SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency

Consideration of Amendment to Budget and Term for Select Grant Agreements
for the 2023 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program
Staff Report

This agenda item presents a request to increase the budget and extend the term of the following Delta Drought Response Pilot Program (DDRPP) grant agreements to continue water saving practices and support the University of California (UC) Davis micrometeorological analysis of the Program. The amendments requested are to DDRPP23-34, DDRPP23-55, DDRPP23-90, DDRPP23-104, DDRPP23-113, and a sixth agreement to be determined at a later date.

Grantee	Project ID	UC Davis Study Acres	Original Award Amount	Budget Increased by Amount	Amended Request Amount
Wallace Chan Farms, Inc.	DDRPP23-34	50 acres	$103,500	$73,500	$177,000
Dutra Hay & Grain	DDRPP23-55	96 acres	$93,960	$141,120	$235,080
Ross Rasmussen	DDRPP23-90	73 acres	$303,750	$107,310	$411,060
Louis Biagioni	DDRPP23-104	72 acres	$97,250	$105,840	$203,090
John C. Baker Estate	DDRPP23-113	54 acres	$86,925	$79,380	$166,305
To Be Determined (TDB)	TBD	Up to 90 acres	TBD	Up to $132,300	TBD

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that the Board approve the amended budget by allocating $639,450 in DDRPP funding and extending the grant term to December 31, 2026 for six agreements as detailed in this report.

DESCRIPTION
In November 2022 the Conservancy Board approved funding for 64 grants. Due to project-specific conditions, the Conservancy did not enter into three grant agreements. As a result, there was $504,675 in unallocated grant funds for Water Year (WY) 2022-2023. Conservancy staff identified $32,903 in unallocated grant funds from WY 2021-2022, and $102,389 in savings from the UC Davis micrometeorological study. Together this left $639,967 in unallocated funds.

Conservancy staff consulted the Department of Water Resources, the funding agency for the DDRPP, to discuss options for the remaining funds. Conservancy staff propose to use the unallocated funds to incentivize grantee's hosting UC Davis research equipment on their property to continue water savings

practices for an additional three water years. By extending the grant term and water savings practices, the UC Davis research team will gather a more robust dataset that will better inform the state and Delta community on the effectiveness of the DDRPP. Conservancy and UC Davis staff worked directly with farmers to pick sites throughout the Delta that represented a variety of water saving practices and different field types. Based on the available funds, Conservancy staff propose offering the participating farmers up to $490 per acre annually to continue their water saving practices through September 2026. Six sites were identified, but one of those sites is no longer viable, as reflected in the above table identifying the sixth site as To Be Determined. Based on the $490 per acre price point, the program can enroll up to 90 acres for a sixth site, which would result in up to $132,300 in additional funds being awarded.

BACKGROUND
The Delta Drought Response Pilot Program is funded through an Interagency Agreement with the Department of Water Resources; originally executed in January 2022 for $10,000,000 and amended in November 2022 to bring the total program amount to $21,700,000.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE
Move to approve amendments to increase the budget and extend grant terms to December 31, 2026 for the five identified Delta Drought Response Pilot Program grant agreements, with a sixth to be determined, allocating the remaining $639,450 in DDRPP funding per the table provided in this document.

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FIGURE 1. MAP OF 2023 DELTA DROUGHT RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM PROJECT AREA WITH SITES HOSTING EXPERIMENTAL EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTED