



Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for the Restoration of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Creation of a Delta Welcome Center Staff Recommendation

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program funding for the Restoration of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Creation of a Delta Welcome Center project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Applicant	Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse
Project ID	P6813
Project Type	Implementation
County	Yolo
Funding Request	\$1,743,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,743,000
Funding Recommendation	\$1,743,000

RECOMMENDATION

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$1,743,000 in grant funding for the Restoration of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Creation of a Delta Welcome Center project (P6813) proposed by the Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse (Friends). Conservancy staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with members of the Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse. Staff followed the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Grant Guidelines, approved by the Conservancy Board December 2019, in working with the applicant and assessing this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

The goal of the project is to restore the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse to create a Delta Welcome Center that will serve the public by creating a community gathering space and K-12 Educational Center; displaying exhibits to showcase Clarksburg’s and the north Delta’s environmental, agricultural, historical, and cultural importance; and showcasing tourism and recreational opportunities of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. If awarded, this final phase of the project will result in a fully restored building, interior and exterior displays, and landscaping to include the original flagpole, a school bell, antique farm equipment, and picnic tables. The Schoolhouse Building Restoration will include elements such as, but not limited to: power, water, septic, plumbing, lighting, climate control, security alarm system, roof, walls, windows, doors, insulation, siding, gutters, interior bathroom, office space, exterior porticos, pedestrian walkway, outdoor deck, fencing, and striping for parking.

The broader, multi-phase project started when Dan and Judy Serpa donated the Schoolhouse to the Clarksburg community in 2015, with the stipulation that the Schoolhouse be utilized for community purposes. This donation inspired the formation of the nonprofit organization, Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse, dedicated to restoring the Schoolhouse. Since 2015, the Friends have raised over \$300,000 in private donations and grants, as well as approximately \$150,000 in in-kind donations, and secured at least 10,000 donated hours from the Clarksburg community.

The Friends selected a site in the heart of Clarksburg featuring heritage oaks at 36446 Riverview Drive. This location is highly visible to incoming tourists at the entrance to town and will ensure easy access. The Friends moved the Schoolhouse to the new location (with the permission of the property owner), poured the 2,250 square foot foundation in 2021, and will have paid for all building permits, architectural and engineering costs, and will construct the 10 foot perimeter walls by March 2022 with existing funds.

In October 2021, the Friends were awarded a Proposition 68 grant from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy for the land acquisition for the project site (36446 Riverview Drive, Clarksburg CA) to serve as the permanent home of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Delta Welcome Center.

Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC)

Proposition 68 requires that at least 20 percent of all funding be spent on projects that serve severely disadvantaged communities, which are defined as “a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average” (PRC 45 Sec. 80008(a)(1)). Although not located in a severely disadvantaged community, in keeping with the Conservancy’s SDAC Policy, the project will provide a direct resource and economic stimulus for the entire northern Delta (defined as Freeport, Clarksburg, Hood, Courtland, Locke, Walnut Grove, Ryde, Isleton, and Rio Vista). Locke, Walnut Grove, and Ryde are designated as disadvantaged communities, and Isleton qualifies as a severely disadvantaged community.

Cost Share

The Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse, a nonprofit organization, will not contribute cost share. While the Friends does not have qualifying cost share during the funding term, it is notable that they have secured considerable commitments of time, labor, donations, and monetary support for other components of the project as described in the project description and local and institutional support sections.

CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND LOCAL PRIORITIES

The project is consistent with Proposition 68 and the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code sections 32300-32381) and strategic plan. This project is consistent with priorities outlined in the Delta Stewardship Council’s Delta Plan and the Delta Protection Commission’s Economic Sustainability Plan.

LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Led by a dedicated board of directors and a large group of community volunteers, the Restoration of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Creation of a Delta Welcome Center project enjoys robust local support. The project has received significant support from past fundraising efforts, including six successful fundraising events between 2016 and the present. Additionally, the project enjoys wide backing, including letters of support from community members, area school districts, local nonprofits, and county, state, and federal agencies.

BACKGROUND

Proposition 68 is the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Public Resources Code Division 45) that made \$12,000,000 available to the Conservancy for uses specified in its governing statute (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act, Public Resources Codes, Division 22.3). The Conservancy will use Proposition 68 funds to support projects in the Conservancy's Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program. Unlike traditional grant programs, this program was designed to allow Conservancy staff to collaborate with project applicants to develop proposals that meet the Conservancy and Proposition 68 goals. When applicants submit concept proposals, staff review the proposal to assess viability and appropriateness with program goals. If the concept proposal is suitable, staff then guide applicants as they develop a full proposal for consideration of Proposition 68 funding. The Restoration of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Creation of a Delta Welcome Center is the third of three projects being presented to the Conservancy Board for consideration today.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move to award funding up to \$1,743,000 to the Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Creation of a Delta Welcome Center project.

CONTACT

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FIGURE 1. MAP OF THE RESTORATION OF THE 1883 CLARKSBURG SCHOOLHOUSE AND CREATION OF A DELTA WELCOME CENTER

