project Name	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	Grant agreement has been sent to the grantee for review.

Project Name	Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta-Carbona Project (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$750,931
County	San Joaquin
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-1810
Grantee	Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
Overview	Planning for 30 acres of seasonally-inundated floodplain restoration
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/10/202
New Information	Grant agreement has been executed.

Project Name	Nutria Eradication Project, Phase 2 (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$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	Active as of 6/8/2020
New Information	The Grantee is using a new satellite collar prototype in the Judas Nutria project that seems to be more effective.

Project Name	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	Pending
New Information	Grant agreement has been sent to the grantee for review

Cycle 3 – Fiscal Year 2017-2018

The Board awarded approximately \$16.0 million for eight projects (four planning and four implementation).

Project Name	Bay Point Habitat Restoration Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$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 4/10/2019
New Information	Construction is complete. Grantee held a virtual reopening celebration on 11/20/2020.

Project Name	Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms: Improving aquatic habitat resiliency on working lands along the Sacramento River (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$647,701
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 1/22/2019
New Information	As previously reported, the grantee discovered that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is beginning habitat restoration planning on one of the subsites of this project. After meeting with DWR, it seems the best course of action is to drop that subsite from this project. The grantee has submitted an amendment request to do so and to reallocate funds to accommodate increased cultural resource surveying needs. This amendment will be presented to the Board at the March 2020 Board meeting.

Project Name	Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$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 3/20/2019
New Information	The amendment that was approved by the Board is in the process of being executed.

Project Name	Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$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	Active as of 4/30/2020
New Information	Grantee is securing final permits.

Project Name	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2 (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$990,543
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	Construction is complete and vegetation installation is ongoing.

Project Name	Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$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 1/9/2019
New Information	Working on tribal AB-52 consultations to complete CEQA.

Project Name	Stone Lakes Restoration Project (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$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 4/2/2019
New Information	Working on tribal AB-52 consultations to complete CEQA.

Project Name	Nutria Eradication Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$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 1/14/2019
New Information	The current total nutria taken is ~2,000.

Cycle 2 – Fiscal Year 2016-2017

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

Project Name	Dutch Slough Revegetation (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$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	Construction is complete and second round of revegetation is ongoing.

Project Name	Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$444,464
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 9/1/2017
New Information	None

Project Name	Investigations of restoration techniques that limit invasion of tidal wetlands (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$104,452
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 1/8/2018
New Information	All monitoring has been completed. Data analysis is ongoing.

Cycle 1 – Fiscal Year 2015-2015

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

Project Name	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$2,026,814
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 6/18/2019
New Information	Newly installed pumps are leaking, in order to repair them the US Army Corps of Engineers must authorize work to be done. The grantee is waiting on this authorization.

Project Name	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$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 6/27/2017
New Information	Construction is complete and vegetation installation is ongoing.

Project Name	Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$836,234
County	CountyYolo
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 1/24/2017
New Information	Plant establishment is ongoing.

Closed Projects

To date, a total of five projects funded by Proposition 1 have fully closed (four planning, one implementation).

Project Name	Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$89,448 (\$2 unspent)
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	Closed as of 7/31/2020
New Information	None

Project Name	Sherman Island Restoration Project, Phase III (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$93,599 (\$6,367 unspent)
County	Sacramento
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-008
Grantee	Ducks Unlimited
Overview	Develop plans and permits to restore up to 1,600 acres of wetlands on Sherman Island to provide habitat, reverse subsidence, and sequester carbon
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 12/31/2018
Post-Close Information	Design plans are still current. Waiting on Phase II to be completed.

Project Name	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$99,924 (\$217 unspent)
County	San Joaquin
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-012
Grantee	San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
Overview	Advance plans for a new flood bypass that will reduce flood risk, improve habitat, and maintain agricultural land along the San Joaquin River south of Paradise Cut
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 6/30/2019
Post-Close Information	None

Project Name	Lower Marsh and Sand Creek Watershed Restoration Planning Project (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$73,493 (\$2,391 unspent)
County	Contra Costa
Conservancy ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-019
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Create a Programmatic CEQA document for future restoration activities conducted by Grantee and their partners in the Marsh Creek and Sand Creek watersheds
Grant Agreement Status	Closed as of 12/31/2019
Post-Close Information	The Programmatic Mitigated Negative Declaration developed by this project is being used during the planning of the Prop 1-1809 and Prop 1-1814 grants.

Project Name	Restoration of Priority Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$942,631 (\$145,798 unspent)
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	Closed as of 12/31/2020
New Information	Closed, a final report is available for review by the Board.

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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**Consideration of the Cycle 5 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines
 Staff Report**

This agenda item presents the draft Grant Guidelines for Cycle 5 of the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program for Board consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the Draft Cycle 5 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines so that staff may post the draft Grant Guidelines on the Conservancy’s website for public comment for 30 days. The final draft Grant Guidelines will be presented to the Board at a future Board meeting and the Cycle 5 grant solicitation is scheduled to open on August 1, 2021.

DESCRIPTION

To develop the Draft Cycle 5 Grant Guidelines, staff revised the Cycle 4 Grant Guidelines based upon feedback from the Board, grantees, stakeholders, Department of Finance auditors, and Conservancy staff and management. All substantive differences between the Cycle 4 and Cycle 5 Guidelines, the reason for the change, and the relevant page number(s) in the Draft Cycle 5 Grant Guidelines are explained in the table below. Minor changes to format, grammar, etc. are not included.

If the Board approves the Draft Cycle 5 Grant Guidelines, staff will post them to the Conservancy website for at least 30 days for public comment. All comments will be considered in developing the final draft to be presented to the Board for consideration at a future Board meeting. The Cycle 5 solicitation is scheduled to open on August 1, 2021.

Table 1: Substantive Differences Between Cycle 4 and Cycle 5 Guidelines

Change #	Change Made	Reason for Change	Page #
1	Added language to clarify the difference between "Grant Term" and "Grant Funding Term" and removed redundant language.	Clarify distinction between "Grant Term" and "Grant Funding Term" and increase readability.	9
2	Deleted "at a rate of" in relation to indirect costs.	Reduce confusion regarding a grantee’s individual indirect rate and the total amount of indirect that may be reimbursed.	11
3	Added acknowledgement that COVID-19 may impact site visits.	Impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have required changes to site visit procedures, and these changes may persist for an uncertain length of time.	13

4	Changed "Grant Agreement Negotiation" to "Grant Agreement Completion".	Removes potential perception that during development of the grant agreement there is potential to negotiate substantive changes to grants awarded by the Board.	14
5	Removed figure indicating the grant cycle process.	Figure was redundant with the narrative.	N/A
6	Removed language regarding reservation of funds.	Reserving funds for projects is difficult, time consuming, and has significant, broad impacts to the Conservancy's budget. The Department of Finance has advised the Conservancy against the practice.	19
7	Made change from indicating grantees may be asked to provide timesheets to grantees must provide timesheets with 100 percent time accounting.	The Department of Finance auditors advised the Conservancy that 100 percent time accounting records should be provided by grantees.	29
8	Deleted "upon request" from sentence requiring grantees to provide copies of contracts.	The Conservancy had determined that it is best practice for grantees to provide copies of contracts.	29
9	Added language indicating that proof of payment must be provided.	The Department of Finance auditors advised that grantees submit proof of payment, not just proof costs have been incurred.	29 and 48
10	Added "Fair and reasonable purchasing and contracting" to purchasing and contracting.	Added in response to Department of Finance audit.	29 and 48
11	Deleted "legal" from list of examples of administrative support items that might be indirect costs.	There are significant nuances in determining whether legal expenses may appropriately be charged as an indirect cost. Including it as an example could lead to confusion.	30

12	Added language regarding purchase of equipment.	Clarifies that grantees own the equipment during the funding term, that justification for equipment must be provided at the time of application, and requirements for recordkeeping related to equipment.	30
13	Added “or conservation easement” to section related to acquisition costs.	Clarifies that provisions related to acquisition costs apply to conservation easements as well as the purchase of real property.	30
14	Generalized language regarding coordination of proposals among funders.	Language that was specific to coordinating with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has been made more general so it applies to any project that is funded by multiple agencies. This change does not affect CDFW participation in review of solicitation proposals.	33
15	Added “generally” to language regarding payment on a reimbursement basis.	In rare instances in which a project can no longer proceed on a reimbursement basis, this addition allows the Conservancy to consider use of other options in order to maintain a project’s viability.	34
16	Added “or physical implementation” to language regarding disbursement of funds for implementation projects.	Clarifies that the provision applies to any physical implementation of an implementation project, not just construction.	34
17	Removed detailed amendment process and instead instructs grantees that amendments will be considered in limited circumstances and to discuss potential project changes with their grant manager.	Amendments are time and resource intensive and cannot impinge upon the competitive nature of the grant process. Assessing the feasibility of amendments is complex and should be discussed on a case by case basis with the grant manager who will advise the grantee how to proceed based upon Conservancy procedures and Board-approved process.	35

18	Added instruction for grantees to notify the Conservancy 10 days in advance of public event or media features.	Provides the opportunity for attendance and participation by Conservancy representatives.	36
19	Removed map of funded projects.	Makes the document more accessible to a greater number of people.	N/A
20	Removed the list of funded projects.	Was not instructive to providing guidance specific to Cycle 5. Information is available on the Conservancy's website.	N/A
21	Change "he/she" to "they" throughout the document.	Updated pronouns for greater inclusion.	Throughout

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. Grant guidelines provide applicants with information and instructions on applying to this program. The grant guidelines are updated for each solicitation cycle.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve the draft Cycle 5 Grant Guidelines, Proposition 1 Delta Conservancy Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program for the purpose of posting them for public comment.

CONTACT

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

GRANT GUIDELINES

Cycle 5

PROPOSITION 1

Delta Conservancy Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program

FUNDED BY THE

**Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure
Improvement Act of 2014**



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Quick Facts

Timeline

- Concept Proposal Due: August 31, 2021
- Full Proposal Due: December 15, 2021
- Board Consideration of Awards: May 25, 2022
- Grant Agreements Executed: Beginning May 26, 2022

Types of Projects the Conservancy Funds

The Delta Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program funds competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities. The Conservancy will fund projects that address at least one of the following programmatic priorities:

- Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement
- Water Quality
- Water-Related Agricultural Sustainability

The Conservancy will grant funds for two project types:

- **Planning projects** that advance pre-project activities necessary for a specific, on-the-ground project.
- **Implementation projects** that advance on-the-ground projects and acquisition projects. Implementation projects must have an expected useful life of at least 15 years.

Where Projects Can be Located

The Conservancy will fund projects within or benefitting the Delta and Suisun Marsh as defined in Public Resources Code section 85058 (a map can be found at this link:

<https://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/delta-plan/figure-1-1-delta-boundaries.pdf>).

Entities Eligible to Receive Funding

- California public agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- Tribal organizations
- Public utilities
- Mutual water companies, including local and regional companies

Available Funding

The Conservancy anticipates approximately \$3.05 million will be available for Cycle 5 grants.

Contact Information

Please contact the Delta Conservancy at prop1grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov. More information can be found at: <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/prop-1/>.

A. Introduction

A1. Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) is a primary state agency in the implementation of ecosystem restoration in the Delta and supports efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. The Conservancy works collaboratively and in coordination with local communities, leading efforts to protect, enhance, and restore the Delta's economy, agriculture and working landscapes, and environment, for the benefit of the Delta region, its local communities, and the citizens of California.

Voters approved the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) in November 2014. Proposition 1 provides funding to implement the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan: more reliable water supplies, restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient and sustainably-managed water infrastructure. Proposition 1 identifies \$50 million for the Conservancy which may provide "competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities" (California Water Code (CWC), §§ 79730 – 79731). Per Proposition 1 and the Conservancy's governing statute, the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program will emphasize projects that use public lands and private lands purchased with public funds, and those that maximize voluntary landowner participation in projects that provide measurable and long-lasting habitat or species improvements in the Delta. To the extent feasible, projects need to promote state planning priorities and sustainable communities strategies consistent with Government Code section 65080(b)(2)(B). All proposed projects must be consistent with statewide priorities as identified in Proposition 1, the California Water Action Plan, the Conservancy's governing statute and Conservancy's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, the Delta Plan, and applicable species recovery plans (see **APPENDIX A: KEY STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL PLANS AND TOOLS**).

A2. Purpose of Grant Guidelines

These Grant Guidelines (Guidelines) establish the process and criteria that the Conservancy will use to administer Cycle 5 of its Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program.

B. Grant Program Overview

B1. Program Description and Priorities

The Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program funds competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities. The Conservancy will fund projects that address at least one of the following priorities:

- Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement
- Water Quality
- Water-Related Agricultural Sustainability

For descriptions of the Conservancy's programmatic priorities and examples of the types of projects the Conservancy funds, please see [APPENDIX B: PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES](#). The Conservancy will not fund projects associated with regulatory compliance responsibilities.¹

B2. Project Types

The Conservancy will grant funds for planning and implementation projects:

Planning

Planning projects advance pre-project activities necessary for a specific on-the-ground project that meets the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program eligibility criteria. Please note that receiving a planning grant for a project does not guarantee that an implementation grant will be awarded for the same project.

The Conservancy will fund planning projects that will lead to eligible implementation projects, and is committed to promoting the development of projects in the Delta that will address at least one of this Grant Program's priorities. The Conservancy encourages the use of planning grants to develop projects that are based on best available science (see [E6. BEST AVAILABLE Science](#)).

Pilot projects are a special subset of planning projects and must inform the implementation of an on-the-ground, Proposition 1-eligible implementation project. Pilot projects that are large in scale or duration may be considered implementation projects. The Conservancy recommends that applicants proposing a pilot project consult with Conservancy staff before or during the concept proposal stage to help determine the most applicable grant category.

Examples of planning project activities include:

- **Project scoping:** Partnership development, outreach to impacted parties, stakeholder coordination, negotiation of site access and land tenure

- **Planning and design:** Engineering design, planting plans, identifying appropriate best management practices
- **Environmental compliance:** Permitting, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) activities, Delta Plan consistency
- **Science:** Developing adaptive management and monitoring plans, baseline monitoring, biological surveys, and studies that will aid and inform the implementation of an on-the-ground project
- **Application development for Proposition 1 implementation grant** (as part of a larger planning grant; cannot be a stand-alone proposal for grant application development)

Implementation

Implementation projects are on-the-ground implementation and land acquisition projects. Implementation projects must result in the construction, improvement, or acquisition of a capital asset that will be maintained for a minimum of 15 years.

Implementation projects have advanced to the stage where planning is near completion. Implementation projects that have a construction component must, at a minimum, have completed intermediate plans (i.e., design plans completed to at least 65 percent level of development)². Implementation projects that do not have a construction component must have completed intermediate plans appropriate to the project. Implementation projects may include final design and permitting as project activities.

For implementation projects, CEQA and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance must be completed prior to grant award. CEQA and NEPA-related activities are not eligible for implementation funding.

Examples of implementation project activities include:

- **Construction activities:** Earthmoving, construction of infrastructure
- **Habitat restoration and enhancement:** Planting and revegetation, invasive vegetation removal, implementation of Best Management Practices
- **Acquisition of real property:** Appraisals (including water rights appraisals), negotiation, due diligence, surveys, escrow fees, title insurance, closing costs

Activities that are fundable as part of implementation projects include:

- **Final planning and design**
- **Environmental compliance (other than CEQA and NEPA):** Permitting, Delta Plan consistency
- **Science:** Developing adaptive management and monitoring plans, baseline monitoring, pre- and post-project monitoring
- **Post-project maintenance within the three-year funding term**

B3. Funding Available

The Conservancy anticipates approximately \$3.05 million will be available for Cycle 5 grants to eligible entities pursuant to these Guidelines.

B4. Grant Terms

Grant Funding Term: The time period from the Effective Start Date through the Funding End Date listed on the grant agreement during which grantees may incur reimbursable grant-related expenses.

Grant Term: The time period, extending 15 years beyond the end of the Grant Funding Term, during which non-acquisition implementation projects must be maintained to comply with the [State General Obligation Bond Law](#). Acquisitions implementation projects must comply with the perpetual Grant Term outlined in the acquisitions grant agreement.

All grantees should spend Conservancy-awarded funding within a three-year Grant Funding Term. For implementation projects, grantees must submit their final report and invoice at the end of the Grant Funding Term, but will be held to the terms of the grant agreement until the end of the Grant Term.

C. Eligibility Requirements

C1. Bond Eligibility Requirements

Grants are available for the planning and implementation of specific, on-the-ground projects that comply with all legal requirements, including the [State General Obligation Bond Law](#). The State General Obligation Bond Law limits the use of bond funds to the construction, acquisition, and long-term improvement of capital assets that have an expected useful life of at least 15 years (Gov. Code, § 16727(a)).

C2. Eligible Geography

The Conservancy will fund projects within or benefitting the Delta and Suisun Marsh as defined in Public Resources Code section 85058 (a map can be found at this link:

<https://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/delta-plan/figure-1-1-delta-boundaries.pdf>).

The Conservancy may fund an action outside the Delta and Suisun Marsh if the Board makes all the findings described in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (CWC, div. 35, §§ 85000 – 85350). Applicants applying for funds for projects outside of the Delta and Suisun Marsh must address the following:

- How the project implements the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan.
- How the project is consistent with the requirements of any applicable state and federal permits.
- How the project will provide significant benefits to the Delta.

C3. Eligible Applicants

Eligible grant applicants are:

- **California public agencies:** California public agencies include any city, county, district, or joint powers authority; state agency; or California public university.
- **Nonprofit organizations:** “Nonprofit organization” means an organization that is qualified to do business in California and qualified under section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code. An eligible nonprofit organization has among its principal charitable purposes preservation of land for scientific, recreational, scenic, or open-space opportunities, protection of the natural environment, preservation or enhancement of wildlife, preservation of cultural and historical resources, or efforts to provide for the enjoyment of public lands.
- **Tribal organizations:** Eligible tribal organizations include any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is listed on the Native American Heritage Commission’s California Tribal List or is federally-recognized.
- **Public utilities:** To be eligible for funding, projects proposed by public utilities that are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission must have a clear and definite public purpose and shall benefit the customers and not the investors.
- **Mutual water companies, including local and regional companies:** To be eligible:
 - Projects proposed by mutual water companies must have a clear and definite public purpose and shall benefit the customers of the water system and not the investors.
 - An urban water supplier must have adopted and submitted an urban water management plan in accordance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act.

- An agricultural water supplier must have adopted and submitted an agricultural water management plan in accordance with the Agricultural Water Management Planning Act.
- An agricultural water supplier or an urban water supplier must comply with the requirements of Part 2.55 of their respective water management planning acts.

C4. Ineligible Projects

The following projects are ineligible for the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program:

- Planning projects that do not relate to an eligible implementation project.
- Projects consisting solely of education, outreach, or events activities; however, these types of activities may be included as part of the overall implementation of a project eligible for Conservancy grant funds to the extent that they contribute to project implementation.
- Projects to design, construct, operate, mitigate, or maintain Delta water conveyance facilities.
- Projects dictated by a legal settlement or mandated to address a violation of, or an order (citation) to comply with, a law or regulation.
- Projects that subsidize or decrease the pre-existing mitigation obligations of any party.
- Projects that do not comply with all legal requirements of Proposition 1 and other applicable laws.

C5. Eligible Expenses

Direct costs which can be specifically and easily identified as generated by and in accordance with the provisions or activity requirements of the project, and which are for work performed within the specified terms and conditions of the grant agreement, are eligible for reimbursement. Indirect costs that do not have a specific direct relationship to the project but are a requirement for the completion of the project are also eligible for reimbursement, up to 20 percent of the project implementation costs associated with personnel services and general operating expenses. See the **E12. BUDGET** Tables section for more information. Eligible expenses incurred on or after the Effective Start Date listed in the grant agreement and prior to the end of the Grant Funding Term may be reimbursed.

C6. Ineligible Expenses

Grant funding may not be used to:

- Establish or increase an endowment or legal defense fund.
- Make a monetary donation to other organizations.
- Pay for food or refreshments.
- Pay for tours.
- Purchase computer software.
- Pay for eminent domain processes.
- Subsidize or decrease the mitigation obligations of any party.

If ineligible expenses are included in the project budget, the Conservancy may deem the project to be ineligible. In some cases, the Conservancy may approve a project for funding with the total amount of the award reduced by the amount of the ineligible expenses. In that event, the Conservancy will contact the applicant to confirm that the project is still viable. Applicants should avoid including ineligible expenses in the application and should contact Conservancy staff with questions.

D. Grant Cycle Overview

The application process consists of two steps, a concept proposal and a full proposal. Applicants are encouraged to contact Conservancy staff at any time during the grant proposal process. Because of the competitive nature of the grant cycle, staff may be constrained in the type and amount of feedback that they can provide during the full proposal submission period. The Conservancy will post responses to any questions of universal relevance on the Proposition 1 Grant Program web page to assist others with similar questions. The Conservancy will post public workshop opportunities to the training page on its website:

<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/proposition-1-resources/>.

D1. Grant Cycle Important Dates

The Conservancy's grant application process is approximately ten months long. Concept proposals are solicited in the summer, full proposals are solicited in the fall, and funding is awarded the following spring. Following grant awards, negotiating and executing a grant agreement takes an additional three to six months. **An applicant should expect to begin work on the proposed project no sooner than six months after Board approval of full proposals.** All dates for the Conservancy's fifth grant cycle are subject to change. Please check the [Proposition 1 Grant Program](#) webpage for up-to-date information.

Important dates for Grant Cycle 5:

- **Concept Proposal Submission Period:** August 2-31, 2021
- **Concept Proposal Review and Consultation Period:** August 30-October 21, 2021
- **Full Proposal Submission Period:** October 22-December 15, 2021
- **Full Proposal Review Period:** December 16, 2021-May 25, 2022
- **Board Consideration of Awards:** May 25, 2022
- **Grant Agreement Completion:** Beginning May 26, 2022

D2. Grant Cycle Process

Step 1: Concept Proposals

Step 1(a): Concept Proposal Submittal: The applicant submits a short concept proposal that describes the project that will be submitted for consideration during the full proposal solicitation. Applicants may, and are encouraged to, consult with the Conservancy during the drafting of their concept proposal. Concept proposals are required. Only proposals submitted prior to the submission deadline will be reviewed.

Step 1(b): Concept Proposal Review: Conservancy staff will review concept proposals and provide feedback to all applicants to aid them in assembling a complete, clear, and responsive full proposal. Concept proposals will not be scored. All applicants will be provided with written comments on their concept proposals, as well as an opportunity to meet with Conservancy staff to discuss feedback.

Step 2: Full Proposal

Step 2(a): Full Proposal Submittal: Each applicant is responsible for deciding whether to submit a full proposal based on feedback received at the concept proposal stage. A full proposal will only be accepted if a concept proposal was submitted. Only full proposals submitted by the submission deadline will be considered.

Step 2(b): Administrative Review: After the submission deadline, the Conservancy will conduct an administrative review of all full proposals to check for eligibility, consistency with program requirements, and completeness. Projects that fail to meet the administrative review requirements may not be moved on for full scoring.

Step 2(c): Site Visits: Conservancy staff will conduct site visits to all eligible projects. Applicants must accompany Conservancy staff at their project site. Adjustments will be made in consideration of COVID-19 as needed.

Step 2(d): Full Proposal Evaluation: Full proposals will be evaluated and scored by Conservancy staff and an independent professional review panel made up of state and federal agency technical experts. Final scores will be based on internal and external reviews.

Step 3. Board Consideration

The Board will consider and act on staff recommendations for funding at a public meeting. Only projects approved by the Board will be awarded funding. Final scores and staff recommendations for funding will be posted on the Conservancy's website and shared with all applicants in advance of the Board's consideration of projects for funding. All applicants and members of the public will have the opportunity to appear before the Board at the public meeting. Any applicant whose proposal was not recommended for full scoring or funding may contest the recommendations by notifying Conservancy staff in writing by 5:00 p.m. at least three business days prior to the Board meeting at which funding recommendations will be considered. The notification must describe the specific issues the applicant wishes to contest. Submitted proposals will be available to the public upon request.

Step 4. Grant Agreement Completion

If funding for a grant proposal is approved, Conservancy staff will work with the applicant to complete a grant agreement that outlines reporting requirements, specific performance measures, invoice protocols, and funding disbursement. This typically takes three to six months from the date funding is awarded.

D3. Application Instructions

Concept proposals are encouraged from any eligible applicant. Instructions on how to prepare and submit a concept proposal are available on the Conservancy's website:

<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/prop-1/>.

Applicants may choose to submit a full proposal after submitting and receiving feedback on a concept proposal. The full proposal includes the following components:

- Full Proposal Application Form
- Attachments
- Supplementary materials

The Full Proposal Application Form and attachments are available on the Conservancy's website: <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/prop-1/>. The Application Form is designed to collect information about the project and the applicant and will serve as the basis on which the proposal is evaluated. Each application must include the required attachments, in the specified file type (Word or Excel), and use the templates that the Conservancy provides. Required attachments include:

- Financial Management System Questionnaire and Cost Allocation Plan
- Schedule and List of Deliverables
- Line Item Budget by Task
- Funding by Source

The following attachments are required if relevant to the proposed project:

- California Conservation Corps Consultation
- Acquisition Table
- Performance Measures Table

Applicants must submit the following supplementary materials if they are relevant to the proposed project:

- Authorization or Resolution to Apply
- Organizational documents
- Acquisition information (see [E11. LAND Acquisitions](#) in this document for more information)
- Maps and site plans
- Letter from landowner/water rights holder (if not the applicant)
- Final CEQA documents
- Covered action checklist
- Letters of support and cost share commitment letters
- Resolutions of support from applicable local government agencies

For more information about what is required in the full proposal, please carefully read the

[E. Proposal Requirements information.](#)

[D4. Proposal Review](#)

Eligibility Review

Conservancy staff will review the eligibility of each proposal. At the concept proposal stage, staff will provide feedback based on the eligibility questions below. Eligibility will be reassessed during the full proposal review process. Projects will be deemed eligible only if all four eligibility questions are answered affirmatively.

Eligibility Questions

1. Will the project result in the construction, acquisition, or long-term improvement of a capital asset or is the project a planning effort that will lead to such project? A capital asset is tangible physical property that has a useful life of at least fifteen years.
2. Is the project a multibenefit ecosystem or watershed protection or restoration project?
3. Is the project an ecosystem protection, restoration, or enhancement project; a water quality project; or a water-related agricultural sustainability project that has ecosystem or watershed benefits?

4. Is the project aligned with state priorities as described in Proposition 1, the California Water Action Plan, the Conservancy’s governing statute and 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, and the Delta Plan?

Concept Proposal Evaluation

Staff will review concept proposals and provide feedback on the following:

- Project Description
- Project Team
- Budget
- Cost Share
- Cost Leveraging
- Alignment with State Priorities
- Long Term Benefit
- Readiness
- Local Support
- Scientific Merit

All concept proposal applicants will be provided with feedback regarding the soundness of the concept and the readiness of a project to submit a full proposal, and to indicate what additional information is recommended for inclusion in a proposal.

Full Proposal Evaluation and Scoring

Full proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria (for a maximum of 100 points). The number of total possible points is indicated for each criterion. Projects must score a total of 75 points or more to be recommended for funding.

Criterion Number	Criterion Category	Points	Criterion Description
1	Project Description	13	How well does the proposal provide a clear description of the project, including the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for the project, goals, and objectives • Tasks and deliverables (deliverables should be recorded on the Schedule and List of Deliverables attachment) • Specific requirements of the Conservancy’s governing statute and Grant Guidelines that apply to acquisitions (if applicable)

Criterion Number	Criterion Category	Points	Criterion Description
2	Project Team	5	To what extent does the proposal describe appropriate organizational capacity and demonstrate the appropriate qualifications of affiliated staff and committed partners? To what extent does the proposal demonstrate that necessary partnerships have been developed?
3	Budget	7	How clear, reasonable, and justified is the project’s budget, including all budget tables?
4	Cost Share	5	<p>To what extent does the project have a cost share with private, federal, or local funding to maximize benefits?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost share of more than 40 percent of proposed budget (5 points) • Cost share of 31-40 percent of proposed budget (4 points) • Cost share of 21-30 percent of proposed budget (3 points) • Cost share of 11-20 percent of proposed budget (2 points) • Cost share of 1-10 percent of proposed budget (1 point) • Cost share of less than 1 percent of proposed budget (0 points)
5	Cost Leveraging	3	<p>To what extent does the project leverage other state funds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds leveraged more than 20 percent of proposed budget (3 points) • Funds leveraged equivalent to 11-20 percent of proposed budget (2 points) • Funds leveraged equivalent to 1-10 percent of proposed budget (1 point) • Funds leveraged less than 1 percent of proposed budget (0 points)

Criterion Number	Criterion Category	Points	Criterion Description
6	Alignment with State Priorities	15	<p>How well does the proposal demonstrate alignment between a specific, on-the-ground project and state priorities as described in the following?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 1 • California Water Action Plan • Delta Conservancy governing statute • Delta Conservancy 2017-2022 Strategic Plan • Delta Plan • Applicable species recovery plans • Applicable regional plans
7(a)	Long-Term Viability	5	For planning projects, how well does the proposal explain how the planning effort will contribute to a specific on-the-ground project?
7(b)	Long-Term Viability	5	For implementation projects, how well does the proposal demonstrate plans for long-term management and sustainability of the project for the required minimum of 15 years?
8(a)	Readiness	12	For planning projects, how well does the proposal demonstrate how the proposed planning activities will advance the project toward implementation in a timely manner? Is the proposed project beyond the feasibility stage? How will previous and subsequent phases ensure that environmental compliance and all data gaps are addressed? When will the related implementation project be ready to start?
8(b)	Readiness	12	For implementation projects, how complete is project planning including the status of CEQA and permitting efforts? When will the project be ready to begin implementation? If applicable, what is the status of land tenure?
9	Local Support	15	How well does the proposal demonstrate that the project has local support? How well does the proposal demonstrate an approach to informing and consulting potentially affected parties and to avoiding, reducing, or mitigating conflicts with existing and adjacent land uses?

Criterion Number	Criterion Category	Points	Criterion Description
10	Scientific Merit	20	<p>How well does the proposal explain the scientific basis of the proposed project including the application of best available science?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposal demonstrate the application of the Delta Plan’s adaptive management framework, appropriate to the scope of the proposed project? • How well does the proposal address potential vulnerabilities of the project site to climate change effects and how will the project account for and provide adaptation and/or resiliency? • For implementation projects, how well is performance assessment and monitoring described?

D5. Scoring Threshold and Funding Decisions

Only proposals scoring 75 points or more are eligible to be recommended to the Board for funding. Further, to be recommended to the Board, a project must provide enough information so that it can be successfully evaluated and receive a passing score on all the following key evaluation criteria: Project Description, Project Team, Budget, Alignment with State Priorities, Readiness, Local Support, and Scientific Merit. A score of 75 points during the full proposal stage does not guarantee that the proposal will be recommended for funding, that a grant award will be made, or that a project will receive the requested funding. Funding recommendations and decisions will be based upon scores and the reasonableness of costs, as well as the diversity of the types of projects and their locations, which together will create maximum benefit within the Delta. If funding requested by proposals that receive at least 75 points exceeds the funds available for the grant cycle, the Conservancy may choose to award partial funding. The Board may also choose to prioritize for approval any unfunded projects that scored more than 75 points, should subsequent funding become available. If a project scores at least 75 points but does not demonstrate strong local support or a lack of significant conflict from local interests, the Conservancy reserves the right to not fund the project or to require that the conflict is satisfactorily resolved before awarding funding. The Board may, within its discretion, approve a conditional award of funds.

E. Proposal Requirements

E1. Conflict of Interest

Applicants are subject to state and federal conflict of interest laws. If an applicant has formerly worked for the Conservancy, presently works with the state, or has an existing or previous contract with the Conservancy and is contemplating applying for a grant, the applicant should consult with Conservancy staff to determine eligibility. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, Public Contract Code sections 10365.5, 10410, and 10411.

E2. Confidentiality

Once an applicant has submitted a proposal to the Conservancy, any privacy rights, as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law with respect to the application package, are waived. All proposals are public records under the California Government Code sections 6250-6276.48, and will be provided to the public upon request.

E3. California Conservation Corps

Prior to submitting a full proposal, all applicants shall consult with the California Conservation Corps and the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (Corps) as to the feasibility of using their services to implement projects unless noted exceptions apply (CWC, § 79734). Planning projects and acquisition projects are generally exempt; pilot projects should consult the Corps. Applicants that fail to engage in such consultation are not eligible to receive funding through the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program. If an applicant submits a proposal to the Conservancy for a project for which it has been determined that Corps services can be used, the applicant must identify in the proposal the appropriate Corps and the component(s) of the project in which they will be involved, and include estimated costs for those services in the Budget Tables. Further, applicants awarded funding must thereafter work with the Corps to develop a Statement of Work and enter into a contract with the appropriate Corps.

E4. Environmental Compliance

Activities funded under this Grant Program must comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Delta Plan, and other environmental permitting requirements. The applicant is solely responsible for project compliance. Applicants should be prepared to submit any permits, surveys, or reports that support the status of their environmental compliance.

For projects subject to CEQA, the Conservancy will serve as a responsible agency unless there is no other public agency responsible for carrying out or approving the project for which the applicant seeks funding, in which case the Conservancy may serve as the lead agency. The applicant must coordinate with the Conservancy at the concept proposal stage if the Conservancy is proposed to act as the lead agency for the project.

For proposed projects that include an action that is likely to be deemed a covered action pursuant to the California Water Code section 85057.5, the applicant is responsible for ensuring consistency with the Delta Plan. The Conservancy encourages all applicants to communicate with the Delta Stewardship Council to understand if their projects will need to certify their consistency with the Delta Plan. For all implementation projects, a covered action checklist must be submitted with the full proposal. For those projects that will need to certify consistency, the proposal shall include a description of how consistency will be achieved and may include in its budget the funding necessary to complete related tasks, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan. The project must be certified as consistent with the Delta Plan before funds are disbursed for construction or the physical implementation of the project. The applicant must coordinate with the Conservancy at the concept proposal stage if the Conservancy is proposed to act as the covered action lead agency for the project.

E5. Water Rights

Funded projects that address stream flows and water use shall comply with the Water Code as well as any applicable state or federal laws or regulations. Any project that would require a change to water rights, including, but not limited to, bypass flows, point of diversion, location of use, purpose of use, or off-stream storage shall demonstrate in their grant proposal an understanding of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) processes, timelines, and costs necessary for project approvals by SWRCB and the ability to meet those timelines within the funding term of a grant. In addition, any project that involves modification of water rights for an adjudicated stream shall identify the required legal process for the change as well as associated legal costs. Projects that propose to acquire a permanent dedication of water must be in accordance with section 1707 of the Water Code. Specifically, the SWRCB must specify that the water proposed for acquisition is in addition to the water that is needed to meet regulatory requirements (CWC, § 79709(a)). Applicants may apply for funding from the Conservancy to complete the section 1707 petition process, but the SWRCB must approve the petition prior to the dispersal of funds for any other project tasks. Prior to its completion, any water right acquisition must be supported by a water rights appraisal approved by the Department of General Services, Real Property Services Section.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to comply with SWRCB regulations regarding the diversion and use of water, including ensuring that the applicant has adequate water rights to complete the project and that the project will not reduce or otherwise affect the rights of other water rights holders (CWC, § 79711(d)). For implementation and pilot projects that require water application (e.g., restoration, working lands enhancements, etc.), applicants must submit a statement number or application number for the water right they propose to use, as well as a short narrative demonstrating that the project's water use has been considered, is reasonable, and that there is sufficient water to implement and maintain the project without causing adverse impacts to downstream users or surrounding landowners. Conservancy staff will consult with the office of the Delta Watermaster regarding projects that propose to use water. The Delta Watermaster will review the water rights affiliated with the proposed projects and will provide an informal opinion as to whether these water rights appear to be subject to challenge. When considering if a project should be recommended for funding, Conservancy staff will consider the Watermaster's input and any issues identified during review.

If applicable, applicants must provide a letter of support from the entity providing water for an implementation project. The letter must verify that the water rights holder has the right to deliver water to the property on which the proposed project will be implemented, and that the water rights holder recognizes its obligation to provide water to that property for the purposes of implementing the proposed project. The Conservancy may at any time request that an applicant or grantee provide additional proof that it has a legal right to divert water and sufficient documentation regarding actual water availability and use.

E6. Best Available Science

All proposals will be evaluated on the scientific basis of their project. Applicants must provide a description of the scientific foundation of their project, including scientific literature, studies, or expert opinion that they have consulted. Applicants must use the best available science when planning and implementing their proposed projects. A more complete review of best available science can be found in [Appendix 1A of the Delta Plan](#).

Applicants proposing ecosystem restoration and enhancement projects are encouraged to take into account the landscape considerations and guidelines discussed in *A Delta Renewed: A Guide to Science-Based Ecological Restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta* (A Delta Renewed, SFEI-ASC, 2016) when determining appropriate habitat restoration or enhancement actions. All applicants are encouraged to consult recent resources on climate change in California, which include the following: [California Natural Resources Agency's Safeguarding California Plan: 2018 Update](#) (particularly the Biodiversity and Habitat Section), [Cal-Adapt](#) (includes climate tools, data, and resources), the [California Climate Commons](#), Point Blue Conservation Science's [Climate-Smart Restoration Toolkit](#), *Adapting to Rising Tides* ([Bay Area](#), [Eastern Contra Costa County](#), and [Contra Costa County](#)), [Delta Adapts](#), and the Ocean Protection Council's [2017 Rising Seas in California: An Update on Sea-Level Rise Science](#).

E7. Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is a framework and flexible decision-making process that advances scientific understanding and increases the likelihood for a project to achieve desired goals and objectives in the face of uncertainties such as climate change or ecological response to management decisions. Long-term management is related to adaptive management, and the two terms are frequently conflated. Adaptive management describes the scientific process in which the entire project is embedded, whereas long-term management deals with the ongoing stewardship and maintenance of the site. The process for collecting and analyzing science-based information – a critical component of adaptive management – should be a factor in long-term management planning and decisions. All applicants are required to develop and utilize science-based adaptive management that is consistent with the [Delta Plan's Nine-Step Adaptive](#)

[Management Framework](#). Resources and support can be found through the [Interagency Adaptive Management Coordination](#) webpage.

Depending on the status and type of a proposed project, adaptive management expectations will vary. Planning projects may not have all nine steps fully developed, but are expected to describe how they will be considered and incorporated as the project progresses. Conservation easement proposals must describe the application of an adaptive management framework, but may not have much leeway to alter easement terms. Projects that employ well-established best management practices do not carry the same burden of proof as those attempting new, untested approaches. Since the adaptive management approach should be integrated throughout the project, its description will be incorporated into many sections of the proposal. Applicants will be asked to summarize their approach to adaptive management in the Scientific Merit section of the full proposal.

E8. Performance Monitoring and Assessment

All implementation project proposals (including those for acquisition projects) and all pilot projects must describe a performance monitoring and assessment framework that identifies the performance measures that will be used to demonstrate the ecosystem and/or watershed benefits of the project, how they will be monitored and assessed, and how monitoring data will be reported. A complete performance monitoring and assessment plan will be a required grant deliverable. Costs for developing and implementing a performance monitoring and assessment plan may be included in the budget for the full proposal. The completion of the plan must be noted in the Schedule and List of Deliverables. Projects deemed covered actions under the Delta Plan are required to certify consistency with it. One component of certification is development of an Adaptive Management Plan, with includes performance monitoring and assessment. A performance monitoring and assessment framework is not required for planning projects. Performance of planning projects will be evaluated based on completion of project deliverables per the grant agreement.

The Conservancy reserves the right to negotiate specific terms and conditions for performance monitoring and assessment prior to grant execution to ensure appropriate methods and measures are identified and to assist with consistency of nomenclature, units, and measurements.

Performance Measures

A key attribute of the performance monitoring and assessment framework is the development of project-specific performance measures. Performance measures must be designed so the Conservancy can ensure that projects achieve outputs, are on-track to meet their intended objectives, and provide value to the State of California.

Applicants for implementation and pilot projects must prepare and submit a Performance Measures Table, specific to their proposed project, that demonstrates how ecosystem and watershed benefits will be measured. Draft tables are required as a component of the concept proposal. Applicants are encouraged to contact Conservancy staff to discuss performance measures prior to submitting a concept proposal.

The Performance Measures Table requires applicants to align their project objectives with measurable outputs and outcomes. **Output** performance measures track project implementation and management actions (e.g., acres of ecosystem restored or preserved, number of trees planted, and number of barriers to fish migration removed). **Outcome** performance measures evaluate ecosystem responses to project implementation (e.g., responses by target fish and wildlife populations, responses in ecosystem function).

The Delta Conservancy has identified a suite of standardized performance measures intended to measure the ecosystem and/or watershed benefits of a project. **Applicants are required to utilize these performance measures to the extent that they are reasonably applicable to the proposed project.** The list of standardized performance measures is not exhaustive. Additional project-specific outputs and outcomes may be required to meet the project objectives.

Outputs

1. Increased acres or linear feet of the following ecosystem/land use types that are protected, restored, or enhanced:
 - Wetlands
 - Freshwater emergent marsh/wetland, tidal
 - Freshwater emergent marsh/wetland, nontidal
 - Saline/brackish emergent marsh/wetland
 - Seasonal wetlands (including vernal pools, wet meadows, and managed wetlands)
 - Riparian forest
 - Valley foothill riparian
 - Upland
 - Grassland
 - Oak woodland/savanna

- Floodplain spawning and rearing habitat (may comprise other habitat types)
 - Shaded riverine aquatic cover
- (See **APPENDIX C: ECOSYSTEM AND LAND USE TYPES** for definitions)
2. Increased acres or linear feet with a best management practice implemented (identify by type of best management practice)
 3. Increased acres of agricultural lands protected, established, or enhanced by implementing multi-benefit restoration projects
 4. Increased acres or linear feet of invasive species treated
 5. Increased acre-feet of water protected or conserved per year to increase flow in periods of limited water supply
 6. Increased metric tons of carbon sequestered per year
 7. Increased acre-feet of contaminated runoff treated or retained on-site
 8. Reduced concentrations and/or loading of point source pollutants (such as from municipal stormwater) into associated waterbody or into offsite discharge
 9. Reduced concentrations and/or loading of non-point source pollutants such as sediment, pesticides, bio-stimulatory substances (inorganic nutrients such as ammonium, nitrate, and phosphate) or other pollutants into associated waterbody or into offsite discharge

Outcomes

1. Increased use/occurrence of native animal species at restored/enhanced project site
2. Maintained use/occurrence of native animal species at protected project site
3. Increased ratio of native to nonnative plant species at restored/enhanced project site
4. Increased abundance of desirable aquatic macro-invertebrates at project site
5. Increased desirable primary productivity at project site
6. Increased water supply to associated waterbody or for groundwater recharge
7. Increased use/occurrence of native fish species in associated waterbody
8. Increase in dissolved oxygen concentrations in associated waterbody
9. Reduced toxicity³ of water or sediment in associated waterbody
10. Improvement in other water quality conditions (such as decreased water temperature) in associated waterbody

Monitoring and Assessment Framework

In addition to identifying performance measures, applicants must describe their approach to monitoring and assessing performance. Applicants should incorporate standardized monitoring approaches, where applicable, into their monitoring and assessment frameworks and evaluate opportunities to coordinate with existing monitoring efforts or produce information that can readily be integrated into such efforts. If an applicant determines that the use of standardized approaches is not appropriate, the proposal must provide a clear justification and a description of the proposed approach. Types of standardized methods and related data portals include:

- **Wetland and riparian restoration:** [Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Program](#) (WRAMP) framework for data collection, [EcoAtlas](#) for data reporting
- **Water quality, toxicity, and bioassessment data:** [Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program](#) (SWAMP) for standardized methods and data collection, [California Environmental Data Exchange Network](#) (CEDEN) for data reporting
- **Coastal salmonids:** [California Coastal Monitoring Program](#) for both methods and reporting

Grantees will be required to add their project into [EcoAtlas Project Tracker](#) and provide periodic updates.

Environmental data and information collected under the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users in a timely manner, except where limited by law, regulation, policy, or security requirements. All data collected and created is a required deliverable.

E9. Long-Term Management

The goal of long-term management is to foster the ongoing success of the project and viability of the site's natural resources, ensuring that the benefits arising from the project endure beyond the end of the Grant Funding Term. Applicants must describe future land management activities, explaining how the project, once implemented, will be stewarded for at least 15 years per the requirement for capital outlay projects as specified in the [State General Obligation Bond Law](#). Properties restored, enhanced, or protected, and facilities constructed or enhanced with funds provided by the Conservancy shall be operated, used, and maintained consistent with the purposes of the grant.

E10. Land Tenure

For all projects conducted on land that is not owned by the grantee, the grantee must demonstrate that they have adequate site control prior to the disbursement of grant funds. At the time of application, all projects that require site access must describe the status of site control. Applicants must provide a letter of support from the landowner of the project site if the applicant is not the landowner. Once funds are awarded, all projects must submit documentation showing that they have adequate site control to implement the proposed project. Implementation projects must submit documentation proving that they have adequate control to improve or restore the site, and to maintain the project for a minimum of 15 years. Grantees may assign the responsibility to implement, monitor, and maintain a project, but will still be accountable for any assigned tasks. If the grantee owns the land on which the project is being implemented, the grantee must record the grant agreement against the deed of the property. If the grantee does not own the land on which the project will be implemented, a landowner access agreement will be required as a condition of the grant agreement and must be executed and recorded before funds are disbursed. The landowner access agreement must be signed by the grantee and the landowner, and must include a legal description of the land on which the project is being implemented; the Conservancy will approve as to form. A landowner access agreement template can be found on the Conservancy's [Proposition 1 Grant Program web page](#). Grantees opting not to use the template must submit an alternate agreement that conforms to the terms of the template. Costs associated with the development of the land tenure agreement can be included in the project budget, but cannot be reimbursed until the landowner access agreement is approved as to form by the Conservancy. For lands being acquired with Conservancy funds, the Land Acquisitions section, below, describes land tenure requirements.

E11. Land Acquisitions

The Conservancy may award funds for a land acquisition project. Acquisition projects must adhere to the following requirements:

- Property must be acquired from a willing seller and in compliance with current laws governing acquisition of real property by public agencies⁴ in an amount not to exceed fair market value, as approved by the state.
- If a signed purchase and sale or option agreement is unavailable to be submitted with the application, a Willing Seller Letter is required from each landowner indicating they are a willing participant in the proposed real estate transaction. The letter should clearly identify the parcels to be purchased and state that “if grant funds are awarded, the seller is willing to enter into negotiations for sale of the property at a purchase price not to exceed fair market value.”

- Once a proposal is submitted, another property cannot be substituted for the property specified in the application. Therefore, it is imperative that the applicant demonstrate that the seller is negotiating in good faith, and that discussions have proceeded to a point of confidence.
- Department of General Services must review and approve all appraisals of real property. Appraisals must comply with section 5096.510 of the Public Resources Code. The Conservancy will not directly pay the Department of General Services (DGS) to review and approve the required appraisal; the grantee must pay DGS directly for this expense and seek reimbursement from the Conservancy.

Acquisition projects are also subject to a specific set of additional requirements that must be met prior to and immediately after closing escrow. For more information, please refer to the checklist provided in **APPENDIX D: LAND ACQUISITION CHECKLIST**. Note that the Conservancy will do an assessment of mineral rights based on information provided by the applicant. Based on its assessment, the Conservancy will determine whether the risk posed by exercising existing mineral rights and the related consequences for intended conservation purposes is acceptable to the Conservancy. If the Conservancy determines that the risk is not acceptable and the risk cannot be reduced to an acceptable level within a reasonable amount of time, then the Conservancy may rescind the grant award.

In addition to the purchase of real property, acquisition projects may seek reimbursement for costs associated with personnel time, appraisal and appraisal review, due diligence costs, closing costs, and other costs related to the acquisition of real property. In total, other costs related to the acquisition of real property may not exceed 10 percent of the land acquisition cost that is being requested from the Conservancy. Note that the land acquisition cost may not be factored into the indirect cost calculation. Funding will be dispersed quarterly in arrears for all costs save for the land acquisition cost, for which funds will be transferred into escrow once all requirements have been met as specified in **APPENDIX D: LAND ACQUISITION CHECKLIST**.

Acquisition projects must address all other requirements of implementation projects, including the development of scientific outputs and outcomes and a performance monitoring and assessment framework. The following additional information is required at the time of application:

- A table including parcel numbers, acreage, willing seller name and address, breakdown of how the funds will be budgeted, and an acquisition schedule (a template is provided on the [Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program web page](#))
- Copy of the Purchase and Sale or Option Agreement, or Willing Seller Letter(s)
- Appraisal or justification of estimated Fair Market Value
- Map showing lands that will be acquired, including parcel lines and numbers

Proposals for acquisition of real property must also address the following, as required by section 32364.5(b) of the Conservancy's governing statute:

- The intended use of the property
- The manner in which the land will be managed
- How the cost of ongoing operations, maintenance, and management will be provided, including an analysis of the maintaining entity's financial capacity to support those ongoing costs
- How payments will be provided in lieu of taxes, assessments, or charges otherwise due to local government, if applicable

E12. Budget Tables

Using the Budget Tables provided with the full proposal application materials, applicants must identify all project expenses for which Conservancy funds are being requested. Budget Tables include the concept proposal Budget Table template and the following full proposal attachments: Line Item Budget by Task and Funding by Source. **All budget numbers must be fair and reasonable, consistent across budget tables, and fully explained and justified in the budget narrative of the full proposal application form.** All expenses must be eligible and conform to the following cost categories in the Line Item Budget:

- **Personnel Services:** Personnel rates may only include salary and wages, fringe benefits, and payroll taxes. Compensation for personnel services includes all compensation paid by the organization for services of employees working directly on the project during the Grant Funding Term. The expenditures are allowable to the extent that the total compensation for individual employees is supported and reasonable for the services rendered. Fringe benefit expenses may include holidays, vacation, sick leave, actual employer contributions or expenses for social security, employee insurance, workmen's compensation insurance, and pension plan costs. Grantees must provide timesheets with 100 percent time accounting to the Conservancy to support invoices.
- **Operating Expenses (General):** General Operating Expenses include all materials and supplies, such as field supplies, office supplies, permits and fees, travel expenses, and other general expenses required to directly implement the project. All costs should be allocated according to the most equitable basis practical. During invoicing, all expenses must be supported by receipts or other documentation payment has been made (not just incurred).
- **Operating Expenses (Subcontractor):** Subcontractor expenses, including equipment rentals, are allowable if work to be completed or services to be provided are directly linked to the proposed project and are consistent with the tasks and schedule provided in the proposal. Note that subcontractor expenses may not be factored into the indirect cost calculation. Grantees must provide copies of all contracts to the Conservancy.

- **Operating Expenses (Equipment):** Equipment includes nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and a unit price of \$5,000 or more, as well as theft-sensitive items of equipment costing less than \$5,000 (such as electronics). All equipment purchased or built by the Grantee is owned by the Grantee during the Funding Term. The Conservancy will only reimburse for a cost proportionate to the usage of the equipment for the project being funded by the Conservancy. Equipment purchases are allowable, if specified as a requirement for the completion of the project. However, justification for the purchase of equipment must be provided at the time of application. The Grantee is required to maintain accountability for all property purchased and to keep, and make available to the Grantor, adequate and appropriate records of all equipment purchased with grant funds. Grantees must keep an inventory record including the date acquired, total cost, serial number, model identification, and any other information or description necessary to identify said equipment for the duration of the Grant Funding Term. Note that equipment expenses may not be factored into the indirect cost calculation.
- **Acquisition Cost:** The acquisition cost includes only the purchase of real property or conservation easement. In total, appraisal and appraisal review, personnel time, due diligence costs, closing costs, and other costs related to the acquisition of real property or conservation easement may not exceed 10 percent of the acquisition cost that is being requested from the Conservancy. Note that the acquisition cost may not be factored into the indirect cost calculation.
- **Indirect Costs:** Indirect costs that do not have a specific direct relationship to the project but are a requirement for the completion of the project may be eligible for reimbursement. Indirect costs are capped at a rate of 20 percent of the sum of the Personnel Services and Operating Expenses (General) line items. To determine the amount of eligible indirect costs, the applicant must first determine the cost of implementing the project, not including any indirect costs. Once the project implementation cost has been determined, the applicant may calculate indirect costs and include them in the total grant request up to the allowable 20 percent cap on the specified line items. Indirect costs may not be applied to subcontractor or equipment line items, nor to land acquisition costs. Indirect costs must be reasonable, allocable, and applicable and may include administrative support (e.g., personnel time for accounting, executive, information technology, or other staff who support the implementation of the proposed project but are not directly billing their time to the project) and office-related expenses (e.g., insurance, rent, utilities, printing/copying equipment, computer equipment, and janitorial expenses). Indirect costs may not be included in the hourly rate for personnel billing directly to the grant. Indirect rates are strictly enforced for all applicants. These costs are subject to audit and must be documented by the grantee.

Budget Tables should include costs for the tasks described in the full proposal and must demonstrate how grant management and reporting costs will be funded, either by the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program or using cost share or state-leveraged funds. Applicants are encouraged to review other Conservancy requirements that may be eligible for Conservancy grant funding (e.g., Delta Plan consistency, developing a landowner access agreement, etc.) and include these in their budgets where applicable.

Applicants must also identify cost share contributions if receiving funding for the project from a source other than the Conservancy.

E13. Cost Share and State-Leveraged Funds

The Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program does not have a match requirement; however, applicants are encouraged to cost share to support their project. Cost share is the portion of the project expense borne by private, local, and federal funding partners. Cost sharing encourages collaboration and cooperation. The Conservancy will provide points to proposals with a federal, local, or private cost share component (other state funds may not count toward the cost share). Only cost share commitments made explicitly for the project may count toward the cost percentage for purposes of evaluation and scoring of proposals. Applicants stating that they have a cost share component must include commitment letters from cost share partners at the time the full proposal is submitted; these letters must specifically confirm the dollar amount committed. Cost share funds must be spent between the close of the full proposal submission period and the end of the Grant Funding Term.

Points are awarded based on cost share percent (see **D4. PROPOSAL** Review) which is calculated by dividing the total eligible cost share (only that from federal, local, or private sources) by the total dollar amount requested from the Conservancy. In-kind cost share is defined as all non-cash contributions to the project with an assigned value, and may include volunteer time, supplies, and equipment. For the purposes of scoring, all in-kind cost share must be matched with cash cost share at a one-to-one ratio. For example, if a project has \$25,000 of cash cost share, the maximum qualifying in-kind cost share is \$25,000. Points would not be awarded for any in-kind cost share that exceeds \$25,000. For projects without any cash cost share, in-kind cost share will not be calculated into the project's cost share score.

The Conservancy will also provide up to three points for proposals that leverage state funds for multibenefit projects. State funds may not count toward the cost share. Applicants stating that they are leveraging other state funds must include commitment letters from leverage partners when submitting the full proposal, and funds must be spent between the time that the full proposal submission period closes and the end of the Grant Funding Term. The same cash to in-kind ratio applies, and points are calculated as noted above.

E14. Financial Management Systems Questionnaire and Cost Allocation Plan

A Financial Management Systems Questionnaire and Cost Allocation Plan form is required from all applicants at the time of full proposal (a template will be provided on the Proposition 1 Grant Program webpage). The information provided will be used to assess the applicant's financial capacity for managing the proposed grant. The Financial Management Systems Questionnaire must be signed and dated and requires the applicant to provide the following information:

- Organizational data
- Financial audit data
- Financial statement
- Accounting system data
- Timekeeping system data
- Purchasing system

The Cost Allocation Plan should be tailored to fit the specific policies of the applicant. The plan requires information about how the applicant allocates costs to ensure an equitable distribution of costs to programs. Recipients must have a system in place to equitably charge costs.

E15. Demonstration of Local Support

Applicants are expected to demonstrate local support by describing in their proposals both public and institutional support for the project, including how the community and stakeholders are engaged in the project. Letters of support may also be included. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact, seek support from, and coordinate with applicable state agencies, cities, counties, local districts, other public and private stakeholders, and surrounding landowners. If an applicant has a project-specific resolution of support from the affected city, county, or local district, it should be included with the full proposal to facilitate the overall assessment process. A resolution of support from the Board of Supervisors from the county in which the project is located is a component of the full proposal and is required to achieve maximum points.

E16. Local Notifications

In compliance with the Conservancy's governing statute (Pub. Resources Code, § 32363) and Proposition 1, the Conservancy will notify local government agencies – such as counties, cities, and local districts – about eligible grant projects in their area being considered for funding. Conservancy staff will also notify the applicable public water agency, levee, flood control, or drainage agency (when appropriate). The individual Conservancy Board members representing each of the five Delta counties will also be notified and may wish to communicate with the affected entities. For acquisition projects, the Conservancy will coordinate and consult with the Delta Protection Commission and the city or county in which a grant is proposed to be implemented or an interest in real property is proposed to be acquired. The Conservancy will work with the grantee to make all reasonable efforts to address concerns raised by local government entities.

E17. Consultation and Cooperation with State and Local Agencies

The Conservancy will coordinate with the appropriate departments in state government with interests in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, the Delta Stewardship Council, the California Natural Resources Agency's EcoRestore program, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If a project is proposed to be funded by multiple agencies, the Conservancy strongly encourages applicants to reach out to applicable agencies prior to applying for funding to discuss options for funding projects. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that proposals submitted to each potential funder describe the specific work that will be funded by all applicable agencies. The proposed scope of each proposal must be distinct and without overlap. Applicants must describe the overall project and how the proposals relate.

E18. Disadvantaged Communities

Proposition 1 does not require that the Conservancy direct a specific portion of funding to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities (those communities with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the state's median household income based on U.S. Census). However, a large majority of the communities found within the Delta are considered disadvantaged communities according to the U.S. Census, as are many of the communities immediately outside of the Delta. Any Proposition 1 funds spent on improving aspects of the Delta will very likely have some benefit to one or more disadvantaged communities. Applicants must identify any disadvantaged communities that overlap with the footprint of the proposed project, which disadvantaged communities occur within one mile of the footprint, and which disadvantaged communities occur within five miles of the project footprint. Refer to the [Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool](#).

F. Requirements if Funded

F1. Grant Provisions

For each awarded grant, the Conservancy will develop an individual grant agreement with detailed provisions and requirements specific to that project. A draft grant agreement template is provided on the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program webpage. Please be aware that if you receive a grant from the Conservancy, the provisions listed below will apply:

- Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the state (see Loss of Funding section, below).
- Eligible expenses incurred upon the execution start date listed in the grant agreement and through the end of the Grant Funding Term may be reimbursed. Grant eligible costs will generally only be paid in arrears on a reimbursement basis (with the exception of acquisition costs). Expenses require supporting documentation, and may be subject to audit (see **APPENDIX E: STATE AUDITING REQUIREMENTS**).
- For all implementation projects, adequate proof of land tenure allowing the grantee to access property to construct and maintain the proposed project must be in place prior to the disbursement of funds.
- For implementation projects, funds for construction or physical implementation will not be disbursed until all required environmental compliance and permitting documents have been received by the Conservancy, including certification of consistency with the Delta Plan.
- As part of the grant agreement, the grantee is required to certify that it is the grantee's responsibility to comply with all federal, state, and local laws that apply to the project.
- Grantees will not be reimbursed if any of the following conditions occur:
 - The applicant has been non-responsive or does not meet the conditions outlined in the grant proposal and grant agreement.
 - The project has received alternative funding from other sources that duplicates the portion of work or costs funded by a Conservancy grant.
 - The project has changed and is no longer eligible for funding.
 - The applicant requests to end the project.

F2. Loss of Funding

Work performed under the grant agreement is subject to availability of funds through the state's budget process. If funding for the grant agreement is reduced, eliminated, or delayed by the Budget Act or through other budget control actions, the Conservancy shall have the option to cancel the grant agreement, offer to the Grantee a grant agreement amendment reflecting a reduced amount, or suspend work. In the event of cancellation of the grant agreement or suspension of work, the Conservancy shall provide written notice to the grantee and be liable only for payment for any work completed pursuant to the grant agreement up to the date of the written notice. The Conservancy shall have no liability for payment for work carried out or undertaken after the date of written notice of cancellation or suspension. In the event of a suspension of work, the Conservancy may remove the suspension of work by written notice to the Grantee. The Conservancy shall be liable for payment for work completed from the date of written notice of the removal of the suspension of work, consistent with other terms of the grant agreement. In no event shall the Conservancy be liable to the grantee for any costs or damages associated with any period of suspension, nor shall the Conservancy be liable for any costs if, after a suspension, no funds are available and the grant agreement is then cancelled based on budget actions.

F3. Labor Code Compliance

Grants awarded through the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program may be subject to prevailing wage provisions of part 7 of division 2 of the California Labor Code (CLC), commencing with section 1720. The grantee shall pay prevailing wage to all persons employed in the performance of any part of the project if required by law to do so. Any questions of interpretation regarding the CLC should be directed to the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), the state department having jurisdiction in these matters. For more details, please refer to the [DIR website](#).

F4. Reporting

All projects will be required to provide quarterly progress reports during the Grant Funding Term and a final report prior to receiving the final reimbursement. Specific reporting requirements will be included in the grant agreement.

F5. Amendments

Applicants should very carefully consider the Scope of Work and budget for the proposed project as amendments to grant agreements will generally only be considered by the grantor for unavoidable circumstances where no other feasible solution exists. If an unanticipated situation arises which jeopardizes the project, it is imperative that the grantee contact the Grant Manager as soon as possible to discuss options.

F6. Signage and Recognition

Grantees shall inform the public that the project received funds through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy and from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) (CWC, § 79707(g)). Grantees shall recognize the Conservancy on signs, websites, press or promotional materials, advertisements, publications, or exhibits that they prepare or approve and that reference funding of a project. For implementation projects, grantees shall post signs at the project site acknowledging the source of the funds. Size, location, number of signs, and draft design shall be approved by the Conservancy. Required signage must be in place prior to final distribution of grant funds. Grantees shall notify the Conservancy at least ten working days prior to any public event or media feature publicizing the accomplishments and/or results of the project and provide the opportunity for attendance and participation by Conservancy representatives.

Appendix A: Key State, Federal, and Local Plans and Tools

Links to potentially relevant resources are provided below under the primary authoring agency (in alphabetical order).

Bureau of Reclamation

- [Bureau of Reclamation – Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan \(2013\)](#)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

- [Delta Conservation Framework](#)

California Water Quality Monitoring Council

- [California Wetlands Monitoring Workgroup](#)
- [Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan \(WRAMP\)](#)

Central Valley Joint Venture

- [Central Valley Joint Venture Implementation Plan \(2006\)](#)

Delta Stewardship Council

- [Delta Plan \(2013\)](#)
- [Delta Science Plan](#)
- [Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment](#)

Department of Water Resources

- [Central Valley Flood Protection Plan \(2012\)](#)
- [Communities Mapping Tool](#)

Delta Protection Commission

- [Delta Protection Commission – Land Use and Resource Management Plan](#)
- [Delta Protection Commission – Economic Sustainability Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta \(2012\)](#)

National Marine Fisheries Service

- [Central Valley Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan](#)

Natural Resources Agency

- [Proposition 1](#)
- [California Water Action Plan](#)
- [Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy](#)
- [EcoRestore](#)
- [Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy](#)

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

- [Delta Conservancy's Governing Statute](#)
- [Strategic Plan](#)
- [Delta Public Lands Strategy](#)

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

- [Suisun Marsh Preservation Act](#)
- [Suisun Marsh Protection Plan](#)

San Francisco Estuary Institute

- [California Aquatic Resources Inventory](#)
- [California Rapid Assessment Method](#)
- [Delta Landscapes Project](#)
- [Delta Landscapes Scenario Planning Tool](#)
- [Delta Renewed](#)
- [Delta Salmon Rearing Habitat Study](#)
- [Delta Transformed](#)
- [EcoAtlas](#)
- [Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Historical Ecology Investigation: Exploring Pattern and Process](#)

State Water Resources Control Board

- [Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program.](#)
- [California Environmental Data Exchange Network](#)

United States Department of Fish and Wildlife

- [California Tiger Salamander – Central California DPS Recovery Plan](#)
- [Giant Garter Snake Recovery Plan](#)
- [Suisun Marsh Plan](#)
- [Tidal Marsh Recovery Plan](#)
- [Vernal Pool Recovery Plan](#)

Yolo County

- [Yolo County Agricultural Economic Development Fund](#)

Appendix B: Programmatic Priorities

Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement

The objective of this programmatic priority is to protect, restore, and enhance ecosystem functions to improve the health and resiliency of native wildlife species in the Delta. This will require restoring greater extent, diversity, and connectivity of habitats as linked mosaics throughout the Delta landscape, as well as the underlying physical processes that create and maintain ecosystem function. The Conservancy is seeking to fund projects that are consistent with state priorities, including those that:

- Protect, restore, and/or enhance open water, wetland, riparian, and upland ecosystems, including:
 - Creating or improving fish and wildlife corridors.
 - Enhancing habitat value along levees.
 - Creating or enhancing habitat value of managed wetlands.
 - Improving watershed health, restoring inland wetlands, or implementing natural community conservation plans and/or habitat conservation plans to benefit endangered, threatened, or migratory species.
 - Acquiring land or conservation easements.
- Recover anadromous fish populations and their habitats, including fish passage barrier removal projects.
- Enhance habitat values on agricultural lands.
- Reduce or eliminate invasive species.
- Adapt watersheds to reduce the impacts of climate change, including developing wetlands for carbon management.

Water Quality

The objective of this priority is to implement projects that contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Delta, and that will improve ecosystem or watershed condition, function, and resiliency, including projects that provide multiple public benefits and improve drinking and agricultural water quality or water supplies. Examples of water quality projects include those that:

- Improve management practices to reduce the use, availability, and/or runoff of chemicals (such as nutrients or bio-stimulatory substances, pesticides, or other contaminants) into waterbodies.
- Reduce erosion or runoff of sediment into waterbodies.
- Improve water management practices to improve water quality in waterways.
- Improve water quality by addressing impacts of non-native invasive vegetation.
- Protect sensitive watershed lands to avoid or reduce water quality impacts from encroaching land uses.
- Increase flow in periods of limited water supply.

Water-Related Agricultural Sustainability

The objective of this priority is to promote water-related agricultural sustainability projects that also provide ecosystem and/or watershed protection and/or restoration benefits. Examples of water-related agricultural sustainability projects include those that:

- Improve water management to support agriculture and provide ecosystem and/or watershed protection and/or restoration benefits.
- Develop infrastructure or implement other improvements that enhance agricultural productivity and provide ecosystem and/or watershed protection and/or restoration benefits.
- Minimize the detrimental impacts of water diversions for agriculture, including consolidating existing intakes and screening new intakes.
- Sustain agricultural productivity and enhance the ecosystem and/or watershed protection and/or restoration benefits of agricultural lands, including:
 - Planting hedgerows and native vegetation to increase support for native terrestrial wildlife (e.g., native pollinators beneficial to agricultural productivity).
 - Modifying planting, harvesting, irrigating, or other practices on productive fields.
 - Implementing flexible management in agricultural areas to support diverse and dynamic ecosystems and watersheds.
 - Installing livestock exclusion fencing along drainage canals and other sensitive waterways to improve water quality and/or reduce habitat disturbance.
- Support continued farming and minimize detrimental impacts to water quality, including:
 - Assisting with the exclusion or drainage of seepage water to reduce salinity intrusion affecting agricultural lands and improve the quality of agricultural discharges.
 - Developing and implementing best management practices to improve the quality of agricultural discharges.
- Acquire an interest in real property to protect agriculture and to provide ecosystem and/or watershed protection and/or restoration benefits.

The examples provided above are offered as guidance for potential applicants and are not exhaustive nor a guarantee of individual project eligibility or funding. Eligibility and funding determinations will be made on a project-by-project basis. To be eligible, projects must comply with all legal requirements, including the [State General Obligation Bond Law](#).

Appendix C: Ecosystem and Land Use Types

Upland/terrestrial land: vegetated areas not adjacent to open water

Primary Ecosystem/Land Use Type	Units	Ecosystem/Land Use Type Definition ⁵
Grassland	acres	Low herbaceous communities occupying well-drained soils and composed of native forbs and annual and perennial grasses and usually devoid of trees. Few to no vernal pools present.
Oak woodland/savanna	acres	Oak dominated communities with sparse to dense cover (10-65 percent cover) and an herbaceous understory.
Stabilized interior dune vegetation	acres	Vegetation dominated by shrub species with some locations also supporting live oaks on the more stabilized dunes with more well-developed soil profiles.
Agriculture - high intensity	acres	Active agricultural lands in crops such as fruit or nut orchards and/or vineyards.
Agriculture - low intensity	acres	Active agricultural lands in crops such as row crops, rice fields, alfalfa or pasture.
Ruderal / non-native	acres	Areas dominated by disturbed ground or non-native vegetation.

Riparian land: vegetated areas adjacent to tidal or fluvial channels

Primary Ecosystem/Land Use Types	Units	Ecosystem/Land Use Type Definition ⁶
Valley foothill riparian	acres	Mature riparian forest usually associated with a dense understory and mixed canopy, including sycamore, oaks, willows, and other trees. Historically occupied the supratidal natural levees of larger rivers that were occasionally flooded.
Willow riparian scrub-shrub	acres	Riparian vegetation dominated by woody scrub or shrubs with few to no tall trees. This ecosystem type generally occupies long, relatively narrow corridors of lower natural levees along rivers and streams.
Willow thicket	acres	Perennially wet, dominated by woody vegetation (e.g., willows). Emergent vegetation may be a significant component. Generally located at the “sinks” of major creeks or rivers as they exit alluvial fans into the valley floor.

Perennial wetland: areas dominated by emergent vegetation with perennial flooding and/or permanent saturation

Primary Ecosystem/Land Use Types	Units	Ecosystem/Land Use Type Definition ⁷
Freshwater emergent wetland/marsh - tidal	acres	Perennially wet, high water table, dominated by emergent vegetation. Woody vegetation (e.g., willows) may be a significant component for some areas, particularly the western-central Delta. Wetted or inundated by spring tides at low river stages (approximating high tide levels).
Freshwater emergent wetland/marsh - non-tidal	acres	Temporarily to permanently flooded, permanently saturated, freshwater non-tidal wetlands dominated by emergent vegetation. In the Delta, occupy upstream floodplain positions above tidal influence.
Saline emergent wetland	acres	Salt or brackish marshes consisting mostly of perennial vegetation (such as pickleweed, cordgrass, and tules) along with algal mats. Occurs in upper intertidal zone above intertidal sand and mud flats and below upland communities not subject to tidal action. Located along the margins of bays, lagoons, and estuaries sheltered from excessive wave action.

Seasonal wetland: areas dominated by emergent vegetation with seasonal flooding

Primary Ecosystem/Land Use Types	Units	Ecosystem/Land Use Type Definition ⁸
Vernal pool complex	acres	Area of seasonally-flooded depressions, characterized by a relatively impermeable subsurface soil layer and distinctive vernal pool flora. These often comprise the upland edge of perennial wetlands.
Alkali seasonal wetland complex	acres	Temporarily or seasonally-flooded, herbaceous or scrub communities characterized by poorly-drained, clay-rich soils with a high residual salt content. These often comprise the upland edge of perennial wetlands.
Wet meadow and seasonal wetland	acres	Temporarily or seasonally-flooded, herbaceous communities characterized by poorly-drained, clay-rich soils. These often comprise the upland edge of perennial wetlands.
Managed wetland	acres	Areas that are intentionally flooded and managed during specific seasonal periods, often for recreational uses (such as duck clubs) or to reverse subsidence.

Open water: aquatic areas not dominated by emergent vegetation

Primary Ecosystem/Land Use Types	Units	Ecosystem/Land Use Type Definition ⁹
Fluvial low order channel	linear feet	Distributaries, over flow channels, side channels, swales. No influence of tides. These occupy non-tidal floodplain environments or upland alluvial fans.
Fluvial mainstem channel	linear feet	Rivers or major creeks with no influence of tides.
Freshwater pond / lake	acres	Permanently flooded depressions, largely devoid of emergent Palustrine vegetation. These occupy the lowest-elevation positions within wetlands.
Flooded island	acres	Subsided islands with remnant levees that have been permanently flooded and are exposed to tidal action.
Freshwater intermittent pond or lake	acres	Seasonally or temporarily flooded depressions, largely devoid of emergent Palustrine vegetation. These are most frequently found in vernal pool complexes at the Delta margins and also in the non-tidal floodplain environments.
Tidal mainstem channel ¹⁰	linear feet	Rivers, major creeks, or major sloughs where water is understood to have ebb and flow in the channel at times of low river flow. These channels are of high order with large contributing watersheds or are subtidal sloughs that delineate the islands of the Delta.
Tidal low order channel ¹¹	linear feet	Dendritic tidal channels (i.e., dead-end channels terminating within wetlands) where tides ebb and flow within the channel at times of low river flow. Tidal low order channels are usually first or second order channels and occur within tidal (freshwater or saline emergent) wetlands. Exceptions include the headward reaches of tidal channels that intersect non-tidal uplands.

Overlapping Ecosystem Features

There are several ecosystem features that may overlap multiple primary ecosystem and land use types described above, including floodplains, shaded riverine aquatic, and transition zones. As described in San Francisco Estuary Institute’s [Delta Renewed](#) (SFEI-ASC, 2016), these features are important in restoring the processes that will create dynamic, resilient ecosystems. Further details and definitions are included below.

Floodplain¹²: the area at low to mid elevations adjacent to and transitioning between fluvial, or riverine, and tidal areas, that is subject to flooding during periods of high discharge

Overlapping Ecosystem Features	Units	Definitions
Floodplain – Seasonal, Short-Term	acres	Short-term fluvial inundation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate recurrence (about 10 events per year) • Low duration (days to weeks per event) • Generally shallower than seasonal long-duration flooding
Floodplain - Seasonal, Long Duration	acres	Prolonged inundation from river over flow into flood basins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low recurrence (about 1 event per year) • High duration (persists up to 6 month) • Generally deeper than seasonal short-term flooding
Floodplain - Tidal Inundation	acres	Diurnal over flow of tidal sloughs into marshes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High recurrence (twice daily) • Low duration (less than 6 hours per event) • Low depth (“wetted” up to 0.5 m)
Floodplain - Ponds, Lakes, Channels, and Flooded Islands	acres	Perennial open water features (with the exception of historical intermittent ponds and streams): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recurrence not applicable (generally perennial features) • High duration (generally perennial features) • Variable depth

Transitional zones

Overlapping Ecosystem Features	Units	Definitions
Shaded riverine aquatic¹³	Linear feet	<p>This feature of open water ecosystem type is the unique, near-shore aquatic area occurring at the interconnection between river channels and levees/banks. The greatest characteristic, and the one most commonly measured, is the presence of woody shoreline vegetation overhanging the water and creating shade. Other characteristics, which may or may not be present, but which nearly always increase habitat values include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live or dead woody vegetation protruding into the water • Leaves, twigs, or other dying or dead plant material accumulation • Naturally eroding banks <p>Seasonally and tidally inundated areas are not included as open water in this evaluation.</p>
Wetland-terrestrial transition zone¹⁴	Linear feet	<p>The area of interactions between adjacent wetland/marsh and terrestrial processes that result in mosaics of habitat types, assemblages of plant and animal species, and sets of ecosystem services that are distinct from those of the adjoining wetland/marsh or terrestrial ecosystems.</p> <p>“Wetland/marsh” includes both tidal and non-tidal freshwater emergent wetland. “Terrestrial” include oak woodlands/savanna, seasonal wetlands, and riparian types, among others (i.e. everything other than wetland/marsh, open water, agricultural, ruderal/non-native).</p>

Appendix D: Land Acquisition Checklist

Checklist for Conservation Easement or Fee Title Projects

1. Information Submitted with Application

- A table including: parcel numbers, acreage, willing seller name and address, breakdown of how the funds are budgeted, and an acquisition schedule
- Copy of Purchase and Sale or Option Agreement, or Willing Seller Letter(s)
- Appraisal or Estimation of Fair Market Value
- Map showing lands that will be acquired, including parcel lines and numbers

2. Information Required Prior to Execution of Grant Agreement

- Grantee Board resolution for Grant Authority that certifies:
 - i. Signatory has authority
 - ii. Acceptance of grant
 - iii. Acceptance of property interest

3. Information Required as a Condition of the Grant Agreement

- Purchase and Sale or Option Agreement, if not provided at application stage
- Appraisal that has been reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) [DGS APPRAISAL GUIDELINES](#)
- Assessment of State Land Commission holdings, if applicable
- Preliminary Title Report
- Analysis of mineral rights issues, if applicable
- Environmental documentation/hazardous materials assessment
- Draft grant deed or conservation easement
- Copies of any instruments that create a covenant, obligation, or restriction affecting the property to be acquired
- Stewardship Plan:
 - i. Management Plan for fee title
 - ii. Easement Monitoring Plan for conservation easements
- Plan for signs

4. Information Required Prior to Transfer of Funds into Escrow

- Payee Data Record (STD 204) for the title company (completed and signed by the title company); must include address to send escrow payment and wire transfer instructions, if relevant
- Disbursement request with an original signature of Grantee's authorized signatory and the following information/attachments:
 - i. Name and address of Grantee
 - ii. Agreement number
 - iii. Dollar amount requested
 - iv. Statement of other funds that have been or will be deposited into escrow prior to or at the time of deposit of Conservancy's grant funds
 - v. Anticipated date of escrow close
 - vi. Original, certified copy of the fully-executed grant deed of conservation easement certified by the escrow offer holding the document
 - vii. Escrow instructions:
 - a. Title company (or escrow holder) name, address, and telephone number
 - b. Escrow officer
 - c. Escrow account number
- This checklist, indicating that all prerequisites for transfer of funds into escrow have been met
- Buyer's closing statement
- Baseline conditions report (easement only)

5. Information Required After Close of Escrow

- Final title policy
- Final recorded deed or conservation easement
- Notice of unrecorded Grant Agreement (unless expressly referenced in recorded deed or easement)
- Final buyer's closing statement

Appendix E: State Auditing Requirements

The list below details the documents or records that the State Auditor may need to review if auditing the grant. This list may not be inclusive. Grant recipients should ensure that all relevant records are maintained for each state-funded project. For additional details including specific audit tasks performed during a bond audit, see the [California Department of Finance Bond Accountability and Audits Guide](#).

State Audit Document Requirements

Internal Controls

1. Organization chart (e.g. Grant recipient's overall organization chart and organization chart for the state-funded project).
2. Written internal procedures and flowcharts for the following:
 - a. Receipts and deposits
 - b. Disbursements
 - c. Fair and reasonable purchasing and contracting
 - d. State reimbursement requests
 - e. State funding expenditure tracking
 - f. Guidelines, policies, and procedures on state-funded project
3. Audit reports of the grant recipient's internal control structure and financial statements.
4. Prior audit reports on state-funded projects.

State Funding

1. Original grant agreement, any amendment(s) and budget modification documents.
2. A list of all bond-funded grants, loans or subventions received from the state.
3. A list of all other funding sources for each project.

Agreements

1. All subcontractor and consultant contracts and related documents, if applicable.
2. Agreements between the grant recipient, member agencies, and project partners as related to the state-funded project.

Invoices

1. Invoices from vendors and subcontractors and documentation of payment for expenditures submitted to the state for payments under the grant agreement.
2. Documentation linking subcontractor invoices to state reimbursement requests and related grant agreement budget line items.
3. Reimbursement requests submitted to the state for the grant agreement.

Cash Documents

1. Receipts (copies of warrants) showing payments received from the state.
2. Deposit slips or bank statements showing deposit of the payments received from the state.
3. Cancelled checks or disbursement documents showing payments made to vendors, subcontractors, consultants, or agents under the grant agreement.

Accounting Records

1. Ledgers showing receipts and cash disbursement entries for state funding.
2. Ledgers showing receipts and cash disbursement entries of other funding sources.
3. Bridging documents that tie the general ledger to reimbursement requests submitted to the state for the grant agreement.

Indirect Costs

1. Supporting documents showing the calculation of indirect costs.

Personnel

1. List of all contractors and grant recipient staff that worked on the state-funded project.
2. Payroll records including timesheets for grant recipient and subcontractor staff.

Project Files

1. All supporting documentation maintained in the files.
2. All grant agreement related correspondence.

Endnotes

¹ Proposition 1 funds cannot be used to meet the existing obligations for habitat restoration established through the biological opinions for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project operations (USFWS 2008, NMFS 2009), the CDFW Longfin Smelt Incidental Take Permit for SWP Delta operations, or any other mitigation obligation of any party.

² Project Engineering Design – A process of creating the design for a project. The process consists of several phases that relate to the percentage of development of the design plans. The naming convention for these phases may vary, depending on the agency or locality, but generally the process includes components similar to what is described below.

Project Engineering Design: Conceptual Plans – Indicates the General location of any activities and project elements, overall layout of the project location, and any constraints.

Project Engineering Design: The Basis of Design Report – Demonstrates that the project is feasible and reflects a preferred alternative.

Project Engineering Design: Intermediate Plans (or 65 percent plans) – Shows detailed plan views and profiles of any improvements and standard details.

Project Engineering Design: Draft Plans (or 90 percent plans) – Incorporates revisions to the Intermediate Plans and adds details required for construction, such as survey notes, instructions for erosion and sediment control, staging areas, access, etc.

- Project Engineering Design: Final Plans (or 100 percent plans) – Incorporates any revisions to the Draft Plans and represents the final set of design documents. These are the plans used for construction bids.

³ Evaluated with toxicity testing using standard methods approved by the USEPA and/or SWRCB (as appropriate).

⁴ Government Code, Chapter 16, section 7260 et seq.

⁵ These definitions are predominately from San Francisco Estuary Institute's [Delta Transformed](#) (SFEI-ASC, 2014; page 18). The report includes representative photographs for most ecosystem/land use types (page 19) and includes a map of recent locations where these types occur in the primary Delta (pages vi, vii, and 25).

⁶ These definitions are predominately from San Francisco Estuary Institute's [Delta Transformed](#) (SFEI-ASC, 2014; page 18). The report includes representative photographs for most ecosystem/land use types (page 19) and includes a map of recent locations where these types occur in the primary Delta (pages vi, vii, and 25).

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¹⁰ Additional description of tidal mainstem channel from SFEI’s Historical Ecology Report (SFEI, 2012; page 34).

¹¹ Additional description of tidal low order channel from SFEI’s Historical Ecology Report (SFEI, 2012; page 34).

¹² These floodplain types are from San Francisco Estuary Institute’s Delta Transformed (SFEI-ASC, 2014; pages 38-41). The report includes a map of recent locations where these types occur in the Delta (page 39).

¹³ The shaded riverine aquatic definition is from Department of Water Resources’ Delta Levees Significant Habitat Types. This type is also referenced in the Delta Stewardship Council’s white paper on “Improving Habitats Along Delta Levees” (DSC, 2016).

¹⁴ The wetland-terrestrial transition zone definition is from SFEI’s Delta Renewed (SFEI, 2016; page 68).



Consideration of the Delta Conservancy's Modifications and Amendments Process
Staff Report

This agenda item presents a revised process for considering modifications and amendments to grants awarded by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the revised Delta Conservancy Grant Modifications and Amendments Process.

DESCRIPTION

Conservancy staff drafted updates to the Delta Conservancy Grant Modifications and Amendments Process, which is included with this agenda item. The refinements reflect approved Board processes, lessons learned from applied experience, and feedback from grantees. The updates ensure adequate Board oversight, improve resource use efficiency, and implement best grant management practices.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the Board approved an amendments process. This process was created to provide guidance for Conservancy grant managers on what project alterations should be considered by the Board and possible mechanisms for how to do so. This process was drafted and approved prior to any amendments being needed; subsequent application of the process has revealed areas of the process that are unclear or not fully reflect the process approved in the final Board motion. These factors resulted in excessive and relatively minor modifications being presented to the Board for consideration. During subsequent discussions with the Board, and as more amendments were needed, a better understanding has arisen of how to process changes to grant agreements.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

Move that the Board approve the revised Delta Conservancy Grant Modifications and Amendments Process as presented in this agenda item.

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Delta Conservancy Grant Modifications and Amendments Process

- 1) **Request.** Grantee submits a formal, justified request to change their grant agreement in writing to Grant Manager.
- 2) **Review.** Grant manager reviews the formal change request, identifies the type of change, and routes the request through the Ecological and Community Programs Manager, Administrative Supervisor, Deputy Executive Officer, Executive Officer, and the Board to obtain approval as indicated below.
- 3) **Approve.**
 - a) Minute Modifications
 - i) Ecological and Community Programs Manager will review and consider for approval:
 - (1) Small changes to the agreement that do not involve the budget, changing the grant term, or scope of the project e.g. changing the deliverable timeline, changing contacts for the project.
 - b) Budget Modifications
 - i) Ecological and Community Programs Manager will review and consider for approval:
 - (1) Budget modifications that do not increase the total agreement and do not exceed the threshold listed in the grant agreement (e.g. shifting funds from one budget line item to another).
 - c) Amendments
 - i) The Board will consider approval as an agenda item:
 - (1) Amendments to the budget that increase the total agreement by an amount equal to or greater than \$50,000 or equal to or more than 10 percent, whichever is less.
 - (2) Amendments to the scope of work that significantly change the scope.
 - ii) The Board will consider approval on the consent calendar:
 - (1) Amendments to the budget that increase the total agreement by an amount less than \$50,000 and less than 10 percent.
 - (2) Amendments to the scope of work that do not significantly change the scope and that are not time-sensitive.
 - (3) Amendments to grant term that are not time-sensitive.
 - iii) Delta Conservancy Executive Officer will consider approval for:
 - (1) Amendments to the budget that exceed the threshold listed in the grant agreement, but do not increase the agreement amount (e.g. shifting funds from one budget line item to another).
 - (2) Amendments to the scope of work that do not significantly change the scope and are time-sensitive.
 - (3) Amendments to the grant term that are time-sensitive.

- (4) Other changes that are in response to time-sensitive situations in which project failure is imminent due to forces beyond the control of the grantee; the Executive Officer will coordinate with Board Chair and/or Vice Chair prior to approving a change.
- 4) **Execute.** Upon receiving appropriate approval, Grant Manager will draft and route the modification or amendment agreement for execution.



Delta Invasive Species Coordination Update Staff Report

This agenda item provides an update on the Conservancy's role in facilitating the Delta Interagency Invasive Species (DIISC) team. The focus of the update is the activities of the DIISC team in the latter half of 2020 and planned activities for 2021.

DESCRIPTION

In 2020, the DIISC team met quarterly to share information about the invasive species work planned and underway across the different agencies and discuss issues relevant to invasive species management in the Delta. During the third meeting of the year in October, the team convened a panel of local experts and practitioners to discuss early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to invasive species in the Delta. Our preliminary conclusion after this panel discussion was that EDRR is happening in the Delta, but it is not centralized and largely taxa specific, meaning current efforts are likely not equipped to detect and respond to novel invasions.

On December 17, 2020, a working group of DIISC team members met to continue our discussion of EDRR in the Delta. This group committed to working during the first quarter of 2021 to develop a draft framework for EDRR in the Delta and plans to present this draft framework as a poster at the April 2021 Bay-Delta Science Conference. Members of the group have also suggested marrying this effort with the planning for our upcoming 2021 Invasive Species Symposium.

BACKGROUND

The DIISC team was formed in 2015 in order to provide a venue for the exchange of information, coordination of research and management, and collective leveraging of funding relevant to invasive species management and study relevant to the Delta. To this end, the team has met quarterly since 2015, hosted three research and management symposiums (2015, 2017, 2019), and maintains a table of relevant research needs.

Conservancy staff lead the facilitation of DIISC team meetings in collaboration with colleagues from the Department of Water Resources, Delta Stewardship Council, and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. More information can be found at the group webpage (<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/delta-inter-agency-invasive-species-team/>).

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***Delta Conservancy 2020 Implementation Plan Status Update
and Consideration of 2021 Implementation Plan
Staff Report***

This report provides a year-end status update for the 2020 Implementation Plan and presents for Board consideration the 2021 Implementation Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Board approval of the 2021 Implementation Plan.

DESCRIPTION

The annual Implementation Plan is a companion document to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. The 2017-2022 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan provides a high-level road map and sets objectives and performance measures to achieve them. The annual Implementation Plan provides a more detailed accounting of the tasks the Conservancy will undertake in a given year to implement the Strategic Plan. The Implementation Plan has a summary of each initiative, provides an overview of progress and achievements to date, outlines major program objectives for the year, and notes steps for the future.

Each July, Conservancy staff updates the Board on progress made toward meeting the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan and provides a mid-year update of progress toward the goals in the Implementation Plan. Each January, staff presents a year-end Implementation Plan status update for the year past and requests approval of the Implementation Plan for the upcoming year. Accordingly, there are two documents accompanying this staff report:

- **2020 Implementation Plan, Year-End Status.** This table, presented to the Board for informational purposes, summarizes the Conservancy's progress toward achieving the goals outlined in the 2020 Implementation Plan.
- **2021 Implementation Plan (Draft).** This draft plan, presented to the Board for consideration of approval, describes the goals the Conservancy has set for 2021.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve as final the Draft Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 2021 Implementation Plan as presented in this item.

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Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
2020 Implementation Plan
DECEMBER 31, 2020 UPDATE

2020 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: YEAR-END STATUS

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Begin accepting concept proposals	Qtr 1	Ongoing	Eleven concept proposals have been received to date.
Assist project proponents to develop comprehensive proposals	Ongoing	On Track	Staff are assisting seven applicants to develop eight concept proposals into comprehensive (full) proposals.
Manage awarded grants	Ongoing	On Track	Grant proposals are being developed. There are no awarded grants as of the time of this update.

DELTA MARKETING

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Distribute recreation maps	Ongoing	Delayed	Delayed due to COVID-19. Staff continues to reach out to potential partners on the initial distribution list, but most remain closed.
Pursue sustainable management plan for visitCADelta.com	Ongoing	On Track	Student assistant will be hired in the spring or summer to support site management.
Install 11 signs per Delta Sign Plan	Qtr 4	Delayed	Caltrans initially denied encroachment permits needed to post signs. Staff worked with Caltrans to gain approval from the California Traffic Control Devices Committee to include signage opportunities for National Heritage Areas (NHA) in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and to revise "Welcome to the Delta" signs to highlight the Delta NHA. The Delta Protection Commission is resubmitting the encroachment permit applications and contracting for sign printing and installation. The new goal for project completion is April 2021.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION & WATER QUALITY GRANT PROGRAM

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Manage active and closed grants	Ongoing	On Track	Currently managing 21 active and four closed grants and working on the execution of four grants.
Plan Cycle 5 solicitation	Ongoing	On Track	Cycle 5 solicitation will open August of 2021.
Adjust granting processes based on audit results	As Required	On Track	At the audit exit conference, the Department of Finance indicated overall compliance, stating that the Conservancy is recognizing and responding to risks and that the amount of detail to process is impressive and can serve as a model. Two or three relatively minor findings related to processes improvement are anticipated when DOF issues the final audit report. Internal adjustments to the granting process are being implemented based on auditor input to date.

INVASIVE SPECIES COORDINATION, CONTROL, AND RESTORATION

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Write white paper summarizing 2019 Delta Invasive Species Symposium	Qtr 2	Delayed	Delayed due to vacancy of Senior Environmental Scientist position and the need to address reviewer comments that were received late in the process. The document is complete and will be posted to Conservancy website in the first quarter of 2021.
Coordinate arundo control and restoration activities at Phase 1 sites	Ongoing	On Track	Work funded by Department of Water Resources includes spraying of arundo and planting of native vegetation across the Cache Slough Complex (project ends 3/31/2021). Work funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture included spraying arundo on Brannan Island and Andrus Island. Project ended 8/31/2020.
Develop funding and implementation strategy for Phase 2	Ongoing	On Track	Efforts to identify funding for additional work continue but have thus far been unsuccessful.
Facilitate quarterly DIISC meetings	Ongoing	Ongoing	Facilitation of Delta Inter-Agency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) meetings was paused in the second quarter while the Senior Environmental Scientist (Sr. ES) position was vacant. The new Sr. ES facilitated meetings on 10/8/2020 and 12/15/2020.
Develop Delta interagency collaboration strategy for early detection and rapid response to invasive species	Ongoing	Ongoing	In collaboration with DWR and the Delta Stewardship Council, staff facilitated a panel discussion 10/8/2020 about early detection and rapid response work currently underway in the Delta. Staff submitted an abstract to the Bay Delta Science Conference for a poster that will summarize the outcomes of a working group led by staff. The working group met for first time on 12/17/2020.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Refine draft ownership/management white paper	Ongoing	On Track	Work on this goal has been focused on briefing agency heads regarding land ownership considerations and challenges.
Provide updates to the Board	Ongoing	On Track	This effort has shifted to an exploration of the potential for the Conservancy to hold and manage conservation easements. Staff has identified several specific examples that will be used as real-world scenarios to better inform the exploration. The Program and Policy Subcommittee has been providing input to the effort and the Executive Officer has been including updates to the Board through the EO report at Board meetings.

PROJECT TRACKING/REPORTING AND IMPROVED DATA INTEGRATION/ACCESS

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Work with restoration project managers to enter or update project information in EcoAtlas	Ongoing	Ongoing	Staff reviews EcoAtlas entries as they are created or updated by project proponents.
Update the DARI mapping SOP and develop protocols for submitting data and maintaining the DARI base map	Qtr 3	Completed	The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been developed and continues to be refined and revised as it is applied.
Integrate DARI into EcoAtlas	Qtr 3	Delayed	Due to COVID-19, staff requested and secured a no-cost time extension for the DARI contract. The new project end date is June 2021.
Training for regional data stewards	Qtr 3	Delayed	Due to COVID-19 impacts, staff secured a no-cost extension of the DARI contract. The new project end date is June 2021.

PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Develop a list of high priority outreach areas	Qtr 2	Completed	List of high priority outreach areas were determined based on available water quality data.
Send introductory letters and enrollment information to landowners and operators in/near high priority outreach areas	Qtr 2	Completed	More than 400 letters were sent to growers and an advertisement was sent out through numerous list-serves.
Establish a Technical Advisory Committee	Qtr 3	Completed	A list of Technical Advisory Committee members with their affiliations, roles, and responsibilities was submitted by the contractor on 12/15/2020.
Conduct workshop with enrolled properties	Qtr 4	Delayed	This task was delayed due to delays in contract execution and COVID-19 making in person training impossible. The workshops are now slated to begin in 2021 and will be virtual, if necessary for public safety

DELTA WATERWAY CLEANUPS

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Clean-up, community outreach, and environmental education events	Qtr 2 & Qtr 3	Inactive	2020 events have been canceled due to COVID-19. Events will restart in 2021 provided conditions are safe to do so.
Collect data on types and amounts of trash in the Delta	Ongoing	Inactive	2020 events have been canceled due to COVID-19. Events will restart in 2021 provided conditions are safe to do so.

DELTA CARBON MANAGEMENT

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Develop, in coordination with DWR, carbon credit sale agreements for existing managed wetlands on Sherman and Twitchell Islands	Qtr 2	On Track	In November 2020, the American Carbon Registry certified the final validation/verification for Department of Water Resources (DWR) wetland credits. If DWR decides to sell the certified credits, the Conservancy can assist in development of a credit sales agreement.
Seek funding to support future projects	Ongoing	Delayed	2020 bond discussions were curtailed due to COVID-19. Staff anticipates renewed interest in early 2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Conduct education and outreach for Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week	Qtr 3	On Track	Staff created social media posts, an Executive Officer blog post, and a blog post by Senator Bill Dodd for Delta Week 2020. In-person events were not feasible due to COVID-19 related restrictions.
Education and outreach via social media, events, and other opportunities	Ongoing	On Track	Staff continues to maintain a presence on Facebook and Twitter, posting original content and coordinating with contractors, grantees, and other state agencies to share relevant information. The Students and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) program was put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Conservancy applied for a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to conduct education and outreach activities, but the application was unfortunately not approved.
Develop fact sheets for Conservancy programs	Ongoing	Delayed	Planned development of fact sheets to highlight Proposition 1 Grant Program projects, the Proposition 68 Grant Program, and the Delta Carbon Program were delayed due to staffing constraints. Work on this goal should progress in 2021.

MERCURY EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROGRAM

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Evaluate effectiveness of posted advisory signs	Qtr 1	Complete	The Southeast Asian Assistance Center completed its evaluation of the effectiveness of advisory signs in January, concluding that target audiences were viewing and understanding the advisory information from the signs.
Convene stakeholder meeting	Qtr 2	Inactive	The stakeholder meeting was canceled due to COVID-19.
Coordinate and post advisory signs	Ongoing	Complete	Delta MERP staff and partners posted 11 advisory signs in the first quarter of 2020 (further postings were canceled due to COVID-19). From 2015 to 2020, Delta MERP staff and partners posted a total of 147 signs throughout the five Delta counties.
Conduct outreach to Delta communities	Ongoing	Complete	In the first quarter of 2020, the Conservancy engaged one tribe and two community-based organizations (further outreach was canceled due to COVID-19). From 2018-2020, Conservancy staff worked with 48 community-based organizations and six state agencies. The Delta MERP Program is now complete; a final overview presentation was made to the Board at the May 2020 Board meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Proposition 1 Grant Program acquisition process and template	Qtr 2	Complete	The acquisition grant agreement template, delayed due to staff turnover and COVID-19, was completed in November.
Submit and update State Leadership Accountability Act (SLAA) Implementation Plan	Qtr 2 & Qtr 4	Complete	The SLAA Implementation Plan was submitted and approved by Department of Finance (DOF) in June 2020. The Biannual Implementation Plan update was submitted in December 2020 and is pending DOF review.
Develop internal work plans	Qtr 2	Complete	Work plans were completed for both program and administration activities.
Develop records retention schedule	Qtr 3	Delayed	Completion of this goal has been due to a leave of absence of a key staff member, increased administrative workload related to COVID-19, and the need to obtain information from other agencies facing similar workload challenges due to COVID-19.
Submit indirect cost rate proposal	Qtr 4	Complete	Staff submitted the fiscal year 2021/22 indirect cost rate proposal on December 31, 2020. Review by the Department of Finance and the Conservancy's cognizant agency is pending.
Develop Workforce Plan and Succession Plan	Qtr 4	Delayed	Development of a Workforce Plan and a Succession Plan has been delayed due to resource constraints, which were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Both plans are scheduled for development in 2021.
Develop new/update existing policies and procedures	Qtr 4	Delayed	Core policies have been revised and are under management review. Union notification may be required for some policies. Resource constraints, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have delayed this project. Finalizing policies, union notification notwithstanding, is anticipated by the third quarter of 2021.
Ensure accessibility of Conservancy web content	Ongoing	Complete	Staff monitors the accessibility of web content by completing an accessibility checklist for each website update and trains new staff on document remediation.
Submit financial reports and information (such as Governor's budget building, bond accountability reporting, update System for Award Management)	As Required	Complete	Standard budget development is complete. Planning for a mandated 5 percent reduction of operating budget for fiscal year 2021/22 is underway. Bond accountability reporting is ongoing. Financial reporting has been resource intensive due to the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic upon the state.

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
Fulfill human resource related mandates (such as Disability Advisory Committee)	As Required	Complete	The Disability Advisory Committee meets quarterly.
Various administrative and operational requirements (e.g. State Agency Recycle Campaign and State Agency Reporting System reports, Contracting Activity Report and Improvement Plans, Continuity Plan)	As Required	Complete	A Continuity Plan was completed in the first quarter and put into practice in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All annual reporting was completed.
Participate in Audits (e.g. Dept. of Finance audits of bond funded grant programs, State Personnel Board audit of human resources practices, General Services audit of purchasing and procurement)	As Required	Complete	Preliminary findings from the Department of Finance's audit of the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program are that the Conservancy is compliant and has an impressive process; two to three minor findings related to process are expected in the final audit report which is pending. The Conservancy completed corrective actions in December 2020 in response to the State Personnel Board's audit of personnel practices.
NEW: Respond to COVID-19 pandemic reports and drills	Ongoing	Complete	The COVID-19 pandemic required significant additional workload on the Administration and Executive staff in 2020 to complete ongoing reports and drills for health and safety, human resources, budgets, and planning.

NEW: JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI)

2020 GOALS	TIMELINE	STATUS	NOTES
All staff members complete Implicit Bias Training	Qtr 3	Complete	Staff attended a virtual, CNRA-sponsored, Implicit Bias Training in September.
Develop curriculum for internal education on issues relating to JEDI	Ongoing	On Track	Staff leads developed curriculum covering a variety of issues relating to JEDI. The curriculum was developed based on staff feedback on the Implicit Bias Training.
Engage all Conservancy staff in JEDI education and discussions about JEDI issues	Ongoing	On Track	Beginning in October, staff have attended two monthly meetings which cover topics outlined in the JEDI curriculum.



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

2021 Implementation Plan

DRAFT

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Gavin Newsom, Governor

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for California Natural Resources Agency

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY

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INTRODUCTION

This Implementation Plan (Plan) articulates goals which the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) has established for 2021 to implement the goals, objectives, performance measures, and metrics included in the Conservancy's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

The activities reflected herein are funded by the California General Fund; the California Environmental License Plate Fund; state and federal government grants; the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68). The Conservancy continuously seeks funding to expand efforts in furtherance of its mission. The Governor and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency have prioritized initiatives that address public access, biodiversity, and climate resilience activities.

The Conservancy approaches all aspects of its mission with a mindset of collaboration and local engagement. In 2020 the Delta Mercury Exposure Program completed its work with community organizations to educate them about health hazards presented from consumption of mercury contaminated fish and provided them with small grants so they could share important information with those most at risk in their communities. The Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program launched its first solicitation and is currently working with seven organizations to develop comprehensive proposals for Board consideration in 2021. The Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program remains a highlight of the ability of the Conservancy, its board, and local interests to work in partnership; to date the program has advanced 29 projects with positive impacts to more than 4,700 acres of the Delta ecosystem. The Delta Carbon Program completed the first ever validation and certification of wetland carbon credits and continues to work with several public and private landowners to forward additional pilot projects. Despite the inevitable constraints imposed by our response to COVID-19, 2020 was a very productive year for the Conservancy.

Goals for 2021 reflect the continuation of established programs such as the Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program which will run its 5th, and possibly final, solicitation and enter a new phase as the project stage of grants concludes and monitoring work begins. With its launch, the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program will contribute to a robust Delta economy through grant funding for projects that will increase public access to the Delta through recreation and tourism opportunities, historic and cultural preservation, and environmental education. Support for carbon emission reduction and land subsidence related efforts is increasing – the Conservancy will continue work to ally interests to realize funding to incentivize landscape scale land-use changes and develop pilot projects to verify greenhouse gas reductions.

Internally focused, succession planning remains a priority into 2021, with comprehensive updates to policies and procedures. Additionally, staff will focus on planning for the upcoming Strategic Plan update for 2022 – 2026, updating internal work plans, reorganizing the Conservancy's shared drive, and completing required COVID-19 pandemic reports and drills including updating work from home policies.

AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT

The Delta is a unique natural resource of local, state, and national significance. Intertwined with this important ecological system are a rich agricultural and cultural heritage, a distinguishing history, and an abundance of recreational opportunities. Preserving and enhancing the Delta’s agricultural, cultural, historic, and recreational assets can play a valuable role in enhancing Delta communities and economies. The Conservancy has worked closely with the Delta Protection Commission over the years to synergistically advance the priorities of both agencies in support of Delta communities and economies.

This partnership will continue in 2021 by incorporating Delta Protection Commission’s review of proposals submitted to the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program.

Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program

The Conservancy will continue assisting seven current applicants to develop eight different full proposals. The Conservancy will continue to accept concept proposals on an ongoing basis and will assist applicants to develop the concepts into full proposals as merited. Staff anticipates presenting the proposals currently in development to the Board for funding consideration in 2021. Staff will increase outreach for the Program through implementation of a recently developed outreach plan. This noncompetitive grant program is made possible by funding allocated by the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68).

Table 1: Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Continue accepting concept proposals	Ongoing
Assist applicants to develop full proposals	Ongoing
Manage awarded grants	Qtr 2-4
Implement outreach plan	Qtr 1 & 2
Funding: \$12,000,000 from Proposition 68 for duration of the program	

Delta Marketing

The Conservancy and the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) partner in assisting Delta residents and businesses to develop sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities in the Delta. The Conservancy and the Commission created and worked with the Delta Marketing Task Force to create a Delta Tourism Awareness 5-Year Marketing Plan in 2017, the Delta Sign Plan in 2018, and the Delta recreation and tourism website VisitCADelta.com. The Conservancy contracted with the Commission to implement components of the marketing and sign plans. In 2019, the Commission worked with the task force to design 11 “Welcome to the Delta” signs. In 2020, Caltrans denied the initial applications for encroachment permits to post the signs. The agencies then revised the signs to fit the newly-established Delta National Heritage Area, and received approval from Caltrans and the California Traffic Control Devices Committee to amend the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to allow for National Heritage Area signs to be posted on Caltrans rights of way. In 2021, the Conservancy and the Commission will coordinate with Caltrans, local jurisdictions, and the California Conservation Corps to apply for permits and, if approved, install signs at locations identified in the plan. The project should be complete by June 2021.

Complimenting the signs will be distribution of a map, 6,000 copies of which were printed in 2019, that shows recreational opportunities in the Delta and provides heritage and cultural facts. Distribution efforts began in 2020 but were put paused because of the COVID-19 pandemic which caused many targeted distribution locations to close to the public. The Conservancy and the Commission will begin distributing maps again once the public health situation allows businesses to resume operations.

The website VisitCADelta.com highlights businesses and recreational opportunities; it is a key strategy of the Marketing Plan and is noted on the aforementioned map. While the Commission, with support from the Conservancy, has managed the website thus far, management was intended to rest with a Delta entity. However, an entity with capacity to assume this responsibility has yet to be identified. With the designation of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) in 2019, there may be opportunity to align VisitCADelta.com efforts with the NHA activities; the Conservancy and the Commission will collaborate to explore each entity’s role in VisitCADelta.com and develop a sustainable management plan.

Table 2: Delta Marketing

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Distribute recreation maps	Ongoing
Develop sustainable management plan for visitCADelta.com	Ongoing
Install 11 signs per Delta Sign Plan	Qtr 2
Funding: Maps, sign plan, and installation: \$72,913.53	

ECOSYSTEM VIABILITY

The Conservancy, in collaboration with myriad partners, is working on the following initiatives to protect, enhance, and restore the Delta ecosystem.

Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program

This competitive grant program focuses on multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects that address at least one of the following.

- Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement
- Water Quality
- Water-related Agricultural Sustainability

Through this program, the Conservancy has demonstrated its capacity to align state and local interests to make great progress – this is the hallmark of the Conservancy’s mission. As of January 1, 2021, the Conservancy has implemented four grant cycles and awarded almost \$39.3 million for 29 projects that collectively increase ecosystem resilience of approximately 4,800 acres. The Conservancy anticipates opening the fifth, and possibly last, solicitation in the summer of 2021, with approximately \$3.0 million in available funding. As grants for implementation projects are closed, Conservancy staff will continue to work with the grantees as they conduct post-project management and monitoring of the projects for at least 15 years.

In 2020, the Department of Finance completed a routine audit of the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 program. In the first half of 2021 the Conservancy will consider the audit results and adjust its granting process as needed.

Table 3: Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Manage active and closed grants	Ongoing
Plan Cycle 5 solicitation	Ongoing
Adjust granting processes based on audit results	As Required
Funding: \$50,000,000 from Proposition 1 for the duration of the program	

Invasive Species Coordination, Control, and Restoration

Arundo Control and Restoration

Arundo donax is an invasive riparian plant that damages levees and waterway banks, utilizes more water than native vegetation, and displaces native plants and wildlife. Phase 1 of this project was initiated in 2014. Through its partners, Solano Resource Conservation District and Sonoma Ecology Center, the Conservancy completed maps and prioritization for control of arundo sites and initiated a control and restoration pilot project in the Cache Slough Complex with funding from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The Delta Conservancy is also collaborating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) on biocontrol agent release trials and integrated biological/chemical control at three Delta sites. The USDA-ARS project has ended, and the DWR project will end in early 2021.

Delta Inter-Agency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team

The Conservancy leads this forum for state and federal agency participants to exchange information, coordinate activities, and identify research needs and funding sources. The DIISC Team holds quarterly coordination meetings and organizes a biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium. The Conservancy is in the early stages of coordinating with the DIISC team and other stakeholders to explore the development of a strategy for early detection and rapid response to invasive species.

Table 4: Invasive Species Coordination, Control, and Restoration

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Lead planning and execution of 2021 Delta Invasive Species Symposium	Qtr 1
Coordinate arundo control and restoration activities	Qtr 2
Facilitate quarterly Delta Inter-Agency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) meetings	Ongoing
Develop draft Delta interagency collaboration strategy for early detection and rapid response to invasive species	Ongoing
Funding: Arundo: ~\$1 million Department of Water Resources grant and ~\$91,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant for the entirety of the project	

Land Ownership, Easements and Management

The Conservancy’s enabling legislation authorizes the organization to hold title and easements for lands within the Delta. During outreach for the development of the Strategic Plan, staff heard repeated requests from agencies and community members to explore and define the Conservancy’s potential role in future land ownership and management. Staff began exploring the issue in 2019 by developing a draft white paper and having discussions with the Conservancy Board’s Program and Policy Subcommittee. In 2020, at the request of sister agencies, this effort shifted to a more focused exploration of easements and what expertise, resources, and policies would be required to enable the Conservancy to effectively hold and manage easements. In 2021 this exploration will continue with a focus on one or more specific, real-world scenarios that will allow a comprehensive assessment of requirements to negotiate and execute easements, manage lands according to easement requirements, estimate and endow sufficient funds in perpetuity to cover costs of stewardship, and conduct all appropriate monitoring and reporting.

Table 5: Land Ownership Easements and Management

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Refine draft ownership/management white paper	Ongoing
Present findings from exploration of easement management requirements to Board	Qtr 4
Provide updates to the Board	Ongoing
Funding: General operating budget	

Project Tracking, Reporting, and Improved Data Integration and Access

For the past several years, the Conservancy has worked with many partners to identify needs, secure funding, and implement multiple projects to facilitate project tracking, reporting, and improved data integration and access to support habitat restoration and water quality management in the Delta.

With funding from U.S. EPA, the Conservancy is implementing the Delta Aquatic Resources Inventory (DARI) project. DARI will result in a standardized mapping system and base map of aquatic resources for the Delta. Activities planned for 2021 include integrating DARI into EcoAtlas, scoping the application of the Riparian Zone Estimator Tool (RipZET) to the Delta, and having final meetings and trainings for DARI regional data stewards from state and local agencies.

Table 6: Project Tracking/Reporting and Improved Data Integration/Access

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Work with restoration project managers to enter or update project information in EcoAtlas	Ongoing
Final update to DARI mapping SOP and protocols for submitting data and maintaining the DARI base map	Qtr 2
Integrate DARI into EcoAtlas	Qtr 3
Funding: DARI: \$300,000 U.S. EPA grant for entirety of the project	

Pesticides Management Best Management Practices

The Conservancy, in coordination with the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition and the San Joaquin and Delta Water Quality Coalition, will implement a suite of best management practices to reduce non-point source pollution and improve water quality in the Delta. The goal of this project is to develop, certify, and implement Farm Water Quality Improvement Plans (Farm Plans) through the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Program to reduce the generation and transport to waterbodies of agricultural chemicals, sediment, and nutrients from sites within the Delta. These efforts utilize tools and build upon outreach funded by the Conservancy’s Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program.

Table 7: Best Management Practices

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Conduct Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) workshops for landowners	Qtr 3
Train certifying agency (National Marine Fisheries Service, local resource conservation districts, and others) representatives, as needed, on details of the Fish Friendly Farming Program’s best management practices, assessment practices of the properties, and certification process.	Qtr 4
Funding: \$399,400 State Water Resources Control Board grant for the entirety of the project	

Waterway Cleanups

The Conservancy has historically participated in two annual waterway cleanup events: the Delta Waterway Cleanup and the Sacramento Area Creeks Council Creek Week Cleanup. The Conservancy partners with the Delta Protection Commission, the Sacramento Area Creeks Council, the California Coastal Commission, Sacramento County Parks, Sacramento Regional Sanitation District, California State Parks, and corporate and non-profit volunteer groups. The goals of the cleanups are to: (1) protect and improve water quality; (2) raise awareness and understanding of good stewardship practices; (3) provide the community with environmental stewardship opportunities; and (4) collect data on types and amounts of trash in the Delta. Data collection contributes to the development of community-based science efforts across the state and provides a snapshot of the trash moving through the Delta. The 2020 cleanups were canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Conservancy will continue to participate in organizing and conducting these events when restrictions are eased, and it is safe to do so.

Table 8: Delta Waterway Cleanups

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Plan and conduct clean-up events	Ongoing
Collect data on types and amounts of trash in the Delta	Ongoing
Funding: General operating budget	

DELTA CARBON MANAGEMENT

The Conservancy Board adopted an updated climate change policy in 2017. The policy guides the Conservancy in developing, establishing, and supporting projects that mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and that can increase the system’s capacity to adapt to climate change effects. For the past several years, the Conservancy has worked with a large partnership to address the ongoing subsidence that threatens western Delta communities, agriculture, and the state and federal water projects, and that produces more than 2,000,000 tons of carbon emissions per year.

The partnership developed a California Wetland Protocol which was adopted by the American Carbon Registry (ACR) in the spring of 2017. The protocol provides a basis to monetize the carbon benefits of converting to rice cultivation and managed wetlands, thereby giving landowners economic incentives to consider practices that stop subsidence. The partnership is now working with public and private landowners and project developers to develop pilot projects to verify greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. Verifying GHG reductions will allow landowners and developers to realize revenue by trading credits on the voluntary carbon market. In late 2020, the Conservancy supported the first ever third-party validation/verification of wetland carbon for three Department of Water Resources (DWR) wetland projects.

The Conservancy continues to work with the California Air Resources Board to encourage their consideration of adopting the ACR protocol under the Cap-and-Trade compliance market, thereby more than doubling the value of the credits, which further incentivizes change. Staff continues to create a coalition of interested organizations to develop appropriate messages and strategies to realize additional funding to support this effort.

These activities will continue in 2021 by continuing to partner with and support public and private landowners in their efforts to engage the carbon market. Effecting meaningful change will require significant investment to assist landowners with the cost of land conversion and technical assistance. The Conservancy continuously seeks funding up to support this program.

Table 9: Delta Carbon Management

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Support two additional pilot projects through the carbon estimation/validation process	Ongoing
Seek funding to support future projects	Ongoing
Funding: \$125,000 General operating budget for the entirety of the project	

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Environmental education and outreach are important components of the Delta Conservancy programs, which is reflected throughout the Conservancy’s initiatives. Current outreach strategies include posts on social media (Facebook and Twitter), flyers and other collateral about Conservancy projects, and promotions of campaigns such as Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week and Creek Week. In 2021, the Conservancy will continue to maintain and enhance its website; expand social media profiles; develop new educational materials, including fact sheets for Conservancy programs; increase participation in events in and of relevance to the Delta; and otherwise broaden outreach as resources and COVID-19 restrictions allow.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week

In 2018 and 2019, the Legislature designated a week in September as Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week. The designated week is a focus of Conservancy education and outreach initiatives; past promotion included social media posts and a press release coordinated with Senator Bill Dodd’s office. In 2020, the Legislature did not make a formal designation for Delta Week due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Conservancy still promoted Delta Week through social media and blog posts. In 2021, the Conservancy looks to once again have the Legislature designate Delta Week, and Conservancy staff seeks to expand those efforts to potentially include a community activity, Delta Week-specific collateral, features in online and print publications, and possible media opportunities.

Table 10: Environmental Education and Outreach

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Conduct education and outreach for Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week	Qtr 3
Education and outreach via social media, events, and other opportunities	Ongoing
Develop fact sheets for Conservancy programs	Ongoing
Funding: General operating budget	

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

To meet the Delta Conservancy mission we must understand the complex ways that underlying social and cultural issues may impact the Delta community and our team. In September, a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) working group was formed and in October all staff completed implicit bias training. The goal of the working group is to continue advancing Conservancy staff’s understanding of the social and cultural issues related to JEDI. To date, the working group has facilitated six staff-wide discussions and provided staff with a variety of resources to improve their understanding of JEDI.

In 2021 the working group will coordinate with Conservancy staff to develop JEDI Guidelines that will provide a framework for internal and external approaches to addressing JEDI issues. These guidelines will cover the advancement of JEDI education and awareness internally by outlining Conservancy goals for future JEDI curriculum. Lastly, the Guidelines will articulate the principles which guide the Conservancy’s existing JEDI work, as well as any future work conducted by our agency.

Table 11: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Develop Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Guidelines	Qtr 2
Continue implementation of the JEDI curriculum	Ongoing
Develop an outreach plan for engaging with organizations representing diverse communities within the Delta	Qtr 3
Funding: General operating budget & Proposition 68 Technical Assistance funding	

ADMINISTRATION

In 2020, the Conservancy focused on developing work plans as an internal planning tool to aid in tracking annual workload and accomplishments, optimizing use of resources, analyzing budget to task balance, and assist with strategic planning to meet priorities. Additionally, staff continued succession planning by designating secondary personnel for key functions, cross training to ensure proficiency, and documenting processes and procedures. The COVID-19 pandemic required significant additional reporting and drills for health and safety, human resources, budgets, and planning.

In 2021, Conservancy staff and management will update internal work plans, reorganize the Conservancy’s shared drive, update and maintain policies, develop a records retention schedule and Workforce Plan and Succession Plan, initiate an organizational assessment, and complete required COVID-19 pandemic reports and drills. The Conservancy will also increase its tracking of legislative bills and assessment of their potential impacts on the Conservancy and the ability to achieve its mission.

While the Conservancy cannot avoid turnover due to staff seeking advancement, it can engage and empower staff and create an environment to help attract and retain quality staff. The Conservancy will continue to monitor staff engagement and make continuous improvement efforts toward maintaining high morale and employee satisfaction.

Table 12: Administration

2021 Project Goals	Timeline
Submit and update State Leadership Accountability Act Implementation Plan and Biannual Implementation Plan	As Required
Update internal work plans	Qtr 2
Release Request for Proposal and contract for an organizational assessment	Qtr 2
Develop records retention schedule	Qtr 3
Establish legislative tracking system	Qtr 3
Submit indirect cost rate proposal	Qtr 4
Develop Workforce Plan and Succession Plan	Qtr 4
Develop new/update existing policies and procedures	Qtr 4
Reorganize shared drive	Qtr 4
Ensure accessibility of Conservancy web content	Ongoing
Submit financial reports and information (such as Governor’s budget building, bond accountability reporting)	As Required
Fulfill human resource related mandates (such as Disability Advisory Committee)	As Required
Various administrative and operational requirements (e.g. State Agency Recycle Campaign and State Agency Reporting System reports, Contracting Activity Report and Improvement Plans, Continuity Plan)	As Required
Participate in Audits (e.g. Dept. of Finance audits of bond funded grant programs, State Personnel Board audit of human resources practices, General Services audit of purchasing and procurement)	As Required
Submit required COVID-19 pandemic reports and drills for health and safety, human resources, budgets, and planning.	As Required
Funding: General operating budget with proportional support from Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 funds	

DELTA CONSERVANCY 2017 – 2022 STRATEGIC PLAN – GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: Delta Agricultural and Economic Enhancement

Delta Economic and Agricultural Enhancement

1. Work directly with local land owners, farmers, and others to analyze the state of Delta agriculture and identify priority agricultural investments and economic offset strategies for agricultural land conversions
2. Establish an agricultural stakeholder group to consult on agricultural sustainability strategy identification and evaluation; and on agricultural sustainability project planning, prioritization, and implementation
3. Support the Delta Marketing Task Force and Delta Protection Commission in identifying and securing funding to implement priority objectives in the Five-Year Delta Marketing Plan in cooperation with local business stakeholders

Ecosystem Restoration and Protection

4. Support water quality improvements on working lands by coordinating with agencies and local interests to identify and implement best management practices
5. Increase accessibility and utility of regional water quality data

Grants and Funding

6. Fund Proposition 1-eligible agricultural sustainability projects that provide ecosystem and/or watershed protection and/or restoration benefits
7. Identify, track, and pursue funding opportunities to support implementation of agricultural analysis-identified priority investments
8. Identify, track, and pursue funding to support implementation of priority objectives in the Five-Year Delta Marketing Plan, recreation and tourism projects, and historical preservation projects

GOAL 2: Delta Ecosystem Viability

Ecosystem Restoration and Protection

1. Protect, restore, or enhance habitat and improve water quality through implementation of grant-funded projects
2. Strengthen the coordination of water quality monitoring, data integration, implementation of best management practices, and environmental education efforts in partnership with existing Delta watershed efforts
3. Complete regional restoration strategies and priorities for the Cache Slough Complex and for additional region(s) in coordination with Delta stakeholders; collaborate with partners to implement high priority projects identified in regional plans
4. Determine appropriate conditions under which the Conservancy would consider land ownership/management
5. Continue to implement an invasive species control program and implement other on-the-ground projects to protect, restore, or enhance Delta habitat

Delta Economic and Agricultural Enhancement

6. Collaborate with Delta interests and agencies to develop programs and promote incentives for land management projects that reduce carbon emissions
7. Evaluate public use opportunities on public land in the Delta and make recommendations on how to improve opportunities for recreation and education

Grants and Funding

8. Fund Proposition 1-eligible projects that provide ecosystem protection, restoration, and enhancement; water quality; and/or water-related agricultural sustainability benefits
9. Seek funding and project development resources for high priority restoration projects identified through regional planning efforts

GOAL 3: Conservancy Organizational Strength and Sustainability

Administration

1. Provide a safe, creative, inspiring, and equitable working environment for staff and management consistent with state standards
2. Employ management practices to empower staff creativity, increase staff retention, and promote organizational capabilities to match the diverse needs of the Delta community
3. Develop a staff succession plan to ensure the efficient transfer of institutional knowledge
4. Continuously evaluate and improve organizational efficiency, programmatic structure, and workplace environment
5. Enable effective and sustainable Conservancy operation within the Delta community by strengthening existing partnerships and developing lasting new partnerships with Delta agencies and local interests
6. Increase awareness of the Conservancy's achievements among funders, partners, and the public through in-person outreach, social media, and other methods

Grants and Funding

7. Diversify and expand funding sources to adequately support program work, sustain current staff, and grow staff as needed to meet program needs and Conservancy goals
8. Identify and plan for potential long-term funding scenarios to position the Conservancy to sustain and grow its programs via future bonds or other funding sources
9. Promote Conservancy goals and objectives through Board engagement to constructively support Conservancy funding efforts including the pursuit of bond funding



***Program and Policy Subcommittee Update
November 18, 2020 Meeting Summary***

In attendance were Vice Chair Leo Winternitz; Liaison Advisor Erik Vink; Deputy Attorney General Nicole Rinke, counsel to the Conservancy; Executive Officer Campbell Ingram; Deputy Executive Officer Debra Kustic; several Conservancy staff; and members of the public.

DELTA TERRESTRIAL HABITAT CONVERSION OVERVIEW

Staff presented the initial results of research and analysis to understand if and how land conversion from row crops to woody perennial crops impacts terrestrial habitat value for wildlife, particularly birds.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to gather and refine a dataset of land cover and field level crop type changes. Staff are exploring grant opportunities to fund an expansion of this work.

GRANT MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS PROCESS

Staff presented potential updates to the existing Modifications and Amendments Process, to make the process consistent with previous Board guidance and to incorporate lessons learned from experience running the grant program and amendments process. Staff received feedback and general concurrence for the proposed updates.

Next Steps

The Board will consider the revised Delta Conservancy Modifications and Amendments Process at the January 27, 2021 meeting as Agenda Item 9.

EASEMENTS AND LAND OWNERSHIP ASSESSMENT

The Executive Officer provided a brief overview of the Conservancy's authorities related to easements and an update on progress exploring two real-world example easements for the purpose of informing resource and process requirements for effective easement management.

Next Steps

Staff will develop a workplan that identifies the components of easement management, including easement negotiation and approval, land stewardship, endowment calculation and management, and monitoring and reporting. The workplan will provide a description of tasks and a timeline to complete the analysis.

DELTA RESTORATION NETWORK

The Executive Officer and staff briefed the group about the potential of relaunching the Delta Restoration Network (DRN) as a forum for engagement and coordination. Staff summarized the past work of the DRN and discussed other collaborative restoration groups in the region to demonstrate how the DRN might add value.

Next Steps

Staff will meet with representatives from the relevant agencies to discuss the need for a DRN and how it could support and enhance current efforts.

PROPOSITION PROGRAM UPDATES

Staff presented updates on the Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 programs.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No new agenda items were identified. The next Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and will include updates and discussion regarding items listed above.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

California EcoRestore 2020 Highlights

January 27, 2021

Charlotte Biggs

Department of Water Resources

Program Manager, EcoRestore

Lower Yolo Ranch

- 1,682-acres tidal habitat
- Lower Yolo Bypass
- Westlands Water District
- DWR Fish Restoration Program will have long-term ownership
- Completed fall 2020



Wings Landing

- 240-acres of tidal habitat
- North-Central Suisun Marsh
- Natural Resources Group & DWR Fish Restoration Program
- Completed fall 2020



Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback

- 7-mile setback levee
- Northern Yolo Bypass
- 900-acres of habitat
- Construction began Spring 2020



Sherman Island Whale's Belly

- 1,000-acres of wetlands for carbon capture
- Near confluence of Sacramento & San Joaquin Rivers
- Delta Carbon Program pilot project
- DWR owned site
- Construction began May 2020



Dutch Slough

- 1,187-acres of tidal habitat
- San Joaquin River near confluence
- DWR owned site
- Construction began Spring 2018 – breach planned for 2021
- 2.8 million tons of earth moved





CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Questions?

Charlotte Biggs,
EcoRestore Program Manager
Charlotte.Biggs@water.ca.gov



Potential Agenda Items for the March 24, 2021 Board Meeting

Staff is seeking input from the Board regarding additional agenda items for the March 24, 2021 Board meeting.

A tentative list of agenda items beyond the normal standing items include:

- Consideration of Proposition 68 project funding recommendation(s).
- Presentation on the process and timeline for the Conservancy Strategic Plan update (2022 through 2026).
- Presentation of virtual tour(s) of projects currently under construction or recently completed.

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