



Consideration of Amendment to Scope and Term of Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program Agreement for Delta Working Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning Project Staff Report

Grantee	Solano County Resource Conservation District
Project Number	Prop 1-1804
Award Year	2019
County	Solano County
Category	Planning
Original Award Amount	\$347,481.60
Amended Request Amount	\$347,481.60
Request	Scope and Term Amendment

This agenda item presents a request to amend the scope and extend the term of the grant agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the amended scope and term extension.

DESCRIPTION

The Grantee requests allowance to engage landowners on project sites outside the Legal Delta and extend the term of the agreement from November 1, 2022 to March 15, 2024. The request is a result of the reluctance of previously identified landowners to commit to the planning projects amid the economic and social uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The Grantee has identified potential project sites just outside the Legal Delta that would result in the exclusion of livestock from waterways. Per the proposal requirements outlined in the Delta Conservancy’s Grant Guidelines, the Grantee provided a Delta Benefits justification with the amendment request. The expanded project sites will: be located within five miles of the Legal Delta, be along a waterway that drains to the Delta, and will provide water quality benefits to the Delta.

This amended project supports the water quality improvement and exotic species reduction goals of the Delta Plan, as the proposed project sites are upstream of and hydrologically connected to the Legal Delta and, as such, will positively affect both the downstream water quality and reduction of exotic species. Additionally, this project addresses the Delta Plan goal to implement wildlife-friendly farming and serves as a model for infrastructure improvements and practices that can benefit the environmental and economic vitality of agricultural operations in the Delta and adjacent areas.

BACKGROUND

In May of 2019, as part of Cycle 4 of the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program, the Board awarded grant funds for the Delta Working Waterways Habitat Restoration

Planning project. The objective of this planning project is to develop shovel-ready design plans and secure all necessary permits in order to mimic or restore the function of floodplains, riparian forest, and wetlands. Project implementation will provide tangible habitat and water quality benefits, create corridors between historic marshland and upland habitat, and contribute to the economic and environmental sustainability of working agricultural lands. This is the first amendment requested for this project. One of the project sites, Ulatis Creek, has completed shovel-ready designs and submitted an implementation proposal through the Cycle 5 Proposition 1 solicitation.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve an amendment to the grant agreement with Solano County Resource Conservation District for Prop 1-1804 to allow project sites outside of the Legal Delta and extend the grant term to March 15, 2024.

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