



**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 (KTCS D) 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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