



**Consideration of Award of Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Grant Funds for the
Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton Planning Project
Staff Recommendation**

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award CAR Program funding for the Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton Planning project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Applicant	San Joaquin Community Foundation
Project ID	CAR05
Project Type	Planning
County	San Joaquin
Funding Request	\$2,544,725
Total Project Cost	\$2,544,725
Funding Recommendation	\$2,544,725

RECOMMENDATION

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$2,544,725 in grant funding for the Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton Planning project (CAR05) proposed by the San Joaquin Community Foundation. Conservancy staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with members of San Joaquin Community Foundation. Staff followed the General Grant Guidelines, approved by the Conservancy Board January 2022, in working with the applicant and assessing this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

Staff recommends a two-phased funding plan for the Delta Aquatic Center planning project, proposed by the San Joaquin Community Foundation. The first phase of funding, \$741,769, would fund the completion of 65 percent design plans (Phase 1), as described below. The second phase of funding, \$1,802,956, would be available to the project team only upon Board approval of California Environmental Quality Act responsible agency findings. The second phase of funding would be used to conduct additional public outreach, develop project design plans, acquire remaining permits, and complete 90 percent design plan and construction documents (Phase 2). By funding planning all the way through CEQA and construction documents the project will be ready to begin implementation immediately upon completion of the planning project.

The overall purpose and goal of the Delta Aquatic Center is to build a world-class water sports facility in Stockton. This ADA-friendly facility on the Delta will make it possible for all, regardless of ability or means, to access the Delta in small, human-powered watercraft. The Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton will provide greater access to the Delta, increase recreation and tourism opportunities, foster health and wellness, preserve the unique cultural environment of the Delta region, promote environmental education, and increase the economic vitality of the region.

This grant will fund the preconstruction planning activities for construction of the Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton. This work includes engaging a firm to conduct the following activities: 1) architectural programming and planning, including community engagement for the design of the Aquatic Center, 2) development of a site master plan for the Aquatic Center, and 3) securing the necessary permits, identifying construction costs, and creating the final construction documents to go out for bids. The aquatic center will include a building, docks, and parking lot. Additionally, they intend to house the Delta Sculling Center, which will conduct programs for disadvantaged, disabled, master, and youth populations. They also intend to partner with other community-based organizations such as the Stockton Black Urban Farmers Association to move their farm to the project site and will promote a multicultural environment by including Chinese Dragon, tule and Southeast Asian boats. The implementation cost for this project is estimated to be \$15 million.

In preparation for the Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton the San Joaquin Community Foundation has produced a feasibility study and business plan.

Funding Table

Grant Application Tasks	Phase One	Phase Two
Task 1: Grant Management	\$51,111	-
Task 2: Project Management and Information Gathering	\$34,074	-
Task 3: Community Engagement	\$27,872	\$22,156
Task 4: Design	\$558,220	\$1,144,500
Task 5: Environmental Clearance and Submittal of Permit Applications	\$70,492	\$636,300
Funding Request	\$741,769	\$1,802,956

SEVERELY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY (SDAC)

The San Joaquin Community Foundation originally applied for funding under Proposition 68. 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)). Located in San Joaquin County, there are four potential sites in Stockton where the Delta the Aquatic Center of Stockton could be located, and they all serve a severely disadvantaged community.

COST SHARE

The San Joaquin Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization, will not contribute cost share. While the Foundation does not have qualifying cost share during the funding term, it is notable that they secured \$48,000 from the County of San Joaquin and \$75,000 from the City of Stockton to pay for the feasibility study, business plan, and other support for the grant application process.

CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND LOCAL PRIORITIES

The project is consistent with, and links to, multiple actions and priorities outlined in the Conservancy's governing statute, the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan, and the Delta Plan. The project will provide public access to the Delta, increase recreation and tourism opportunities, foster health and wellness, preserve the unique cultural environment of the Delta region, promote environmental education, and increase the economic vitality of the region.

LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The proposal demonstrates local support and includes over forty letters of support from institutions and community members. The applicant submitted letters of support from the City of Lodi, San Joaquin Office of Education, Visit Stockton, the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce, and University of Pacific.

The project has received support from the City of Stockton and the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors in the form of grants from each respective body. These grants were provided to conduct a feasibility study, create a business plan, support grant writing and research, and other needs to move forward the early planning of the project.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The applicant submitted the proposed project under the Conservancy's Proposition 68 grant program. Conservancy staff determined that the proposed project is ideally suited for CAR funding. By funding through CAR, the result is a shovel-ready public access project that will benefit the Delta community.

The Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton will seek implementation funding from numerous potential sources including, grants, a local bond, Community Economic Resilience Funds (CERF), and additional state funding.

BACKGROUND

Chaptered on September 23, 2021, the Budget Act of 2021 (Senate Bill 170, Item 3875-101-0001 of Section 2.00) provided the Delta Conservancy with \$5,250,000 for projects that support climate resilience, community access, and natural resource protection activities (collectively known as Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Funding). Of the total, \$4,987,500 is available for projects.

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 activities (collectively known as Climate, Access, and Resource (CAR22) Funding). Of the total, up to \$5,818,250 is available for projects.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move to award funding up to \$2,544,725 to the San Joaquin Community Foundation from the Climate Access and Resource (CAR) Grant Program for the Delta Aquatic Center of Stockton.

CONTACT

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FIGURE 1. MAP OF DELTA AQUATIC CENTER OF STOCKTON

