



Consideration of Draft Solicitation Notices for Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR) Funding; and Nature Based Solutions (NBS): Wetland Restoration Funding Staff Report

This agenda item presents the draft solicitation notices for Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR); and Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration (NBS: WR) funding for Board Consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the draft solicitation notices for Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection and Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration funding detailed in Agenda Items 6.2 and 6.3, respectively.

BACKGROUND

Chaptered on September 6, 2022, the Amended Budget Act of 2022 (Assembly Bill 179, Item 3875-101-0001 of Section 111) provided the Conservancy with \$6,125,000 for projects that support Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection and \$36,000,000 for projects that support Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration.

DESCRIPTION

The proposed draft solicitation notices for CAR and NBS: WR are detailed in agenda item 6.2 and 6.3, respectively. The Conservancy will use the General Grant Guidelines to administer CAR and NBS:WR grants. The solicitation notices include programmatic goals of the funding source, proposal submission process and timeline, and evaluation criteria.

Both funding opportunities will be administered as non-competitive grant programs without proposal submission deadlines. Proposals will be processed in two steps: concept proposal and full proposal. Conservancy staff will conduct a viability assessment after a concept proposal is submitted and then work with the applicant to develop a full proposal for Board consideration. Proposals will be evaluated using criteria derived from the Conservancy's Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grant programs and are described in the solicitation notices.

Goals of each funding program are unique to the funding source. Grants funded through CAR funding should be multi-benefit projects that advance the state's initiatives to build climate resilience, expand outdoor access for all, and advance California's 30x30 goal to conserve and protect 30 percent of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030. Grants funded through NBS: WR should support restoration, conservation, and climate resilience for wetlands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh.

Conservancy staff will make grant funding opportunities publicly available by posting the solicitation notices on the Conservancy website and the California Grants Portal (grants.ca.gov).

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move to approve the solicitation notices for Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection; and Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Funding.

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