



Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grant Program Funds for Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Staff Recommendation

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program funding for the Suisun City Fishing Dock Planning Project (Project).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Applicant	City of Suisun City
Project ID	P6819
Project Type	Planning
County	Solano
Funding Request	\$715,180
Total Project Cost	\$715,180
Funding Recommendation	\$715,180

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve findings for a project site located outside of the legal Delta for the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project with City of Suisun City (City).

Staff recommends that the Board approve and award up to \$715,180 in grant funding for the Suisun City Fishing Dock Planning Project (P6819) proposed by the City.

Staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with members of the City. Staff followed the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Grant Guidelines, approved by the Conservancy Board in December 2019, in working with the applicant and assessing this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

The Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project is a planning project for the construction of a 12-foot by 100-foot public fishing dock in the Suisun Slough, located within Suisun City. The Project includes permitting, preparation of a site Master Plan, 65 Percent Design Plans, and community outreach. This fishing dock will serve as a recreational and educational hub, promoting tourism and environmental education in the region. The dock will be ADA accessible and feature benches, shade, fishing pole holders, and an educational kiosk. By creating a sustainable and inclusive space for fishing, kayaking, and learning about the local ecosystem, this Project will contribute to the conservation and economic enhancement of the Delta region and its communities.

The proposed fishing dock is connected to the Suisun Marsh via the Suisun Slough and is approximately 10 miles outside the legal Delta and one quarter of a mile outside the boundaries of the Suisun Marsh in Suisun City, Solano County (see Figure 10.1).

Environmental Compliance

This planning Project is not considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC)

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 Solano County, off Civic Center Boulevard in Suisun City, the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project serves a severely disadvantaged community.

Cost Share

The City will not contribute cost share.

CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND LOCAL PRIORITIES

The Project is consistent with Proposition 68 and the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code sections 32300-32381) and strategic plan. This project is consistent with priorities outlined in the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan and the Delta Protection Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan.

LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The City has received requests for a public fishing dock and says it has widespread support. The proposal includes three letters of support from the Solano Yacht Club, Suisun City Business District, and Virgil's Bait Shop. Additionally, the proposal includes community outreach including to disadvantaged communities as a project deliverable, enabling the City to collect input on the design and amenities of the project.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

This Project is planning for a future implementation project that will take place outside of the legal Delta. Public Resources Code 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 providing environmental education to the community and surrounding areas; (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 has received no 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 providing enhanced public access to the community.

Staff believes these qualifications have been met:

- 1) Staff believes the project meets the Delta Plans environmental goals. The project contains an environmental education component that ties directly to the ecosystem goal of the Delta Plan. Through the installation of interpretive signs, the Project will educate the community about the Suisun Marsh ecosystem and its direct connection to the Delta and prompt actions that promote environmental protection that will have an impact throughout the Delta and Marsh. In addition, the project is located on the Suisun Slough that is connected directly to the Marsh.
- 2-4) Staff has taken steps to ensure compliance.
- 5) Staff believes the community benefit is addressed. By building an ADA-accessible fishing dock and kayak launch, the project will create a free public access recreational facility adjacent to the Marsh providing recreational and economic benefits to the Delta region.

BACKGROUND

Proposition 68 is the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Public Resources Code Division 45) that made \$12,000,000 available to the Conservancy for uses specified in its governing statute (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act, Public Resources Codes, Division 22.3). The Conservancy will use Proposition 68 funds to support projects in the Conservancy's Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program. Unlike competitive grant programs, this program was designed to allow Conservancy staff to collaborate with project applicants to develop proposals that meet the Conservancy and Proposition 68 goals. When applicants submit concept proposals, staff review the proposal to assess viability and appropriateness with program goals. If the concept proposal is suitable, staff then guide applicants as they develop a full proposal for consideration of Proposition 68 funding. The Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project is the ninth full proposal staff has presented for the Conservancy Board to consider an award of grant funds.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Two separate motions are required.

Move that the Board approve findings for this project site located outside of the legal Delta for the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project with the City of Suisun City.

Move that the Board award funding up to \$715,180 to the City of Suisun City from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Suisun City Public Fishing Dock Planning Project.

CONTACT

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FIGURE 1. MAP OF THE SUISUN CITY PUBLIC FISHING DOCK PROJECT AREA

