



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

January 26, 2022, 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/81003703717>

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 and Executive Order N-1-22 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 27, 2021 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 (Attachment)
6. **Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Update**, Chelle Temple-King (Attachment)
7. **Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Update**, Martha Ozonoff (Attachment)
8. **Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Update** Campbell Ingram (Attachment)
9. **Delta Invasive Species Coordination Update: Overview of Efforts to Streamline Early Detection and Rapid Response to Invasive Species in the Delta**, Dr. Rachel Wigginton (Attachments)
10. **Consideration of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines**, Campbell Ingram (Attachments) (Action Item)
11. **Consideration of 2022-2027 Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan**, Debra Kustic (Attachments) (Action Item)

12. **Consideration of Amendment to Budget, Scope, and Term of Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Agreement for Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project, Chelle Temple-King (Attachment) (Action Item)**
13. **EcoRestore Update**, Charlotte Biggs (Attachment)
14. **Delta Stewardship Council Update**, Amanda Bohl
15. **Delta Protection Commission Update**, Erik Vink
16. **Delta Conveyance Update**, Carrie Buckman
17. **Potential Agenda Items for the March 23, 2022 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 **(916) 375-2084** or 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 at the Delta Conservancy Board meeting, 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting URL: <https://ca-water-gov.zoom.us/j/81003703717>

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October 27, 2021 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Meeting called to order on Zoom at 9:03 a.m. by Chair Don Nottoli.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

Roll call was taken and agenda items were heard by the Board in the order indicated below.

Board Members Present:

- Don Nottoli
- Sandi Matsumoto
- Bryan Cash
- Mitchel Mashburn
- Gayle Miller
- Katherine Miller
- Karen Mitchoff
- Oscar Villegas – Jim Provenza replaced Oscar Villegas after first vote
- Dolly Sandoval – Board Member Sandoval left the meeting after Agenda Item 11
- Leo Winternitz

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Timothy Grayson

Liaison Advisors and Counsel Present:

- Erik Vink
- Jessica Davenport
- Nicole Rinke

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar

Motion: Board Member Mashburn moved, seconded by Board Member K. Miller, that the Board approve the following.

- July 28, 2021 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 8 ayes, 1 abstain.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer briefly highlighted several items within the written report. The annual Board Meeting Calendar was issued last week. The Conservancy altered the calendar format to remove alternate Board meeting and Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting dates; those meetings will be scheduled as needed. The Conservancy received an appropriation of \$5,250,000 for climate resilience, community access, and natural resource protection. In addition, the Conservancy is working with the California Department of Water Resources to receive from them \$10,000,000 to implement a pilot drought response grant program. Board Members requested information for registration for the December 15, 2021 Delta Invasive Species Symposium.

Supervisor Provenza joined the meeting and replaced Oscar Villegas as the Board member representing Yolo County.

Agenda Item 6 – Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Update

Staff highlighted items from the staff report and shared a slide presentation that provided an overview of concept proposals received for Cycle 5 of this grant program.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Update

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report.

Agenda Item 8 – Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act Lead Agency Exemption Declaration and Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center

Staff reviewed the staff recommendation and presented the proposed resolution and grant proposal to the Board for consideration.

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

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 9 ayes.

Motion: Board Member Provenza moved, seconded by Vice Chair Matsumoto, to award funding up to \$310,373 to the Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center project.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 9 ayes.

Agenda Item 9 – Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for Asian American Heritage Park

Staff reviewed the staff recommendation and presented the grant proposal to the Board for consideration.

Motion: Chair Nottoli moved, seconded by Board Member Mitchoff, to award funding up to \$554,773 to the Delta Educational Cultural Society from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Asian American Heritage Park project.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 9 ayes.

Agenda Item 10 – Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act Responsible Agency Findings and Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for Pacific Flyway Center: Walk in the Marsh

Staff reviewed the staff recommendation and presented the proposed resolution and grant proposal to the Board for consideration.

Motion: Board Member Mashburn moved, seconded by Board Member Mitchoff, to adopt Resolution 2021-02, which makes Responsible Agency Findings that all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the Pacific Flyway Center: Walk in the Marsh project.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 9 ayes.

Motion: Board Member Mashburn moved, seconded by Board Member Mitchoff, to award funding up to \$1,486,050 to the Pacific Flyway Fund from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Pacific Flyway Center: Walk in the Marsh project.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 9 ayes.

Agenda Item 11 – Consideration of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines Draft for Public Review

The Executive Officer presented draft General Grant Guidelines that will guide the Conservancy in granting funds in the absence of any other guidelines specific to a particular funding source, policy, or mandate. If approved by the Board, the Conservancy will post the draft General Grant Guidelines on its website for public review and comment for at least 30 days. Staff will consider all comments received during the review period and present a final draft of the General Grant Guidelines to the Board for consideration at its January 26, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Board Member Mitchoff moved, seconded by Board Member Mashburn, that the Board approve the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines Draft for Public Review.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 9 ayes.

Agenda Item 12 – Consideration of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2027 Draft for Public Review

The Deputy Executive Officer presented highlights of the Strategic Plan. If approved by the Board, the Conservancy will post the draft plan on its website for public review and comment for at least 30 days.

Motion: Board Member Mashburn moved, seconded by Board Member G. Miller, that the Board approve the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2027 Draft for Public Review.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 8 ayes.

Agenda Item 13 – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 2021 Implementation Plan Status Update

The Deputy Executive Officer introduced the 2021 Implementation Plan Status Update. In order to incorporate the new 2022-2027 Strategic plan, the Conservancy will defer presenting the 2022 Implementation Plan to the Board from January 2022 to March 2022.

Agenda Item 14 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

The Executive Officer provided the update supplied by Amanda Bohl, Special Assistant for Planning and Science at the Delta Stewardship Council.

Agenda Item 15 – Delta Protection Commission Update

Erik Vink, Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission, presented an update.

Agenda Item 16 – Delta Conveyance Update

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

Agenda Item 17 – Potential Agenda Items for the January 26, 2022 Meeting

- Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant(s)
- Consideration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2027
- Consideration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Send out invitations to the December 15, 2021 Delta Invasive Species Symposium

Public Comment

None

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Nottoli at 11:05 a.m.

CONTACT

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Executive Officer's Report
January 26, 2022

PROGRAM UPDATE

STAFFING UPDATE

Please welcome Hope Miller, our new Communications Analyst. Hope started with the Conservancy on November 15, 2022. She will focus on the Conservancy's outreach, communications, accessibility, and information technology needs. Hope comes to us from the NBC affiliate in Sacramento, where she was the station's Senior Digital Editor.

Martha Ozonoff has graciously agreed to serve as the acting Community Projects Supervisor during recruitment to fill that vacancy.

After more than 30 years in state service, Debra Kustic, the Conservancy's Deputy Executive Officer, has decided to retire. Debra has been with the Conservancy since 2016 and in that time has overseen all aspects of the Conservancy's operations and helped advance the organization in its leadership of ecosystem restoration and economic development in the Delta region. Debra will step down in late March. It is hard to imagine this organization without Debra and we will miss her tremendously. Please join us in wishing her a long and happy retirement.

COVID-19 UPDATE

All Conservancy staff continue to work from home; however, planning is in process for a phased approach to resuming in-office operations. As state-level direction is issued and local health directives evolve, the Conservancy will adapt accordingly. Once work in the office can resume, teleworking will remain an option in the Conservancy's operational model. The Conservancy has developed a Telework Policy that is currently under review by the Department of General Services.

FORM 700 COMPLIANCE

A completed Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests, is due by April 1, 2022 for all Board Members, Board Member Alternates, and Liaison Advisors. Forms are completed on the Fair Political Practices Commission online portal. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Jessica Adel at jessica.adel@deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

ETHICS COURSE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

Most Board Members and Liaison Advisors completed the State Officials Ethics Course by December 31, 2021 and submitted the certificate to our Board Liaison. If Board members are still in the process of completing this, we ask that they finish and submit the certificate at their earliest convenience.

MEDIA MENTIONS

The Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Project ID P1-1709) was the subject of a [December 26, 2021 article in The Press](#), a newspaper that covers East Contra Costa County. The article details how the project will benefit a variety of species, improve stormwater drainage for the area, and improve the quality of water draining into the Delta. A spokesperson for the Knightsen Town Community Services District said some farmers are concerned that an increased presence of threatened/endangered wildlife species could interfere with farming operations. Brentwood Mayor Joel Bryant is quoted supporting the project.

Maven's Notebook provided a summary of a recent presentation to the Delta Stewardship Council regarding carbon capture and storage activities in the Delta and potential implications for the Stewardship Council in their oversight role. Campbell Ingram provided an introduction to the topic and a summary of recent activity. ([January 5, 2022 article in Maven's Notebook](#)).

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI)

The Conservancy's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee continues to identify actions that can be taken in the near-term while work continues to comprehensively shape the Conservancy's JEDI engagement. The JEDI Committee continues to facilitate collaborative learning discussions for all Conservancy staff. Conservancy staff continue to engage other state agencies in discussions about best practices and JEDI outreach.

DELTA CONSERVANCY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

At its October 27, 2021 meeting, the Board approved a draft of the 2022 to 2027 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan for public review. No comments were received during the public comment period. Staff will present a final draft for consideration under Agenda Item 11.

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).

DELTA SCIENCE

Fish Friendly Farming:

The Conservancy, supported through a grant from the California State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), has contracted the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) to implement the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Program in the Delta. The FFF Program works with farmers to improve Delta water quality by developing best management practices and identifying needed farm infrastructure updates. The SWRCB approved the FFF Program as an alternative compliance pathway for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, which is an added benefit for farmers who participate in the program. The CLSI has been working with the five Delta counties' Farm Bureaus to set up many small in-person meetings to discuss program enrollment. The first 700 acres of farmland began the process of enrollment in the program during the summer. Conservancy staff submitted an amended contract with CLSI for control agency approval and anticipate the amendment will be finalized and approved in February 2022. This amendment will clarify existing tasks and extend the term of the agreement through 2024 in response to COVID-19 impacts. This amendment does not change the budget of the project.

Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory:

The Conservancy, supported by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has contracted the Aquatic Science Center (ASC) to develop a Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory (DARI). The DARI project is developing a comprehensive resource inventory specifically formulated with the Delta's unique ecology in mind. The ASC developed an online editing tool and hosted a virtual workshop to solicit final feedback on the dataset from the technical working group in October 2021. This feedback has been incorporated and the final dataset is being used in a pilot study to determine the feasibility of generating a riparian area map for the Delta. The DARI dataset will be integrated into the California Aquatic Resources Inventory (CARI) and into the EcoAtlas online interface to be made publicly available in early 2022.

Delta Bird Returns:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), along with Point Blue Conservation Science, Audubon California, and the Delta Conservancy, worked to establish a reverse auction framework, based on TNC's successful [Bird Returns](#) program. The [Delta Farmlands Bird Returns](#) program provides cash incentives for landowners to flood their fields to increase the ecological value of the Delta to migratory birds, especially during times of drought. The program received seven bids that proposed flooding more than 3,000 acres for enhanced bird habitat. Bids were analyzed using factors such as total flooded acreage, duration of flooding, and adjacent landscape characteristics. Due to the very wet beginning of the water year and the resulting field conditions, some farmers who put in bids are having difficulty preparing fields to meet the minimum standards of the program (e.g., percentage of field harvested to short stalks). A summary of the final bid selections will be included in the Executive Officer's Report for the March 2022 Board meeting. Lessons learned during the initial year of implementation will be incorporated into next year's bid solicitation and analysis process.

Conservancy Funding for Special Projects:

On July 6, 2021, Conservancy staff and collaborators from the Aquatic Science Center-San Francisco Estuary Institute (ASC-SFEI) responded to the request for applications to the United States Environmental Protection Agency Wetland Program Development Grants. The proposal was titled California Wetland Program Plan, Wetland Monitoring Workgroup Strategic Plan, and Strategic Capacity Development for the Regional Approach to Wetland Protection. Unfortunately, this project was not selected during the competitive review process.

Delta Science Coordination:

Conservancy staff continue to work collaboratively with the broader Delta science community to advance ecological restoration, invasive species management, and regional science coordination in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.

Conservancy staff continue to coordinate with colleagues at the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) regarding regional restoration planning and a role for public participation in the restoration planning process. The draft Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment includes a recommendation to create a restoration sub-committee of the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC). The first meeting of the new DPIIC restoration sub-committee is scheduled for January 31, 2022.

Staff continue to facilitate the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team. The most recent DIISC Team quarterly meeting took place on November 16, 2021. Staff led a group of DIISC Team members in planning the 2021 Delta Invasive Species Symposium that took place on December 15, 2021. For the last eight years, the biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium has been a nexus for Delta managers, researchers, and decision-makers to meet, share and synthesize information, and communicate best practices and lessons learned. This year's symposium focused on early detection and rapid response to new invasions in the Delta. More details about recent DIISC Team activities are described in Agenda Item 9.

Conservancy staff have been participating in the development of the 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda (SAA) update. The SAA lays out the high-level science goals and actions for a five-year period. A draft of the 2022-2026 SAA is available for public comment until January 21, 2022. Staff will review the draft SAA and provide comments as needed.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- 1) Send out invitations to the December 15, 2021 Delta Invasive Species Symposium
 - Invitation sent to Board members and Liaison Advisors on October 27, 2021

DELTA CONSERVANCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Agenda Item 5 (3): Budget and Expenditure Report

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CONTACT

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Nutria Eradication Program Update

Field Update

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

- Completed full and/or rapid assessments on over 1.5 M acres
- Executed entry permits with 4,000 landowners
- Set up 5,258 camera stations (856 currently active)
 - Conducted 45,582 camera checks
- Confirmed nutria within > 500 sites
- Deployed over 6,300 trap sets for a total of 81,700 trap nights
- Taken or accounted for the take of 2,816 nutria (since Mar 2017)
 - Merced- 1,816
 - Stanislaus- 870
 - San Joaquin- 110
 - Mariposa- 12
 - Fresno- 7
 - Madera- 1 (San Joaquin River; Fresno County line)

Of 2,816 necropsies, the data has shown:

- 1.11 sex ratio (M:F)
- Of the females captured:
 - 20% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 59% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
 - 68% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
- 3,108 fetal nutria have been removed from the population
- Litter size ranged from 1-13, with an average of 5.8
 - Average litter size for adult females (> 14 mos.) in California is 6.4

Table 1. The total number of cells with nutria taken, total number of nutria taken, and average number of nutria taken per cell, by year from March 2017 to mid-January 2022.

Year	Total (unique) cells with nutria taken	Total # nutria taken	Average # nutria taken per cell
2017	7	20	2.9
2018	57	348	6.1
2019	73	492	6.7
2020	157	1239	7.9
2021	144	702	4.9
2022	7	15	2.1
Grand Total	333	2,816	8.5

**SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY
BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE REPORT
July 1, 2021 through November 30, 2021**

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Personal Services (PS)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
1	Salaries & Wages	\$1,244,351	\$459,088	\$785,263	37%
2	Temporary Help	\$36,830	\$13,273	\$23,557	36%
3	Benefits	\$662,341	\$240,952	\$421,389	36%
4	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	\$1,943,522	\$713,313	\$1,230,209	37%

Line Number	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES Operating Expenditures and Equipment (OE & E)	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
5	General Expense	\$72,992	\$1,826	\$71,166	3%
6	Printing	\$4,500	\$1,041	\$3,459	23%
7	Communications	\$5,000	\$1,319	\$3,681	26%
8	Postage	\$225	\$58	\$167	26%
9	Travel-In State	\$8,655	\$461	\$8,194	5%
10	Training	\$10,125	\$350	\$9,775	3%
11	Facilities Operation	\$108,108	\$42,247	\$65,861	39%
12	Contracts & Personal Services-External	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	0%
13	Contracts & Personal Services-Interdepartmental	\$89,793	\$6,009	\$83,784	7%
14	Information Technology	\$51,000	\$80	\$50,920	0%
15	Central Administrative Service	\$27,042	\$0	\$27,042	0%
16	Unallocated Operating Expense & Equipment	\$662,579	\$0	\$662,579	0%
17	Grants and Subventions	\$5,396,000	\$0	\$5,396,000	0%
18	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES & EQUIPMENT	\$6,486,019	\$53,391	\$6,432,628	1%

Line Number	TOTALS	Delta Conservancy Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance	Percent of Budget Expended
19	TOTAL PS & OE & E	\$8,429,541	\$766,704	\$7,662,837	9%
20	REIMBURSEMENT	(\$60,500)	(\$1,077)	(\$59,423)	2%
21	GRAND TOTAL	\$8,369,041	\$765,627	\$7,603,414	9%

Unallocated Operating Expense and Equipment:
General Fund \$169,980, Prop 1 \$185,062, Prop 68 \$307,537



Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant 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 5 – Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The Conservancy's Cycle 5 full proposal solicitation closed on December 15, 2021. The Conservancy received eight full proposals, requesting \$4.7 million (see Figure 1 at the end of this document). Conservancy staff are currently reviewing and scoring proposals in advance of external expert review in February 2022, and will present funding recommendations to the Board at its May 2022 meeting.

Cycle 4 – Fiscal Year 2018-2019

The Board awarded approximately \$14.9 million for ten projects (eight planning and two implementation). Nine grant agreements have been executed; Conservancy staff is working with the one remaining Grantee to execute the final grant agreement.

Project Name	Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve Project (Implementation)
Amount Awarded	\$2,273,469
County	Sacramento
Project 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	Acquisition preparation and negotiation is proceeding as scheduled.

Project Name	Blacklock Restoration: Phragmites Control Study (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$387,440
County	Solano
Project 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	Herbicide applications and monitoring are proceeding as scheduled.

Project Name	Delta Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$347,481
County	Solano
Project 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	Grantee is continuing to develop site design, conservation, and grazing plans for active planning sites. Grantee submitted an implementation proposal for Proposition 1 Cycle 5 (Project ID P1-2208) funding for the Ulati sites.

Project Name	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Project, Phase 2 (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$265,254
County	San Joaquin
Project 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	Grantee is preparing a scope of work for potential implementation funding from Department of Water Resources and is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding for San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency indicating its support for long-term local engagement for the project.

Project Name	Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$984,695
County	Yolo
Project 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	Conservancy staff completed final review of the technical report and provided approval to move to second phase of study in October 2021.

Project Name	Lower San Joaquin Riparian Corridor (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$522,027
County	San Joaquin
Project 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	Active as of 5/3/2021
New Information	Grantee is finalizing subcontracts and is preparing to file a Delta Stewardship Council Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan.

Project Name	Marsh Creek Channel Restoration (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$519,494
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1809
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Planning for Marsh Creek floodplain and riparian habitat restoration
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	Execution of the agreement is on hold. The project property was sold to Bay Development in October 2021. Grantee is determining if they can secure the necessary landowner letter of support.

Project Name	Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta-Carbona Project (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$750,931
County	San Joaquin
Project 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 12/10/2020
New Information	Grantee has completed hydrodynamic modeling and is initiating the conceptual design process.

Project Name	Nutria Eradication Project, Phase 2 (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$8,483,080
County	Multiple
Project 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	Iridium tags are in the redesign process; the Grantee expects to receive them in early 2022. Holding pens are in the final stages of construction.

Project Name	Oakley Creekside Park Restoration (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$436,465
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-1814
Grantee	City of Oakley
Overview	Planning for restoration of floodplain and riparian habitat along Marsh Creek
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/11/2020
New Information	Surveys and planning for regulatory permit applications are complete. Grantee is preparing an existing conditions report to summarize survey findings. Grantee submitted a Proposition 1 Cycle 5 concept proposal (Project ID P1-2208) but did not submit a full proposal for implementation funding.

Cycle 3 – Fiscal Year 2017-2018

The Board awarded approximately \$16.0 million for eight projects (four planning and four implementation). To date, one grant has closed.

Project Name	Bay Point Habitat Restoration Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$2,100,000
County	Contra Costa
Project 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	The Grantee requested a budget amendment to move funding between line items which was executed on November 4, 2021. The project is now complete. Conservancy staff are working to complete closeout.

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
Project 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	The sale of River Garden Farms to Renewable Resources Group (RRG) was finalized on November 17, 2021. RRG is supportive of continued and expanded restoration planning. The Grantee requested an amendment to extend the project term by one year and alter the project scope by increasing planning acreage and decreasing percent design level. If approved, the amendment will be executed by January 30, 2022.

Project Name	Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$1,225,000
County	Contra Costa
Project 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 Grantee has requested an amendment to the term and budget of the grant agreement (See Item 12 on the agenda for this Board meeting).

Project Name	Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Cosumnes River Preserve (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$8,700,800
County	Sacramento
Project 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 completing final project design and permitting.

Project Name	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2 (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$990,543
County	Contra Costa
Project 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	Grantee hosted a volunteer acorn planting event in fall 2021 with Friends of Marsh Creek.

Project Name	Stone Lakes Restoration Project (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$635,573
County	Sacramento
Project 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	Grantee has secured California Department of Fish and Wildlife determination of consistency with the federal Endangered Species Act permits and is preparing 90 percent design plans. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency, Sacramento County, is planning to release the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for public review in early 2022. Grantee submitted a concept proposal

Project Name	Stone Lakes Restoration Project (Planning)
	(Project ID P1-2210) for Cycle 5 implementation funding, but did not submit a full proposal.

Project Name	Nutria Eradication Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$1,125,577
County	Multiple
Project 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 Grantee is awaiting the lifting of the United States Department of Agriculture's COVID travel restrictions to begin field trials with Nutria detection dogs from the Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Project.

Cycle 2 – Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The Board awarded approximately \$4.4 million for four projects (one planning and three implementation). To date, one grant has closed.

Project Name	Dutch Slough Revegetation (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$2,900,000
County	Contra Costa
Project 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	In October 2021, Conservancy staff approved a minor budget amendment to move funds between line items. The project's marsh area has been continuously flooded through fall 2021 for establishment of planted areas. Vegetation monitoring is ongoing. Drone footage of the project can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQI-XeBuSxocx0AJMavwTmw/videos .

Project Name	Petersen Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$444,464
County	Solano
Project 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	The project is complete. Staff are working to complete closeout.

Project Name	Investigations of restoration techniques that limit invasion of tidal wetlands (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$104,452
County	Contra Costa
Project 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 2/7/2018
New Information	The project is complete. Staff are working to complete closeout.

Cycle 1 – Fiscal Year 2015-2016

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
Project 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	The project is complete. The Grantee is preparing a final report and invoice. The Grantee submitted a Proposition 1 Cycle 5 proposal (Project ID P1-2207) for implementation funding of the remaining restoration sites.

Project Name	Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$836,409
County	Contra Costa
Project 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	The project is complete. The Grantee is preparing a final report and invoice.

Project Name	Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project (Implementation)
Agreement Amount	\$836,234
County	Yolo
Project 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	The Grantee requested an amendment to the grant funding term to allow the Grantee to support the restoration plantings with additional irrigation and invasive species control that were delayed or canceled due to COVID-19 public health concerns. The amendment was approved on December 21, 2021.

CLOSED PROJECTS

To date, a total of six projects funded by Proposition 1 have fully closed (five planning, one implementation). To receive a copy of a final report, please submit a written request specifying the project(s) of interest to prop1grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

Project Name	Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$89,448 (\$2 unspent)
County	All Delta Counties
Project 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 10/9/2020
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Sherman Island Restoration Project, Phase III (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$93,599 (\$6,367 unspent)
County	Sacramento
Project 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 3/1/2019
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review. Design plans are still current. Waiting for Phase II to be completed.

Project Name	Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$99,924 (\$217 unspent)
County	San Joaquin
Project 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
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Lower Marsh and Sand Creek Watershed Restoration Planning Project (Planning)
Amount Spent	\$73,493 (\$2,391 unspent)
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	Prop 1-Y1-2015-019
Grantee	American Rivers
Overview	Create a Programmatic California Environmental Quality Act 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
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review. The Programmatic Mitigated Negative Declaration, developed as part of 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)
Amount Spent	\$942,631 (\$145,798 unspent)
County	Sacramento
Project 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 1/28/2021
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review.

Project Name	Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan (Planning)
Agreement Amount	\$592,500 (\$886.63 unspent)
County	Yolo
Project 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	Closed as of 4/27/2021
New Information	Closed; a final report is available for review. Grantee submitted a full proposal (Project ID P1-2201) for Cycle 5 implementation funding.

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy's Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program has \$50 million to support 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.

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FIGURE 1: SUMMARY OF CYCLE 5 FULL PROPOSALS RECEIVED

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	Funding Priority(ies)	Notes
P1-2201	Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Implementation	City of West Sacramento	Implementation	\$1,320,409	Yolo	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement; Water Quality Improvement	Planning for this project was funded by a Delta Conservancy Proposition 1 grant (Project ID P1-1712).
P1-2203	Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access	East Bay Regional Park District	Planning	\$390,000	Contra Costa	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement; Water Quality Improvement	Applicant is a current grantee (Project ID P1-1701).
P1-2204	Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration	Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District	Implementation	\$427,706	Contra Costa	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement	None.
P1-2207	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement, Phase 2	Ducks Unlimited	Implementation	\$887,516	Yolo	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement; Water-Related Agricultural Sustainability	The first phase of this project was jointly funded by the Delta Conservancy (Project ID P1-1503), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Wildlife Conservancy Board.
P1-2208	Ulatris Creek Habitat Restoration	Solano Resource Conservation District	Implementation	\$353,025	Solano	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement; Water Quality Improvement	Applicant is a current grantee (Project IDs P1-1605, P1-1804). Planning for this project was funded by the Delta Conservancy (Project ID P1-1804).

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	Funding Priority(ies)	Notes
P1-2209	Improving Hydrological Resiliency of Managed Wetlands in Suisun Marsh	Suisun Resource Conservation District	Implementation	\$542,546	Solano	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement; Water Quality Improvement	Applicant applied for funding in Cycle 4 (Project ID P1-1811) and was not selected for funding.
P1-2211	Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration and Total Mercury Reduction	Contra Costa Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Planning	\$350,000	Contra Costa	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement; Water Quality Improvement	Applicant applied for funding in Cycle 3 (Project ID P1-1703) and was not selected for funding.
P1-2212	Van Buskirk Multi-Benefit Ecosystem Restoration	American Rivers	Planning	\$467,848	San Joaquin	Ecosystem Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement	Applicant is a current and former grantee (Project IDs P1-1509, P1-1519, P1-1702, P1-1711, P1- 1808, P1-1809).



**Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant 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 provide guidance to project proponents as they develop proposals to meet these goals. As of January 13, 2022, there are two active projects, three awarded projects, six working proposals (one concept proposal and five full proposals), and four inactive proposals. The total amount of funding for active projects, awarded projects, and working proposals is \$6,380,335. Of the \$12 million allocated to the Conservancy by Proposition 68, a minimum of \$8.7 million is available for grants.

ACTIVE PROJECTS (TOTAL AMOUNT OBLIGATED: \$510,018)

Project Name	Southport Levee Recreational Trail (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$337,863
County	Yolo
Project ID	P6803
Grantee	City of West Sacramento
Overview	Create planning documents for preparation of paving of 5.6 miles of levee top for recreational use
DAC/SDAC	Neither
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 12/20/2021
New Information	Grantee is working with subcontractors in preparation of starting work in early January.
Project Name	Pittsburg Boat Launch Facility & Central Harbor Park Upgrade (Planning)
Amount Awarded	\$172,155
County	Contra Costa
Project ID	P6804
Grantee	City of Pittsburg
Overview	Create planning documents for preparation of recreational and safety enhancements to the Boat Launch Facility & Central Harbor Park
DAC/SDAC	Serves an SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Active as of 10/1/2021
New Information	Grantee has started outreach and is seeking subcontractors.

AWARDED PROJECTS (TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED: \$2,323,446)

Project Name	Land Acquisition for the Clarksburg Schoolhouse & Delta Welcome Center
Amount Awarded	\$310,373
County	Yolo
Project ID	P6802
Grantee	Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
Overview	Acquire 1.13-acre parcel to serve as the permanent home of the restored 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
DAC/SDAC	Neither
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	Grant agreement in process – execution expected early 2022.
Project Name	Pacific Flyway Center: Walk in the Marsh
Amount Awarded	\$1,486,050
County	Solano
Project ID	P6809
Grantee	Pacific Flyway Fund
Overview	Build three miles of ADA-compliant hiking trails, boardwalks, and educational signage throughout restored wetlands in Suisun Marsh
DAC/SDAC	DAC
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	Grant agreement in process – execution expected early 2022.
Project Name	Asian American Heritage Park Development
Amount Awarded	\$527,023
County	Sacramento
Project ID	P6811
Grantee	Delta Educational Cultural Society
Overview	Create a .07-acre park that will include culturally-relevant objects and interpretive exhibits on the history and heritage of the Chinese and Japanese who once occupied the Asian American Historic District of Isleton
DAC/SDAC	SDAC
Grant Agreement Status	Pending
New Information	Grant agreement in process – execution expected early 2022.

Note: In the following tables, the DAC/SDAC column indicates whether the project serves a disadvantaged community (DAC) or a severely disadvantaged community (SDAC), as confirmed by Conservancy staff. Proposition 68 requires that 20 percent of the allocation go to projects that support SDAC communities. Twenty percent of the Delta Conservancy's allocation is \$2,400,000. Of the \$6,380,335 for active, awarded, or requested projects to date, \$1,606,931 (25 percent) are expected to support SDAC communities.

WORKING PROPOSALS (TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$3,546,871)

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	DAC/SDAC	Proposal Status
P6805	Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building	Isleton Museum	Implement	\$48,297	Sacramento	SDAC	Under review
P6806	Discover the Delta Education Center	Discover the Delta Foundation	Planning	\$223,456	Sacramento	SDAC	Under review
P6808	Victory Highway Sign	Sacramento County	Planning	\$246,000	Sacramento	SDAC	Under review
P6810	Bees Lake Public Access	City of West Sacramento	Implement	\$ 971,352	Yolo	Neither	Under review
P6813	Clarksburg Schoolhouse Restoration and Delta Welcome Center	Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse	Implement	\$1,667,766	Yolo	Neither	Under review
P6815	Big Break Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Project	East Bay Regional Park District	Planning	\$390,000	Contra Costa	SDAC	Concept proposal

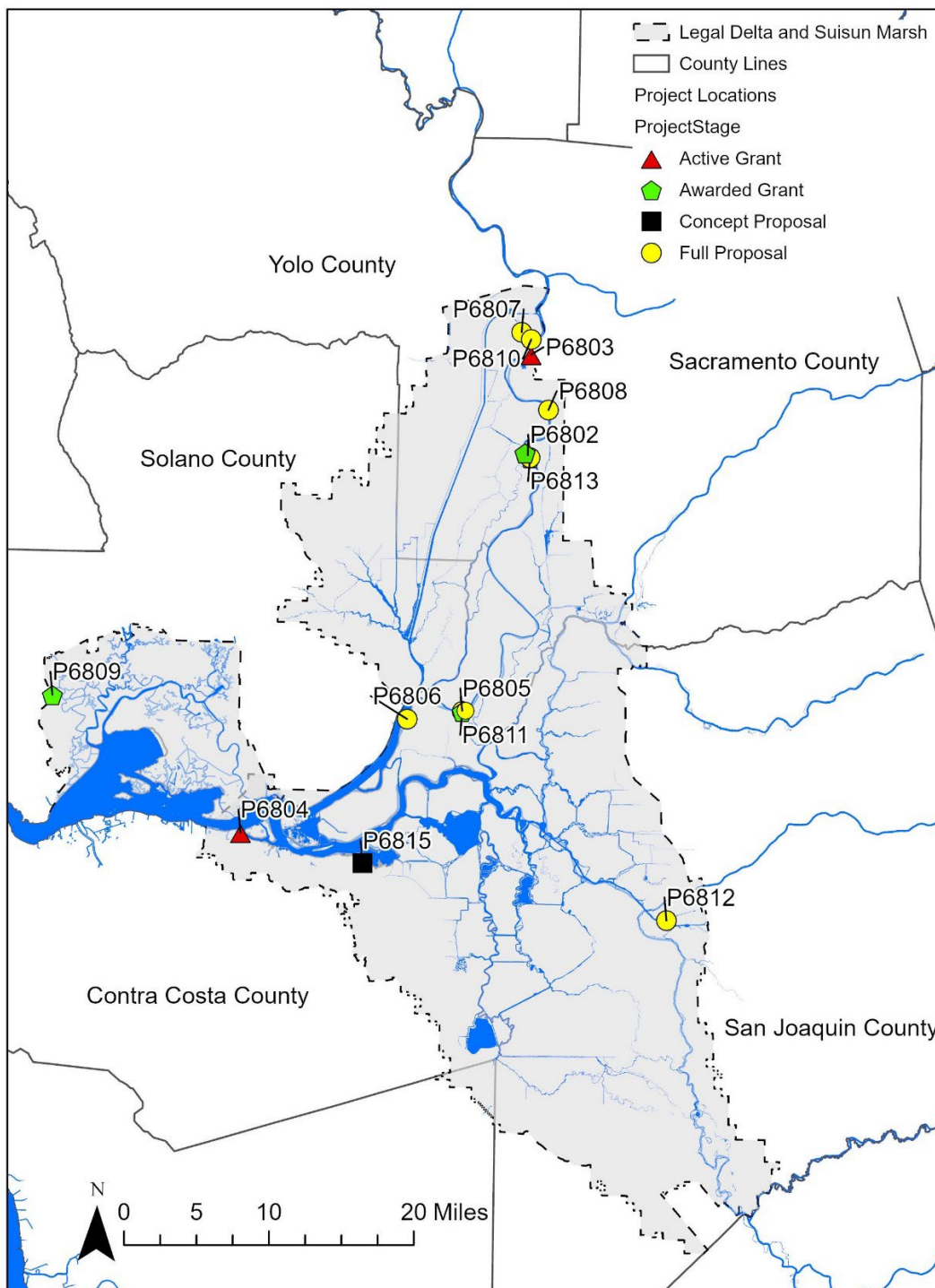
INACTIVE PROPOSALS (TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$3,708,911)

Project ID	Project Name	Applicant	Project Type	Amount Requested	County	DAC / SDAC	Status
P6801	Delta Old Timers	Gene Beley	Implement	\$25,000	San Joaquin	DAC	Project deemed ineligible
P6807	Clarksburg Branch Line Trail	City of West Sacramento	Planning	\$250,000	Yolo	Neither	On hold per applicant request
P6812	Stockton Waterways	Port of Stockton	Planning	\$900,000	San Joaquin	SDAC	Project being reconsidered by applicant
P6814	Safe Drinking Water for Safe Recreation and Tourism on Bethel Island	Bethel Island Chamber of Commerce	Implement	\$2,533,911	Contra Costa	Neither	Project deemed ineligible

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 allocation to fund projects in the Conservancy's Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program that 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.

FIGURE 1. MAP OF LOCATION AND STATUS OF PROPOSITION 68 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS



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Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Update Staff Report

This agenda item provides an update on the development and initiation of the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP), a collaborative effort between the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Delta Watermaster, and the Delta Conservancy. The objective of the program is to reduce drought stress in the Delta watershed, protect Delta water quality, and improve mutual understanding of agricultural practices and water conservation opportunities in different regions within the Legal Delta.

DESCRIPTION

The Delta Drought Response Pilot Program is in response to consecutive dry years, low combined storage in State and federal Project reservoirs, and drought-constrained water deliveries to Project contractors. Funds are available to incentivize agricultural water users in the Legal Delta to take actions expected to reduce crop consumptive water use and protect water quality. Water conserved through incentivized actions in the Pilot Program will be allocated to protecting Delta water quality and will not be available for diversion or exports. By rigorously monitoring the outcomes and impacts of a variety of actions in different settings throughout the Legal Delta, the Pilot Program will provide data to support targeted water conservation/quality protection responses during sustained and/or future droughts.

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy has entered into an interagency agreement with DWR to transfer \$10,000,000 to the Conservancy to develop and implement the grant program. The Conservancy is working with DWR and the Delta Watermaster (Program Partners) to develop the solicitation and application package and anticipates launching the program in mid-January 2022. The program will offer Delta water users \$900 per enrolled acre for practices that will reduce consumptive water use. Anticipated qualifying actions include, but are not limited to: 1. Foregoing a planned cash crop (e.g., maintaining idled farmland with appropriate drainage and appropriate healthy soil protections); 2. Shifting irrigation practices to conserve water, reduce or adjust timing of diversions, increase reuse, and/or protect water quality (e.g., converting to 60" furrows on flood irrigated crops, foregoing a portion of the irrigation cycle, or replacing flood irrigation with subsurface irrigation); and 3. Shifting to less water-intensive crops (e.g., cultivating small grains such as winter wheat or safflower that require little or no diversion of surface water for irrigations, instead of a more water-intensive summer crop like corn or tomatoes).

The Program Partners have established a Selection Committee that will review applications and make recommendations for funding based on guidance established by the Program Partners. Staff will present funding recommendations to the Board for consideration. However, due to the very time-sensitive nature of this program, it may be necessary for the Executive Officer to proceed with awards, with the concurrence of the Board chair and vice-chair, for projects that are time-sensitive and report actions taken to the Board at the next meeting.

The Conservancy will enter into an interagency agreement with the University of California Davis to assist with data gathering, monitoring, and synthesis of data from the pilot projects to ensure information resulting from the program will inform best practices for water conservation in sustained or future drought. All data will be made accessible to the public.

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Delta Invasive Species Coordination Update: Overview of Efforts to Streamline Early Detection and Rapid Response to Invasive Species in the Delta Staff Report

This agenda item provides an update on the Conservancy's role in facilitating the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team and the fourth biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium, which focused on early detection and rapid response to invasive species.

DESCRIPTION

Since 2015, the DIISC Team has planned and facilitated the biennial Delta Invasive Species Symposium (Symposium). The Symposium is a forum for Delta managers, researchers, decision-makers, and stakeholders to meet, share and synthesize information, and communicate best practices and lessons learned. The 2021 symposium focused on early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to invasion. The Department of Interior and the National Invasive Species Council defined EDRR in their [2016 report](#) as, "a coordinated set of actions that aim to find and report, then eradicate potential invasive species before they spread and cause harm." When effectively implemented, EDRR can minimize the impacts of invasive species on ecosystems and decrease long-term costs for invasive species management.

The 2021 Symposium's theme responded to several key science directives. First, the DIISC Team's internal review found EDRR should be a priority in the Delta. A 2020 review by the Delta Independent Science Board titled "[The Science of Non-native Species in a Dynamic Delta](#)," identified the need for coordinated EDRR in the Delta. The draft 2022-2026 Delta Science Action Agenda highlighted EDRR as a key need in the system (3 D on page 7 [here](#)). At the state level, numerous groups and initiatives have highlighted the importance of EDRR, including: the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan, the 2018 California Biodiversity Initiative, the 2018 California Invasive Species Advisory Committee Invasive Species Summit, the 2020 California Water Resilience Portfolio, and the California Invasive Plant Council and California Landscape Stewardship Network's 2020 white paper, "[Stewarding California's Biodiversity: Early Detection and Rapid Response \(EDRR\) for Invasive Plants](#)".

The Conservancy Senior Scientist led the 2021 Symposium planning team, which worked for seven months to develop the Symposium program. To guide the process, the planning team established five goals for the Symposium: 1) Highlight lessons learned from known EDRR efforts both within and beyond the Delta; 2) Strengthen communication among decision-makers, practitioners, stakeholders, and scientists; 3) Provide information on how to engage and use EDRR; 4) Share information and create awareness around existing EDRR activities in the Delta; and 5) Gather feedback from the broader Delta community on DIISC's draft Delta EDRR framework and coordination table.

The virtual Symposium was attended live by more than 180 individuals, representing over 65 different organizations. The Symposium consisted of an opening session and three themed sessions. The Delta Conservancy's Executive Officer facilitated the opening session of the symposium, which featured

remarks from the Delta Lead Scientist and the former chair of the Delta Independent Science Board. The themed session focused on EDRR lessons learned, successes and setbacks in EDRR, and emerging EDRR tools and challenges. Featured speakers came from the federal government, state agencies, academia, and non-profit groups (goal 2). Talks focused on lessons learned in the Delta and beyond, including a national EDRR perspective from the Executive Officer of the National Invasive Species Council, and overview of the successful EDRR program in the Columbia River Basin, and a report from Southern California describing the role of community scientists in EDRR (goal 1). Before lunch, a panel facilitated by the Delta Stewardship Council's Deputy Executive Officer for Science discussed the challenges of EDRR implementation (goal 3). The final section of the Symposium was an interactive feedback session on the draft Delta EDRR framework and coordination table (goals 4 and 5). The full Symposium agenda and the Symposium recording can be found on the DIISC Team's webpage (<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/delta-inter-agency-invasive-species-team/>).

The draft Delta EDRR framework and coordination table were developed by a working group of the DIISC Team, which is facilitated by the Conservancy Senior Scientist and every month between December 2020 and August 2021. Within the Delta, numerous groups currently perform EDRR work, but these efforts are largely siloed by species or organizational jurisdiction. Additionally, there are no structures to coordinate actions among existing EDRR programs or analyses highlighting gaps in the Delta's EDRR capacity. The DIISC Team's EDRR working group has developed a draft EDRR framework that defines key terms and processes central to EDRR, presents illustrative examples, and highlights key gaps in the region's EDRR capacity. The draft EDRR coordination table is a first step toward consolidating information about the different EDRR resources in the Delta. The working group used their expert knowledge of the Delta and existing EDRR related activities happening in the region to populate the coordination table and augmented this data with desktop research. The Conservancy Senior Scientist is the lead author for both documents and can be share them with Board Members at their request.

BACKGROUND

The DIISC team was formed in 2013 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 four research and management symposiums (2015, 2017, 2019, 2021), and maintains a table of relevant research needs. Due to past successes in coordinating regional efforts, the Delta Conservancy was identified as the facilitator of the DIISC Team. This facilitation role includes organizing quarterly DIISC Team meetings, leading strategic planning for the DIISC Team, organizing the planning of the biennial Symposium, and coordinating working group efforts. The Conservancy Senior Scientist currently facilitates the DIISC Team in collaboration with co-chairs from the Department of Water Resources, Delta Stewardship Council, and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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Invasive Species Coordination Update: Overview of Efforts to Streamline Early Detection and Rapid Response to Invasive Species in the Delta

Rachel D. Wigginton, PhD
Delta Conservancy Board Meeting
January 27, 2022



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency



Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team

- Formed in 2013 to foster communication and collaboration among groups that **detect, prevent,** and **manage** invasive species and **restore** invaded habitats
- Facilitated by Delta Conservancy



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**
A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

Agency logos for the DIISC Team co-chairs



Major DIISC Team Activities

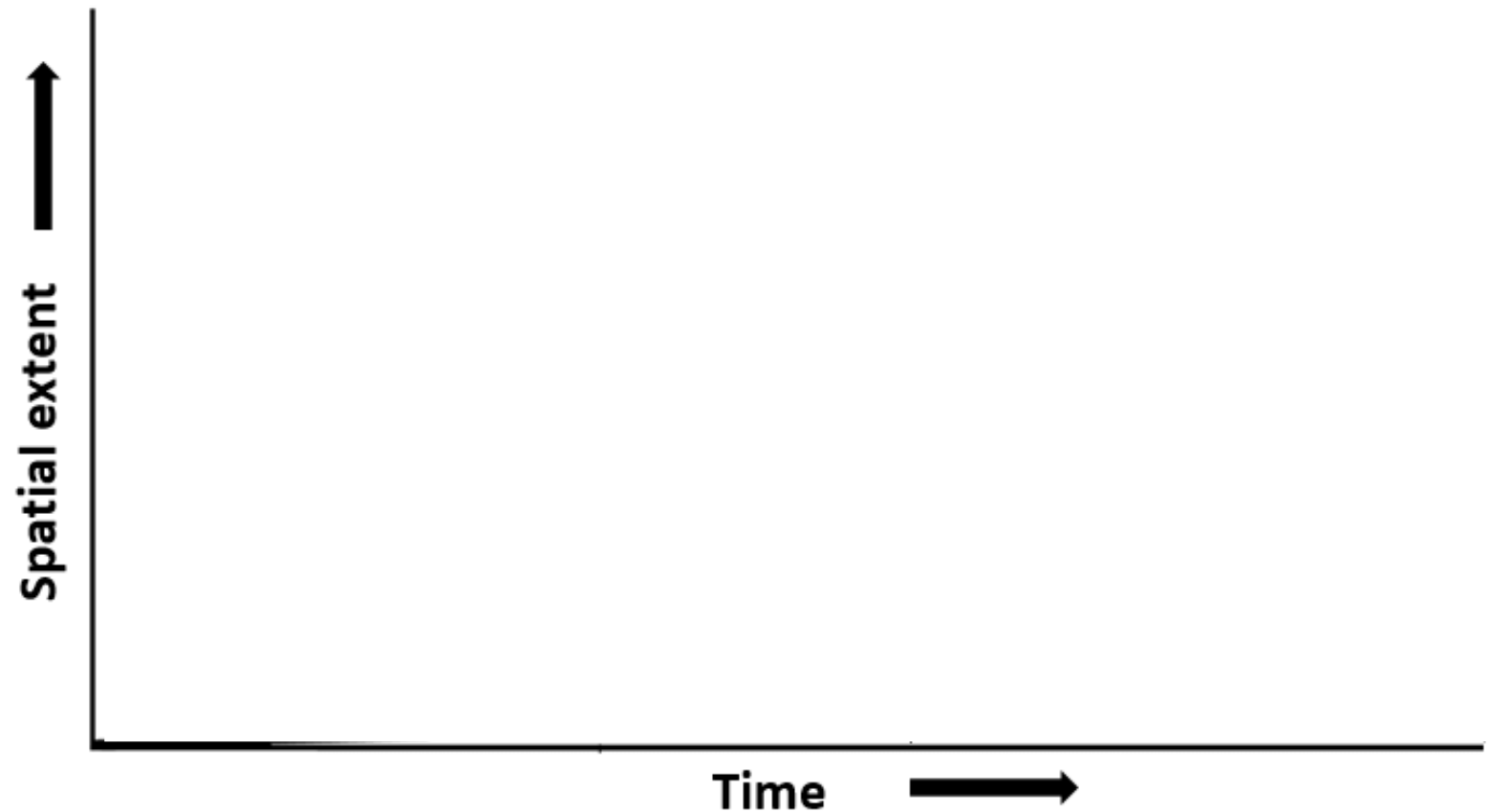
- Exchange Information
- Leverage Funding
- Research and Management
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)



Invasive alligator weed

What is Early Detection and Rapid Response?

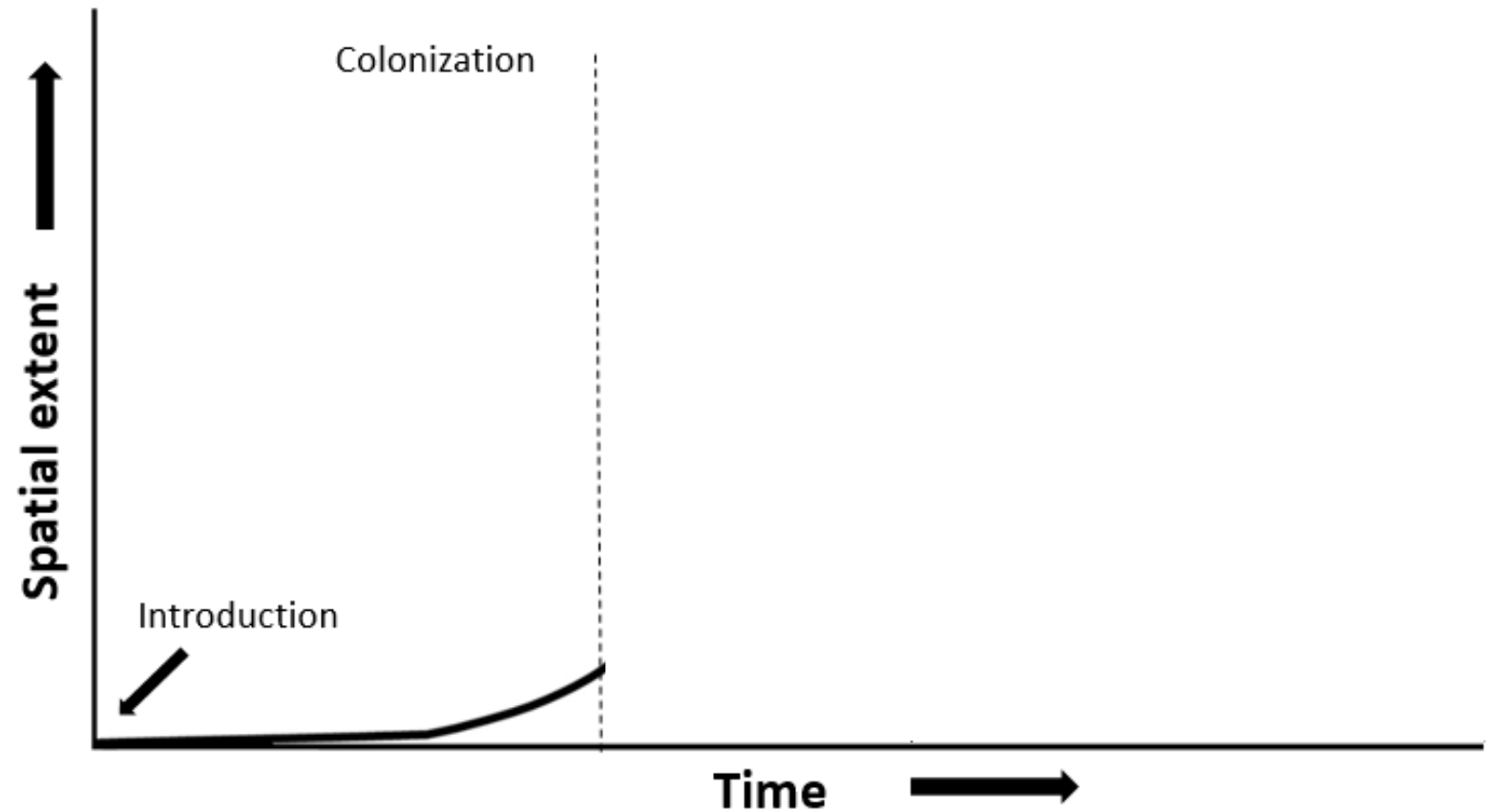
“a coordinated set of actions that aim to find and report, then eradicate potential invasive species before they spread and cause harm.”



Modified from Robichaud 2016

What is Early Detection and Rapid Response?

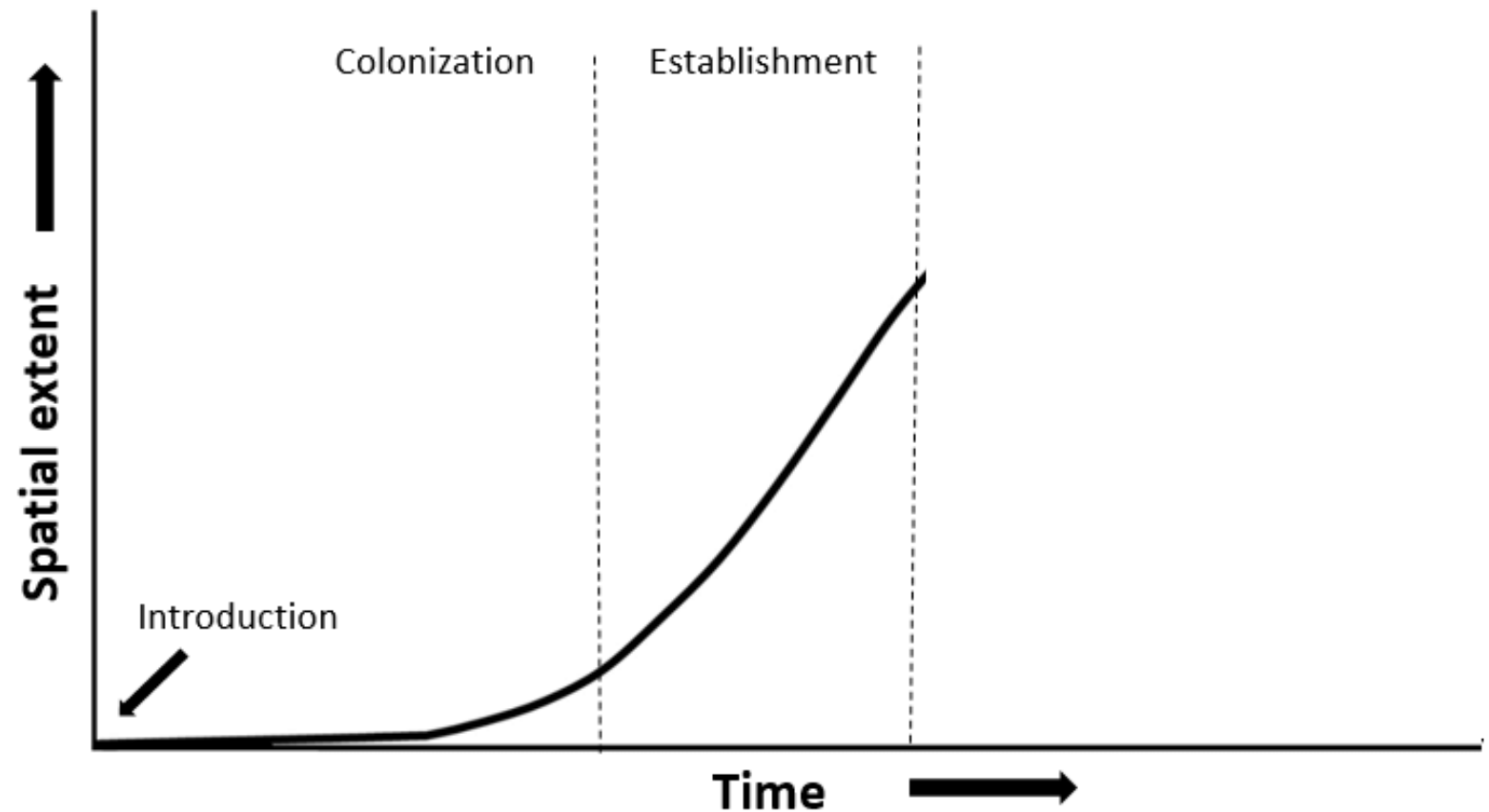
- Limited spatial extent
- Eradication is possible and cost effective



Modified from Robichaud 2016

What is Early Detection and Rapid Response?

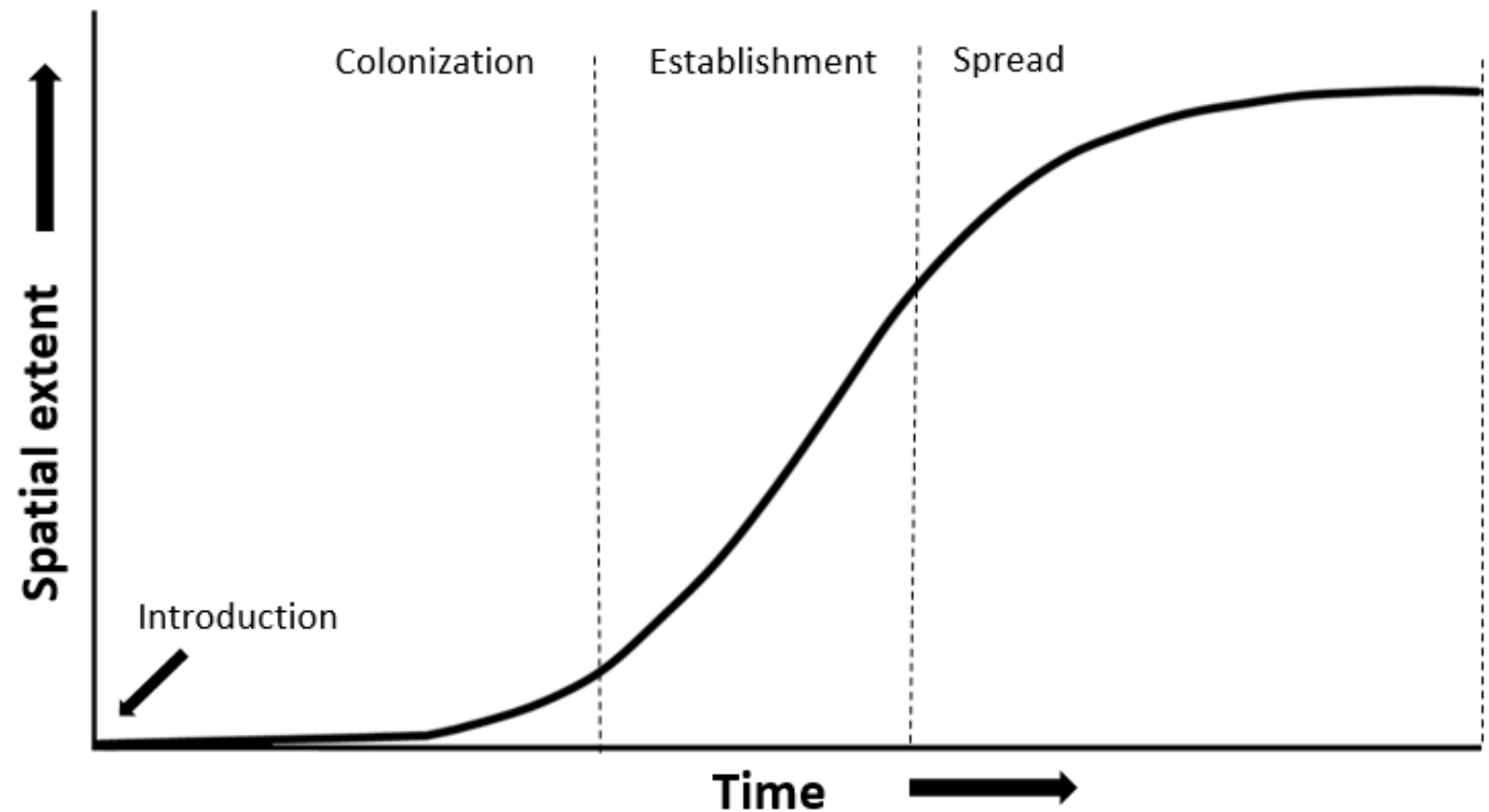
- Eradication is possible but takes intense effort and large commitment of resources



Modified from Robichaud 2016

What is Early Detection and Rapid Response?

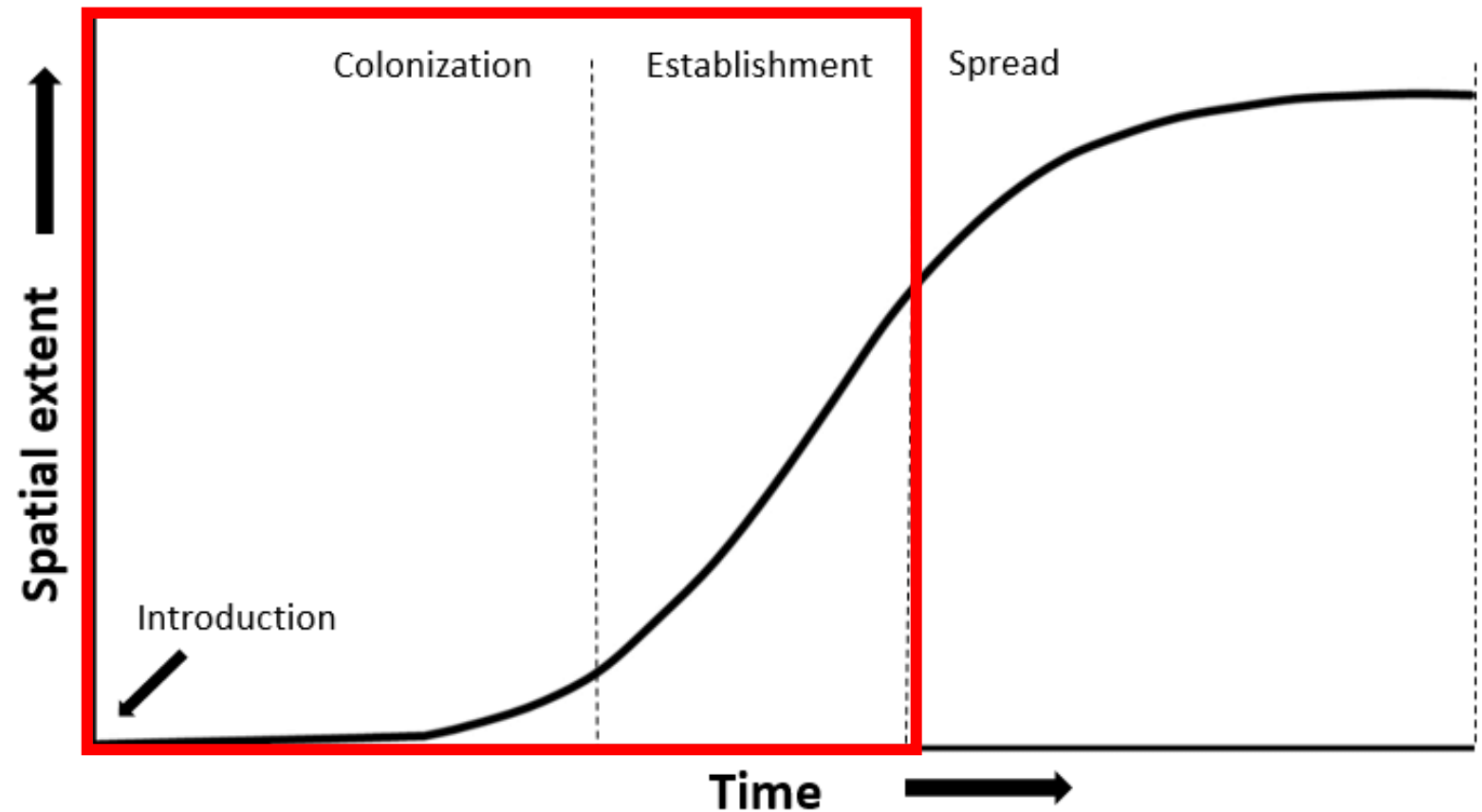
- Focus shifts from containment to control and maintenance
- Long-term costs of management add up



Modified from Robichaud 2016

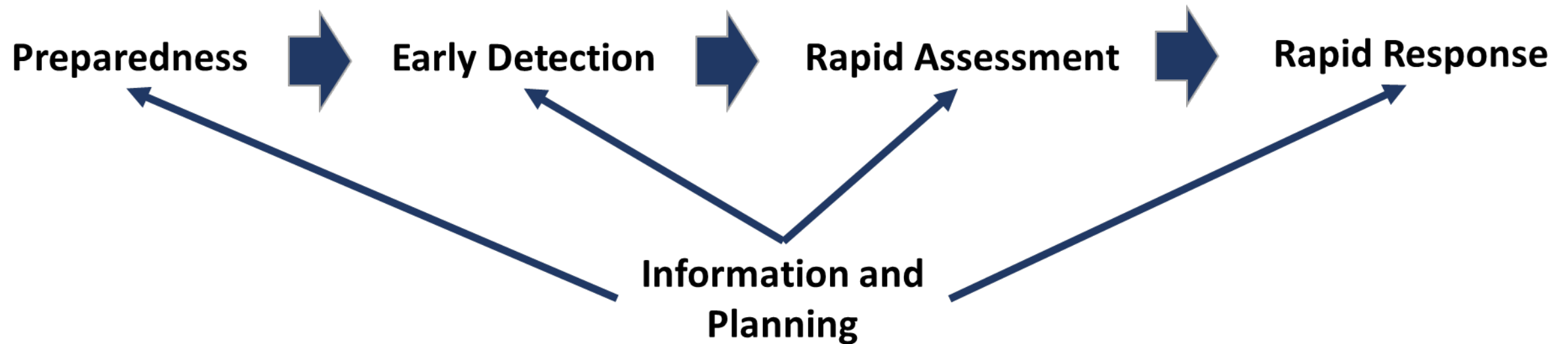
What is Early Detection and Rapid Response?

“a coordinated set of actions that aim to find and report, then eradicate potential invasive species before they spread and cause harm.”



Modified from Robichaud 2016

Draft Delta EDRR Framework Elements



Note: Prevention exists outside of the EDRR process, but should inform it

Draft EDRR Coordination Table

- Working group identification of known programs
- Desktop research
- Not exhaustive

Framework Element	Total Delta EDRR Resources	Total Organizations Involved
Preparedness	40	17
Early Detection	30	15
Rapid Assessment	6	6
Rapid Response	12	10

Table summarizes the number of Delta EDRR resources and involved organizations categorized by the four main EDRR Framework elements.

Draft Delta EDRR Framework

1. Preparedness

- a) Horizon Scanning
- b) Planning
- c) Research



2. Early Detection

- a) Training and Monitoring
- b) Detection and Reporting
- c) Communication and Outreach



3. Rapid Assessment

- a) Risk Screening and Risk Assessment
- b) Risk Management
- c) Risk Communication



4. Rapid Response

- a) Coordination and Leadership
- b) Containment and Quarantine
- c) Treatment and Eradication
- d) Monitoring, Adaptive Management, and Documentation

2021 Delta Invasive Species Symposium

- Focused on EDRR
- 180 individuals from more than 90 organizations
- Highlighted draft framework and coordination table
- Agenda and talk abstracts on the DIISC Team webpage
- Available to stream on the Conservancy's YouTube page

Next Steps

- Gather feedback on draft documents
- DIISC team quarterly meetings and EDRR working group will meet in early 2022
- Workshop to engage resource managers in 2022



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

Questions?

Rachel Wigginton

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Consideration of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines Staff Report

This agenda item requests Board approval of a final draft of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Board approval of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines.

DESCRIPTION

The proposed General Grant Guidelines will guide the Conservancy in granting funds in the absence of the need for alternative grant guidelines that incorporate provisions required by a particular funding source, policy, or mandate. For example, the Conservancy has grant guidelines for the Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program and a different set of guidelines for the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program, with each set of guidelines containing provisions specific to the requirements of the bonds that fund those programs.

The immediate needs for these guidelines is to enable the Conservancy to provide grants using the \$5,250,000 appropriated to the Conservancy from the General Fund from Natural Resources Packages added to the 2021 Budget Bill by Senate Bill 170 (Skinner, Budget Act of 2021) to support climate, conservation, and public access projects, and the \$10,000,000 of General Funds provided to the Conservancy by the Department of Water Resources to support implementation of the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program. Both Governor Newsom and Secretary of Natural Resources, Wade Crowfoot, have placed a priority on implementing actions to address the critical needs for which this funding was appropriated.

Beyond the immediate need, the Conservancy will also use the General Grant Guidelines to provide grants that do not have specialized requirements. The General Grant Guidelines provide guidance for grants that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents, priorities for the Conservancy as specified by the Legislature in Public Resources Code Section 32322. The General Grant Guidelines are designed to provide guidance that is applicable for a variety of grants to address those priorities and ensure that funds are administered and expended appropriately. The draft General Grant Guidelines were developed by adapting Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines, which have proven effective.

At the October 27, 2021 meeting, the Board discussed and approved a Public Draft of the guidelines. The guidelines were posted for public comment from November 4, 2021 through December 5, 2021. No comments were received.

The following minor edits made to the draft for public review approved by the Board.

- Land access agreements are required at the discretion of the Conservancy rather than in all instances in which the grantee is not the landowner. Requiring recording of land access agreements is also at the discretion of the Conservancy. These changes were made based on past experience, which has shown that there are some instances in which a land access agreement may not be necessary or may not need to be recorded. Language was also added indicating that the Conservancy may require recording of a landowner access agreement prior to disbursing grant funds. Edits were made to page 15.
- The requirement to maintain capital assets for 15 years has been changed to be at the discretion of the Conservancy. There are some instances in which 15 years may not be the appropriate timeframe for maintenance or in which there is not a need for a specified maintenance period. Edits were made to pages 4, 14.
- A provision was added to prohibit related-party contracts and the need to demonstrate aspects of the budget was clarified. This change was made upon the recommendation of the Department of Finance provided during an audit of the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program. Changes were made to page 17.
- A correction was made to clarify that indirect expenses may not be included in the hourly rate for personnel services. The change was made to page 19.

BACKGROUND

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has statutory authority to provide grants to state agencies, local public agencies, and nonprofit organizations to further the goals of the Conservancy (Pub. Resources Code, § 33264.5).

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines for use in granting funds that do not have specific bond related requirements.

CONTACT

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SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

GENERAL GRANT GUIDELINES JANUARY 26, 2022

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.

A2. Purpose of Grant Guidelines

These General Grant Guidelines (General Guidelines) establish the process and criteria that the Conservancy uses to administer grants for which individual grant-specific guidelines have not been adopted. Each grant provided by the Conservancy will specify the governing grant guidelines. More information can be found at: <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/grant-program/>.

A3. Contact Information

More information is available on the Conservancy's website at www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov . For questions or assistance, please contact the Delta Conservancy at (916) 375-2084 or contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

B. What the Conservancy Will Consider Funding

The Delta Conservancy supports efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents, in accordance with statewide priorities. The Conservancy will not fund activities associated with regulatory compliance responsibilities. The Conservancy may limit any funding opportunity to one or more of the following activities that further the Conservancy's mission.

1. Protect and enhance habitat and habitat restoration.
2. Protect and preserve Delta agriculture and working landscapes.
3. Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation in the Delta.
4. Promote Delta legacy communities and economic vitality in the Delta, in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission.
5. Increase the resilience of the Delta to the effects of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission.
6. Protect and improve water quality.

7. Assist the Delta regional economy through the operation of the conservancy's program.
8. Identify priority projects and initiatives for which funding is needed.
9. Protect, conserve, and restore the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical, and living resources.
10. Assist local entities in the implementation of their habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans.
11. Promote environmental education.

B1. Activity Types

The Conservancy may grant funds for the following types of activities.

Planning

Planning includes activities that prepare for and enable implementation activities. Receipt of a grant for planning activities does not guarantee that a grant will be provided for implementation activities.

Examples of planning activities include, but are not limited to:

- **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 activities

Pilot Projects

Pilot projects must be directly related to and inform eligible implementation activities. Pilot projects that are large in scale or duration may be considered implementation activities. The Conservancy recommends that applicants proposing a pilot project consult with Conservancy to determine the most applicable activity type.

Implementation

Implementation includes activities such as construction or improvement of a capital asset. Planning for implementation must be complete or near completion. Implementation activities that include a construction component must, at a minimum, have design plans completed to at least 65 percent level of development. Implementation activities that do not have a

construction component must have completed plans at a level that the Conservancy determines to be appropriate to the activities to be implemented. Implementation activities may include final design and permitting activities. The Conservancy may require that the outputs of implementation specific to capital assets be maintained for a minimum number of years after conclusion of the Grant Funding Term.

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.

Land Acquisition or Easement

Land acquisition is purchase of real property. An easement is a real estate ownership right (and encumbrance on the title) granted to an individual or entity to make a limited, but typically indefinite, use of the land of another. Activities that the Conservancy may choose to fund include, but are not limited to purchase, appraisals (including water rights appraisals), negotiation, due diligence, surveys, escrow fees, title insurance, and closing costs.

Research, Analysis, or Support

Research, analysis, and technical support activities provide information, data, and technical or capacity assistance that contributes to the Conservancy's mission, contributes to problem solving, advances best available science, and enables advancement of high priority initiatives. Research, Analysis, and technical assistance activities may or may not relate to specific grant-related planning or implementation activities.

B2. Grant Terms

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

Grant Term: The period, which may extend beyond the end of the Grant Funding Term, during which the outcomes of implementation activities must be maintained. Acquisitions and easements must comply with the Grant Term outlined in the applicable grant agreement.

For implementation, or land acquisition and easement activities, grantees must submit a 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.

Effective Start Date: The date that the grant agreement has been fully executed which entails being signed by both parties and completion of all noticing and filing required of the

Conservancy. The Conservancy will provide grantees written confirmation of the Effective Start Date of their grant.

C. Eligibility Requirements

C1. Eligible Geography

The Conservancy may fund activities 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 activities outside of the Delta and Suisun Marsh must address the following:

- How the activities implement the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan.
- How the activities are consistent with the requirements of any applicable state and federal permits.
- How the activities will provide significant benefits to the Delta.

C2. Eligible Grant Recipients:

Grants may be awarded to:

- State agencies
- Local public agencies
- Nonprofit organizations

C3. Ineligible Activities and Expenses

Activities that are not eligible for grant funding include but may not be limited to:

- Design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of water conveyance facilities.
- Activities dictated by a legal settlement or mandated to address a violation of, or an order (citation) to comply with, a law or regulation.
- Activities that subsidize or decrease the pre-existing mitigation obligations of any party.
- Monetary donations.
- Food or refreshments.
- Fees or expensed related to tours.
- Activities related to eminent domain processes.

- Subsidization or decrease the mitigation obligations of any party.
- Any other activities or expenses that the Conservancy deems inappropriate use of grant funding.

C4. Eligible Expenses

To be eligible for grant funding, activities must be conducted, and expenses must be incurred during the Grant Funding Term. Other than land acquisition costs, in all but the most extenuating circumstances, grant funding will be paid in arrears on a reimbursement basis. All expenses require supporting documentation and are subject to audit. With rare exception, funding for all grant related activities will be dispersed quarterly in arrears for all costs save for the cost of land acquisition, for which funds will be transferred into escrow once all requirements of the Land Acquisition Checklist have been met.

Direct Costs

Direct costs are for work specified in the scope of work, terms, and conditions of the grant agreement, and that are distinctly related to tasks and expenditures to implement activities as described in the grant agreement. The Conservancy will fund direct costs related to personnel services, operating expenses (general), operating expenses (subcontractor), operating expenses (equipment), land acquisition, and land easement costs.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs do not have a specific direct relationship to the project but are required for completion of the grant activities. The Conservancy may elect to include or exclude indirect costs as an eligible expense for a specific funding opportunity.

D. Grant Proposal and Determination Process

Funding opportunities, along with instructions and any application forms and templates specific to each opportunity, will be available through the Conservancy's website.

Grants may be competitive or non-competitive in nature. The Conservancy may define a timeframe in which it accepts proposals or accept proposals on a continuous basis. If a timeframe for proposals is specified, only proposals submitted by the submission deadline will be considered.

The Conservancy will post notice of any public workshop opportunities on its website. For competitive grants, the Conservancy will post responses to questions of universal relevance on its website. The Conservancy Board has final decision-making authority regarding grants and grant funding.

The Conservancy may use a two-step process that consists of a concept proposal and a full proposal or a one-step process that requires only a full proposal. If concept proposals are required, full proposals will only be accepted if a concept proposal was submitted.

D1. Concept Proposal

Step 1: Concept Proposal Submittal: The applicant submits a concise proposal that describes at a high level the proposed activities and budget that will form the basis for a full proposal. Applicants may, and are encouraged to, consult with the Conservancy during the drafting of their concept proposal.

Step 2: 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 feedback regarding their concept proposals, as well as an opportunity to meet with Conservancy staff to discuss feedback. Feedback is provided on aspects such as:

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

D2. Full Proposal

Step 1: The applicant submits a proposal that comprehensively describes the proposed activities, budget, and applicant and others that will conduct activities through the grant. The full proposal provides the information upon which Conservancy staff and external reviewers, if applicable, base their scoring and/or recommendations for Board consideration. Each application must include the required attachments, in the specified file type (Word or Excel), and use the templates that the Conservancy provides. For more information on components of a full proposal, see Proposal Requirements section below.

Step 2: Administrative Review: After the submission deadline, the Conservancy will conduct an administrative review of all full proposals to check for eligibility, consistency with grant requirements, and completeness. Proposals that fail to meet the administrative review requirements may not receive further consideration.

Step 3: Site Visits: Conservancy staff will conduct site visits for all implementation, pilot, and land acquisition or easement grants. At its discretion, the Conservancy may conduct site visits for planning, or research, analysis, and support grants. Applicants may be required to accompany Conservancy staff on site visits. Adjustments will be made in consideration of public health as needed.

Step 4: Full Proposal Evaluation: Full proposals will be evaluated and may be numerically scored by Conservancy staff. As needed to ensure review and evaluation appropriate to the proposed activities, the Conservancy may utilize independent reviewers from state, federal, or local agencies, academia, non-profit organizations, or other entities or individuals with technical or subject matter expertise.

Proposals that do not provide enough information to allow reviewers to adequately evaluate them may not be considered.

Full proposals will be evaluated using criteria, which may or may not include numerical scoring, specific to the funding opportunity; evaluation criteria will be specified for each funding opportunity. The Conservancy may specify a minimum score that must be obtained in order for staff to consider recommending the Board fund the proposal. Achieving the minimum score does not guarantee that the proposal will be recommended for funding, that a grant award will be made, or that an applicant will receive the requested funding. The Conservancy may specify key evaluation criteria, each of which must be deemed adequate by reviewers, regardless of the adequacy of other components of the proposal, to be considered for funding.

D3. Board Consideration

All final determinations regarding grant funding will be made the by the Conservancy Board at a public meeting. Staff recommendations regarding grant funding, and final scores, if applicable, will be posted on the Conservancy's website and shared with all applicants in advance of the Board's consideration of grant 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 funding may contest the recommendations by notifying Conservancy staff in writing by 5:00 p.m. at least five business days prior to the Board meeting at which funding recommendations will be considered. The notification must describe the specific aspects of the staff recommendation that the applicant wishes to contest and provide information relevant to the grant proposal that they wish the Board to consider.

If proposals for a funding opportunity exceed the funds available, the Conservancy may choose to award partial funding to one or more proposals. The Board may also choose to designate for award proposals that were initially denied funding, should additional funding become available. If a proposal does not demonstrate strong local support or a lack of significant conflict from

local interests, the Conservancy reserves the right to not fund the activities or to require that the conflict is satisfactorily resolved before awarding funding. The Board may, within its discretion, approve a conditional award of funds.

D4. Grant Agreement

If funding for a grant proposal is approved, Conservancy staff will coordinate with the applicant to complete a grant agreement that specifies the scope of work, reporting requirements, specific performance measures, invoicing protocols, funding disbursement, and other terms and conditions of the grant.

E. Proposal Requirements

Required components of all full proposals includes, but are not limited to:

- Financial Management System Questionnaire and Cost Allocation Plan
- Schedule and List of Deliverables
- Line Item Budget by Task
- Justification of Expenses and How Determined to be Fair and Reasonable
- Funding by Source

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

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

The following supplementary materials are required if relevant to the proposed activities:

- Authorization or Resolution to Apply
- Organizational documents
- Acquisition information (see **E12. LAND** Acquisition 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

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 of California, 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.

All proposals must identify current and prior relationships of all individuals or entities that will directly or indirectly receive grant funding or be responsible for substantive decision-making responsibility.

E2. Privacy Rights

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

Funding opportunities may require applicants to consult with the California Conservation Corps and the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (Corps) to determine the feasibility of using their services to implement activities unless noted exceptions apply. Planning activities and acquisition activities are generally exempt. If an applicant submits a proposal to the Conservancy for activities 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 activities in which they will be involved, and include estimated costs for those services, and enter into a contract with the Corps if awarded a grant. Even if not required, applicants are encouraged to consult with the Corps to explore opportunities for collaboration.

E4. Environmental Compliance

Grant funded activities 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. Conservancy staff may be able to assist with the compliance process; however, the applicant is solely responsible for 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 not 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. If the Conservancy is proposed to act as the lead agency for the project, the applicant must coordinate with the Conservancy, beginning at the concept proposal stage if concept proposals are applicable to the funding opportunity.

For proposed activities 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 activities will need to certify their consistency with the Delta Plan. For all implementation activities, a covered action checklist must be submitted with the full proposal. For those activities 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 activities must be certified as consistent with the Delta Plan before funds are disbursed for construction or the physical implementation of the activities. If the Conservancy is proposed to act as the covered action lead agency for the proposed activities, the applicant must coordinate with the Conservancy, beginning at the concept proposal stage if concept proposals are applicable to the funding opportunity.

E5. Water Rights

Funded activities 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 activities 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 approvals by SWRCB and the ability to meet those timelines within the grant funding term. In addition, any activities that involve modification of water rights for an adjudicated stream shall identify the required legal process for the change as well as associated legal costs. Proposals 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 activities. 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 activities and that the activities will not reduce or otherwise affect the rights of other water rights holders (CWC, § 79711(d)). For implementation activities 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 activities' water use has been considered, is reasonable, and that there is sufficient water to implement and maintain the activities without causing adverse impacts to downstream users or surrounding landowners. Conservancy staff will consult with the office of the Delta Watermaster regarding activities that propose to use water. The Delta Watermaster will review the water rights affiliated with the proposed activities and will provide an informal opinion as to whether these water rights appear to be subject to challenge. When considering if a proposal 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 implementation activities. The letter must verify that the water rights holder has the right to deliver water to the property on which the proposed activities 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 activities. 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 with a scientific component will be evaluated on the scientific basis of the proposed activities. Applicants must provide a description of the scientific foundation of their activities, including scientific literature, studies, or expert opinion that they have consulted. Applicants must use the best available science when planning and implementing their proposed activities. A more complete review of best available science can be found in [Appendix 1A of the Delta Plan](#).

Applicants proposing ecosystem restoration and enhancement activities 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 relevant climate change related resources, which include, but are not limited to: [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 activities to achieve desired goals, objectives, outcomes, and outputs 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 an entire project is embedded, whereas long-term management deals with the ongoing stewardship and maintenance. 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. The Conservancy will require all applicants, as relevant, 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 proposed activities, adaptive management expectations will vary. Planning, research, analysis, or support activities may not have all nine steps fully developed but are expected to describe how they will be considered and incorporated as the activities progress. Conservation easement proposals must describe the application of an adaptive management framework but may not have much leeway to alter easement terms. Activities 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 activities, its description will be incorporated into many sections of the proposal. Where relevant, applicants will be asked to summarize their approach to adaptive management in the Scientific Merit section of the full proposal.

E8. Performance Measures

Performance measures are used to track progress toward project goals and objectives. They provide a means of reliably measuring and reporting the implementation and effectiveness of a project and how it contributes value to the Delta, Suisun Marsh, and the state. Performance measures will be developed to reflect the unique benefits of individual projects. Conservancy staff may help in development of performance measures. All implementation, land acquisition, land easement, and pilot project proposals must include a performance monitoring and assessment framework that identifies the performance measures that will be used to demonstrate public benefits for the required length of time years following the end of the

Grant Funding Term, how they will be monitored and assessed, and how monitoring data will be reported.

E9. Monitoring and Assessment Framework

In addition to identifying performance measures and long-term management, some funding opportunities may require applicants to 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. Examples of standardized methods and related data portals for environmental activities 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 must add projects into [EcoAtlas Project Tracker](#) as relevant and provide periodic updates.

Environmental data and information collected through Conservancy grants 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.

E10. Long-Term Management

The Conservancy may require applicants to describe future management activities, explaining how the activities, once implemented, will be stewarded for a specified timeframe for capital assets. 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.

E11. Land Tenure

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

E12. Land Acquisition

The Conservancy may award grant funds for land acquisition. Land acquisitions 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 agencies 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.
- The Department of General Services (DGS) 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 to review and approve the required appraisal; the grantee must pay DGS directly for this expense and seek reimbursement from the Conservancy.

Land acquisitions are also subject to a specific set of additional requirements that must be met prior to and immediately after closing escrow. The Conservancy will provide a Land Acquisition Checklist to assist applicants and grantees. 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, applicants 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. The cost of land acquisition may not be factored into the indirect cost calculation. With rare exception, funding for all grant related activities will be dispersed quarterly in arrears for all costs save for the cost of land acquisition, for which funds will be transferred into escrow once all requirements of the Land Acquisition Checklist have been met.

Land acquisitions must address all requirements pertinent to implementation activities, 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 available on the Conservancy's 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 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

E13. Budget

Using the Budget Tables provided with the full proposal application materials, applicants must identify all expenses for which Conservancy funds are being requested. **All budget numbers must be demonstrated to be fair and reasonable, consistent across budget tables, and fully explained and justified. Related-party contracts are prohibited.** All expenses must be eligible and be organized by to the following cost categories.

- **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 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 grant activities. 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 activities 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 activities being funded by the Conservancy. Equipment purchases are allowable, if specified as a requirement for the completion of the activities. 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 grant activities but are a requirement for the completion of the activities may be eligible for reimbursement. If allowed, indirect costs may only be applied as a percentage of personnel services and will be limited to the percentage set by the Conservancy, not to exceed twenty percent of personnel services. Indirect costs must be reasonable, allocable, applicable, and must provide benefit to the grant funded activities. Indirect costs may include expenses such as administrative support (e.g., personnel time for accounting, executive, information technology, or other staff who support the implementation of the proposed activities but are not directly billing their time to the grant) and office-related expenses (e.g., insurance, rent, utilities, printing/copying equipment, computer equipment, and janitorial expenses), and other similar expenses

that are not direct expenses and are not included in the hourly rate for personnel services that are a direct expense for the grant. Indirect rates are strictly enforced for all applicants. Applicants must provide their indirect cost rate, explain the methodology for calculating it, and describe the cost pool used to calculate the indirect cost rate. Indirect 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 grant funds or by cost share or state-leveraged funds. Applicants should 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 activities from a source other than the Conservancy.

E14. Cost Share and State-Leveraged Funds

Cost share is the portion of the cost for proposed grant activities borne by private, local, and/or federal funding partners (other state funds may not count toward the cost share). Cost sharing encourages collaboration and cooperation and the Conservancy may require cost share for grant funding opportunities. Even if cost match is not required for a particular funding opportunity, applicants are encouraged to cost share to support their proposed activities. Cost share percent is calculated by dividing the total cost share from federal, local, or private sources by the total dollar amount requested from the Conservancy.

In-kind contribution is defined as all non-cash contributions to the grant activities from private, local, and/or federal funding partners, that have an assigned value; this may include volunteer time, supplies, and equipment. The Conservancy may require that in-kind contributions be matched with cash cost share at a one-to-one ratio (for example, if a grant has \$25,000 of cash cost share, the maximum qualifying in-kind contribution is \$25,000).

The Conservancy will also consider, and may provide points if scored, for the leveraging of state funds. Leveraged funds do not count toward 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 during the Grant Funding Term. The Conservancy may require that in-kind contributions from state leveraged sources be matched with cash cost share at a one-to-one ratio.

Only commitments made explicitly for the proposed activities may count as cost share, in-kind contribution, or leveraged funds. Applicants stating that they have a cost share, in-kind, or

leveraged funds must include commitment letters from partners at the time the full proposal is submitted; the letters must specifically confirm the dollar amount and/or in-kind cash value committed. The Conservancy may require that Cost share, in-kind contributions, and leveraged funds be spent during the Grant Funding Term.

E15. 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 available through the Conservancy's website). The information provided will be used to assess the applicant's financial capacity for managing the proposed grant.

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.

E16. Demonstration of Local Support

Applicants are expected to demonstrate local support by describing in their proposals both public and institutional support for the activities, including how the community and stakeholders are engaged in the activities. 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 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 activities are proposed to be conducted may be required as part of the full proposal.

E17. Local Notifications

The Conservancy will notify local government agencies – such as counties, cities, and local districts – and tribal organizations about eligible grant activities in their area being considered for funding. The Conservancy 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 land acquisitions, 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.

E18. Consultation and Cooperation with State and Local Agencies

It is the responsibility of grantees to coordinate and cooperate with the appropriate state and local agencies with interests in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. State Departments may include, but are not limited to: the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, the Delta Stewardship Council, the California Natural Resources Agency's EcoRestore program, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Delta Protection Commission (grantees are encouraged to utilize their Good Neighbor Checklist as relevant).

If activities are proposed to be funded by multiple agencies or entities, the Conservancy strongly encourages applicants to contact the applicable agencies or departments prior to applying for funding to discuss options for funding activities. 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 entities. The proposed scope of each proposal must be distinct and without overlap. Applicants must describe the overall project and how the proposals relate.

E19. Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities

Many communities in the Legal Delta and Suisun Marsh are considered disadvantaged communities (DAC) or severely disadvantaged communities (SDAC). A DAC is a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average (based on the U.S. Census). Applicants must identify any disadvantaged communities that overlap with the footprint of the proposed activities or would be served by the proposed activities. Mapping resources available for the purpose of identifying SDACs and DACs by census tract and/or block group are available on the Parks for All Californians website (<http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>) and the Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>). The Conservancy may consider other means of identifying SDACs and DACs as well.

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 approved activities.

- Grant awards are conditional upon funds being available from the state (see Loss of Funding section, below).
- For implementation activities, 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 activities.
- Grant funds will not be paid if any of the following conditions occur:
 - The grantee has been non-responsive or does not meet the conditions outlined in the grant agreement.
 - The activities have received alternative funding from other sources that duplicates the portion of work or costs funded by a Conservancy grant.
 - The activities have changed and is no longer eligible for funding.
 - Work was conducted outside of the grant funding term.
 - The applicant requests to end the grant.

F2. Reporting

All grantees must to provide regular progress reports and a final report. The final report must be approved by Conservancy staff prior to the release of the final disbursement of grant funds. Specific reporting requirements will be included in the grant agreement.

F3. Amendments

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

F4. Signage and Recognition

Grantees shall inform the public of activities received funds through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. Grantees shall recognize the Conservancy on signs, websites, press or promotional materials, advertisements, publications, digital content, or exhibits that they prepare or approve and that reference grant-funded activities. For implementation activities, grantees shall post signs at activity sites acknowledging the source of the funds. Size, location, number of signs, and draft design shall be approved by the Conservancy. Whenever possible, 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 activities and provide the opportunity for attendance and participation by Conservancy representatives.



Consideration of 2022-2027 Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan Staff Report

This agenda item requests Board approval of the 2022-2027 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve as final the 2022-2027 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan.

DESCRIPTION

The Conservancy updates its Strategic Plan at five-year intervals. At its October 27, 2021 meeting, the Board approved a draft of the 2022-2027 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan for public comment. The Conservancy posted the draft on its website and accepted comments from November 11, 2021 through December 5, 2021. No comments were received; the document presented to the Board for consideration in this agenda item is identical to the draft the Board approved for public comment.

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy's enabling statute requires the Conservancy to adopt a strategic plan to achieve the goals of the Conservancy (Public Resources Code section 32376). The plan must be consistent with the Delta Plan; the Delta Protection Commission's resources management plan; the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan; the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977; and the Habitat Management, Preservation and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh. The Board determined that the Strategic Plan should be updated every five years. The initial plan was adopted in 2011 and covered the period of 2012 to 2017. The Board adopted the second plan in 2016 to cover 2017 to 2022. The Board approves an annual Implementation Plan that describes Conservancy programs, work products, and metrics for the upcoming year and how they support the goals and objectives described in the Strategic Plan.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve the 2022-2027 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan.

CONTACT

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DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

2022 to 2027
Delta Conservancy
Strategic Plan



Gavin Newsom

Governor

Wade Crowfoot

Secretary for Natural Resources Agency

Campbell Ingram

Executive Officer Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

2021-2022

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board

Don Nottoli, Chair

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

Sandi Matsumoto, Vice Chair

Appointed Public Member

Keely Bosler

California Department of Finance

Wade Crowfoot

California Secretary for Natural Resources

Mitch Mashburn

Solano County Board of Supervisors

Katherine Miller

San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Karen Mitchoff

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Jim Provenza

Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Frank (Larry) Rhustaller

Appointed Public Member

Dolores (Dolly) Sandoval

Appointed Public Member

Leo Winternitz

Appointed Public Member

Non-voting:

Bill Dodd

State Senate, District 13

Timothy Grayson

State Assembly, District 14

Liaison Advisor Agencies

California Coastal Conservancy

Central Valley Flood Protection Board

Delta Protection Commission

San Francisco Bay Conservation and
Development Commission

South Pacific Division, U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers

Susun Resource Conservation District

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service

Yolo Basin Foundation

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The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy’s Mission:
Working collaboratively and in coordination with local communities, the Conservancy will lead 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.



I. Introduction

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Reform Act of 2009 established the statutory framework for the Delta Conservancy to oversee actions that would result in mutual benefits to the Delta and Suisun Marsh ecosystems and economies. With hard work and diligence, the Conservancy continues to meet this statutory mission. This Strategic Plan not only acts as a roadmap for enhancing the ecosystem and economy of the Delta and Suisun Marsh, but also builds off past successes to carry the Conservancy's mission forward during the next five years (2022 to 2027).



Community Involvement, Outreach, and Engagement — A Guiding Principle

The Conservancy's success in implementing this plan is centered on a commitment to meaningful involvement of the Delta community. This commitment has been a guiding principle for the Conservancy since it was established and is at the heart of its identity as a reliable collaborator, effective convener, and valued partner. The fundamentals of partnering and coordinating with the Delta community are interwoven with the goals, objectives, and performance measures that comprise this plan.

Conservancy's Guiding Principles:

- Acts in collaboration with the communities of the Delta and Suisun Marsh to implement multi-benefit initiatives.
- Operates with integrity in a transparent and accessible manner.
- Supports efforts that advance both environmental protection and the economic well-being in a complementary manner.
- Uses best available science.
- Recognizes and values the unique nature of the history, culture, communities, and ecosystems of the Delta and Suisun Marsh.
- Believes that access to natural resources, the benefits of ecological health, and the advantages of economic growth should be equitably distributed and accessible for all.
- Is committed to creating an inclusive workplace that promotes and values diversity.

A Foundation of Future Success

The Conservancy's successes since it was established in 2010 serve as the foundation for decision-making and action during the next five years. Key accomplishments include the following.



Proposition 1 Grant Program

Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, allocated \$50 million to the Conservancy to support multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities. The Conservancy Board and staff established a successful grant program focused on 1) ecosystem protection, restoration, and enhancement, (2) water quality, and (3) water-related agricultural sustainability.

The Conservancy has administered four rounds of grants, awarding approximately \$39 million for 29 projects, including: restoration of upland, floodplain, and wetland ecosystems; invasive species control; water related enhancement of agricultural land; acquisition of flood and conservation easements; and planning efforts for water quality improvements on working lands and restoration projects. Awards for the fifth, and perhaps final, grant solicitation are scheduled to be completed in early 2022.



Proposition 68 Grant Program

Proposition 68, the California Drought, Water, Park, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, allocated \$12 million to the Conservancy to support projects that enhance Delta communities and strengthen their economies. The Conservancy established a grant program to support 1) recreation and tourism, (2) historic and cultural preservation, and (3) environmental education. As of October 2021, the Conservancy has awarded \$514,000 for two projects. Activities that have been funded include planning and implementation projects that are improving existing and developing new community park facilities, establishing trail systems, and supporting renovation of a historic building.



Delta Carbon and Subsidence Management

The Conservancy has been a lead coordinator for a large partnership working to reduce subsidence and associated carbon emissions in the Delta. This effort has resulted in the development of a carbon protocol that incentivizes landowners to consider rice cultivation or creation of managed wetlands in the deeply subsided areas of the central Delta. In late 2019, the first wetland carbon credits were certified in the Delta and many pilot projects are in development, which could result in significant conversion of lands in the coming years.

Collaborative Planning

The Conservancy has led several comprehensive regional planning efforts for the advancement of Proposition 1 eligible projects. There remains a need to continue this planning for other Delta subregions and to support the development of restoration strategy that integrates habitat restoration, water quality enhancements, regional flood improvements, and sustainable agriculture in an effort to identify projects that would be eligible for future funding in support of Delta Plan ecosystem restoration targets.

The Conservancy stands ready to lead or support sister agencies and the Delta community in future planning efforts.

Delta Science

The Conservancy supports Delta-related science projects through the acquisition of competitive grant funding. These efforts include the creation of the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory and the implementation of the Fish Friendly Farming program. Conservancy staff facilitate and co-chair the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team. In addition, staff participate in the Interagency Adaptive Management Integration Team, the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup, and the forthcoming Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee's restoration sub-committee. Staff also provide comment and participate in co-creation of updates to the Delta Science Plan and the Science Action Agenda. Through these and future efforts, Conservancy scientists bring best available science to all the Conservancy's programs and contribute to the advancement of the Delta science enterprise.

II. Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: *Enhance ecological conservation, restoration, and climate adaptation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh*

OBJECTIVES

- 1A. Increase visibility, diversity, and resilience of the Delta and Suisun Marsh ecosystems
- 1B. Adapt landscapes to be resilient to climate change

METRICS

Acres and types of landscapes restored, enhanced, or conserved, and actions taken to support strategies identified in Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future, Pathways to 30x30, Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, and the Delta Plan.

Goal 2: *Support economically and ecologically sustainable working lands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh*

OBJECTIVES

- 2A. Increase implementation of sustainable and ecologically beneficial farming and agricultural practices
- 2B. Reduce and reverse land subsidence and associated carbon emissions

METRICS

Actions taken to support sustainable and ecologically beneficial uses and management practices, reduce or reverse land subsidence, reduce carbon emissions, and further carbon market engagement.

Goal 3: *Support and enhance communities and economies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh*

OBJECTIVES

- 3A. Foster robust and sustainable economies in the Delta and Suisun Marsh
- 3B. Preserve, enhance, and increase awareness of the unique history, culture, and values of the Delta and Suisun Marsh
- 3C. Increase public access to Delta and Suisun Marsh landscapes, communities, and cultural resources

METRICS

Actions taken to increase public access to and enhancements of recreation and tourism opportunities and natural landscapes, and engagements with those opportunities and landscapes.

Goal 4: *Enrich understanding of the ecological, cultural, and historical value of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh; the importance of resilience, diversity, and inclusivity; and the need for stewardship*

OBJECTIVES

- 4A. Broaden opportunities for education about the Delta and Suisun Marsh ecosystems, and cultural, and historical values among individuals, groups, organizations, and decision makers
- 4B. Strengthen the Conservancy's role as a collaborative state and community partner

METRICS

Educational opportunities presented; engagements with organizations, decision makers, and the public; educational outcomes realized; and collaborative partnerships supported.

Goal 5: *Maintain an effective, sustainable, adaptable, and inclusive organization*

OBJECTIVES

- 5A. Provide a safe, creative, inspiring, equitable, and inclusive working environment at all levels
- 5B. Establish and maintain adequate resources and efficient operations and structure

METRICS

Opportunities provided for employee development; evaluative staff measurement of the Conservancy as a safe, creative, inspiring, equitable, and inclusive environment; and actions taken to support organizational effectiveness and sustainability.



III. Preparing this Strategic Plan

This Plan reflects extensive input gathered through the development of the two previous strategic plans (2012 to 2017 and 2017 to 2022) and input from Conservancy Board members and members of the public via a 30-day public comment period. The document has been prepared by Delta Conservancy Staff.

This Plan is consistent with the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan, the Delta Protection Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan, the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, the 2011 Suisun Marsh Habitat Management Plan, and the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act.

A copy of this Strategic Plan can be found at the Conservancy's website:

<http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>. A printed copy may be requested by contacting the Conservancy by email at **contact@deltaconservancy.ca.gov** or by telephone at (916) 375-2084.



Appendix A:

Important Delta Conservancy Documents

The Delta Conservancy's 2022 Strategic Plan was developed with the following documents serving as a foundation and a guide.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 2012 Strategic Plan and 2017-2022 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan:

- http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/docs/Delta_Conservancy_Strategic_Plan_Designed_20June2012.pdf
- http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2017-2022-Strategic-Plan_12-11-19.pdf

The Conservancy's enabling legislation requires its Strategic Plan to be consistent with each of the following documents.

The Delta Conservancy's Governing Statutes:

<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/about-delta-conservancy/>

The Delta Plan:

<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/>

The Delta Protection Commission's Land Use and Resources Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta:

<http://delta.ca.gov/land-use/management-plan/>

The Central Valley Flood Protection Plan:

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Flood-Management/Flood-Planning-and-Studies/Central-Valley-Flood-Protection-Plan>

The Suisun Marsh Management Plan:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/3/Suisun-Marsh>

The Suisun Marsh Preservation Act:

https://bcdca.gov/plans/suisun_marsh_preservation_act.html

Appendix B:

Statutory Responsibilities

The Delta Conservancy was established as part of SBX7 1, enacted in November 2009, to carry out two mandates beginning in February 2010:

- Act as a primary state agency to implement ecosystem restoration in the Delta (Public Resource Code §32320(a)), and
- Support efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents (Public Resource Code §32320(b)).

For the Delta Conservancy, supporting efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of the Delta residents can be thought of as “coequal” responsibilities.

The Legislature entrusted the Conservancy with responsibility for supporting efforts that:

1. Protect and enhance habitat restoration.
2. Protect and preserve Delta agriculture and working landscapes.
3. Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation.
4. Promote Delta legacy communities and economic vitality in the Delta, in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission.
5. Increase the resilience of the Delta to the effects of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission.
6. Protect and improve water quality.
7. Assist the Delta regional economy through the operation of the Conservancy’s Program.
8. Identify priority projects and initiatives for which funding is needed.
9. Protect, conserve and restore the region’s physical, agricultural, cultural, historical, and living resources.
10. Assist local entities in the implementation of their Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCP).
11. Facilitate take protection and safe harbor agreements under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.), the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5, commencing with §2050, of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code) for adjacent landowners and local public agencies.
12. Promote environmental education through grant funding.

The Legislature also directed the Conservancy to “undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public” when supporting such efforts. (Public Resource Code §32322(c)).





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**Consideration of Amendment to Budget, Scope, and Term of Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Agreement for Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project
Staff Report**

Grantee	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Project Number	Prop 1-1709
Award Year	2018
County	Contra Costa County
Category	Planning
Original Award Amount	\$1,235,000.00
Amended Request Amount	\$1,435,000.00
Request	Budget, Scope, and Term Amendment

This agenda item presents a request to increase the total budget, expand the scope, and extend the term of the grant agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the amended budget, scope, and term extension as explained in this report.

DESCRIPTION

The Grantee requests an addition of \$200,000 to the grant award to accommodate additional work: \$110,000 to support community engagement with a third-party facilitator, \$50,000 for community engagement by project engineers, and \$40,000 for expanded hydraulic and hydrologic modeling. The Grantee also requests a term extension of one year, from November 2022 to November 2023.

After initial meetings with key stakeholders and initial agencies, it became clear that the outreach activities required more funding than originally estimated by the grantee's outreach consultant. To wit, the Grantee has expended \$58,000 as match to the Conservancy's \$10,000 grant funding for the development of an outreach strategy, individual interviews with key stakeholders, two community-wide events, and two outreach meetings focused on immediate neighbors of the project site in 2021. The Grantee committed to Knightsen Town Community Services District (KTCSD) to conduct six public outreach meetings; the remaining four are scheduled for 2022, with a budget for the outreach consultant of \$110,000. Activities funded by this budget include planning, presentation development, meeting facilitation, outreach coordination, and communications support.

In addition to increased costs for the outreach consultant, the outreach strategy requires preparation of the project engineers in advance of each community meeting, as well as

attendance at each meeting, resulting in the need for an additional \$50,000 for the Environmental Science Associates budget.

The Grantee has funded all hydraulic and hydrologic modeling to date, at a cost of \$100,000. The grantee is requesting an additional \$40,000 to expand groundwater and surface water investigations on the site, at the request of the KTCSD. The decision to collect additional hydraulic and hydrologic data is based on two factors: 1) 2020/2021 was a drought year; hopefully 2021/2022 will be a more typical rain year for the region, and 2) the land use on site is converting from irrigated agriculture to seasonal livestock grazing. The change in irrigation may result in different shallow ground water patterns that could inform modeling of the hydrology on a restored project site. This will further help the project team provide information to address detailed questions from the community about groundwater and surface water on the site.

The total request for additional funds to support this project is \$200,000. The grantee will provide staff time match calculated at 5 percent of the award amount, and \$20,000 cash match to fund these activities.

Table 1. Project Match History

	Original	Amendment 1	Amendment 2	Total Project
Cash	\$0	\$0	\$178,000	\$178,000
In-Kind	\$61,250 ¹	\$500	\$10,000	\$71,750

The Grantee's request for a term extension is a result of several factors: additional work required to address concerns raised by the KTCSD, outreach delays due to COVID meeting restrictions, and engineering delays due to wildfire impacts on the project team.

Increasing the award amount will provide resources for the Grantee to address the KTCSD's concerns regarding this planning project. The environmental benefits to be realized from the successful implementation of their project are significant. Targeted habitats to benefit special status species are approximated in concepts for the final design to be up to 131 acres of Tidal Marsh, 98 acres of Seasonal Wetland, 66 acres of Alkali Meadow, 238 acres of Oak Savanna, 13 acres of Interior Dune, and 95 acres of Grassland.

BACKGROUND

In March of 2018, as part of the Cycle 3 of the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program, the Board awarded grant funds for the Knightsen Habitat Restoration and Flood Protection project. The objective of this planning project is to develop shovel-ready design plans, complete California Environmental Quality Act provisions, and secure all necessary permits. This is the second amendment requested for this project. In March of 2020, the Board awarded additional funding of \$10,000 to increase the project scope to include community outreach after the Knightsen

¹ Not considered in initial award; no cash match.

Town Community Services District experienced one hundred percent turnover and withdrew all support for the project. The term was extended by seven months with the approval of Amendment 1.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve an amendment to the grant agreement with East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy for Prop 1-1709 to award an additional \$200,000 in funding for hydraulic and hydrologic modeling and community outreach; and extend the grant term to November 30, 2023.

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Potential Agenda Items for the March 23, 2022 Board Meeting

Staff is seeking input from the Board regarding additional agenda items for the March 23, 2022 Board meeting.

Potential items include:

- Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant(s)
- Consideration of the Delta Conservancy 2022 Implementation Plan
- Overview of Delta Carbon Management

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