



Consideration of Amendment to Scope of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Agreement for the Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at the Consumnes River Preserve Staff Report

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| Grantee | California Department of Water Resources |
| Project ID | P1-1710 |
| Award Year | 2018 |
| County | Sacramento |
| Category | Implementation |
| Original Award Amount | \$8,700,800 |
| Request | Scope |

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve a change to scope of work to remove 30 of the 334 acres (nine percent) from the project area to create an advance mitigation site for this project and other Grantee projects.

DESCRIPTION

The Grantee is requesting the removal and repurpose of 30 acres of the Project area to create an advance mitigation site for the Project and other projects within Grantee’s Delta Levees Program. The proposed acreage reduction represents a nine percent decrease of the 334 acres initially proposed in 2018.

Per the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, the Conservancy cannot use funding to pay for an entity’s mitigation requirements. The 30-acre advance mitigation area would be independent from this project and funded through alternative funding sources.

The total cost of the Project is now estimated to be \$16.5 million, largely due to inflation and additional work needed to finalize project planning. The Grantee is not requesting additional funding from the Conservancy to complete the Project. Rather, the Grantee proposed to increase their cost share from \$1.12 to \$5.33 million (375 percent increase). The increase in cost share is not associated with the advance mitigation site.

Board approval for the reduction in project acreage from the Project will allow the Grantee to proceed with the Project in the revised timeline. The Project has experienced several delays since being awarded largely due to a redesign of the project to accommodate an existing conservation easement. If this amendment request is not approved, the Grantee would need to pursue other properties within their portfolio for mitigation. Prior to submitting this scope of work amendment, Conservancy staff

requested that the Grantee first pursue other alternative sites. The Grantee states that they have exhausted their available options and therefore are requesting to use a portion of this property.

BACKGROUND

The Grizzly Slough Floodplain Restoration Project at Consumnes River Preserve (Project ID P1-1710) is an implementation project to restore natural flooding to 334 acres of habitat by breaching the levee on Grizzly Slough and reconnecting habitat along the Consumnes River corridor. This Project was awarded \$8,700,800 of Proposition 1 funding to the Grantee in 2018. This is the Grantee's second amendment request. In May 2023, the Grantee requested a funding term extension to accommodate delays in the Project. The Grantee anticipates starting construction in Summer 2024. This request will have no impact on the availability of current funds as they are not set to expire until June 30, 2026.

CONTACT

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