



Consideration of Amendment to Budget, 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	Budget, Scope, and Term Amendment

This agenda item presents findings for project sites located outside the legal Delta and a request to amend the budget, scope, and extend the term of the grant agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve findings for project sites located outside the Delta and approve the amended budget, scope, and term extension.

DESCRIPTION

The Grantee requests to move funds between budget line items, 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 requests to shift \$52,200 from Subcontractors and General Operating Expenses to Personnel Services. Subsequently, the Grantee requests to shift \$6,933 from Personnel Services to Indirect Costs to account for increased costs from added Personnel Services. Finally, the Grantee requests shifting \$2,000 from Personnel Services to Travel Expenses to address a budget error. The Grantee does not request any changes to the total Grant award.

The Grantee requests to include two sites located outside the legal Delta that would result in the exclusion of livestock from waterways. 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 project is planning for a future implementation project that will, in part, take place outside of the legal Delta. Public Resources Code (PRC) section 32360.5 requires the Board make certain findings if it approves funding for activities outside the Delta. Staff recommends the Board find that an implementation project resulting from the planning will meet the following requirements: (1) the project implements the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan by protecting and improving water quality, combating harmful species, and working with ranchers and farmers to develop wildlife-friendly farming systems on agricultural lands; (2) the project is consistent with the requirements of any applicable state and federal permits; (3) the Conservancy has given notice to affected local jurisdictions and the Delta Protection Commission and will work with the applicant to address any comments; (4) the Conservancy has given notice to the Coastal Conservancy and has received no comments; and (5) the project will provide significant benefits to the Delta by improving water quality, controlling invasive species, and expanding habitat to sites along waterways hydrologically connected to the Delta and serve 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

Two separate motions are required.

Move that the Board approve findings for project sites located outside of the legal Delta for the Delta Working Waterways Habitat Restoration Planning Project grant agreement with Solano County Resource Conservation District.

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

CONTACT

Sarah Lesmeister, Ecological and Community Programs Manager
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
sarah.lesmeister@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
(916) 847-6366