



**Consideration of Amendment to Budget, Scope, and Term of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Program Agreement for Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal and Restoration Implementation Project
Staff Report**

Grantee	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
Project ID	P1-2204
Award Year	2023
County	Contra Costa
Category	Implementation
Original Award Amount	\$427,707
Request	Budget, scope, and term

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve a budget modification to move funds from permits and fees and subcontractor line items to personnel and indirect costs; change the scope of work to update the pre-monitoring and mapping tasks and to remove three of the five original compliance and permitting tasks; and term extension of one year to accommodate project delays.

DESCRIPTION

The Grantee is requesting to move funding from permitting and fees and subcontractors to personnel services and indirect costs. This request does not modify the total amount awarded. The budget modification would allow the Grantee to reallocate operating expenses and subcontractor costs toward additional staff time and grant management costs for the term extension.

The Grantee is also requesting to modify the scope of work by updating the pre-monitoring and mapping tasks. The project originally included mapping invasive weeds at the project site and intended to draft a report specific to Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*). However, the mapping indicated that Pampas Grass was not the primary weed and a variety of species had invaded the site. Thus, the Grantee recommends and is requesting to complete a more comprehensive report based on the mapping, as it will be more useful in long-term invasive weed management and restoration of the project site.

Additionally, the Grantee is requesting to remove unnecessary permits as deliverables and increase permitting and environmental compliance flexibility by streamlining specific permit application requirements. After engaging necessary regulatory agencies, the Grantee determined that only two out of the five original compliance and permitting materials are necessary given the scope of the work. This would reduce costs by \$11,085, which is 2.6% of the total budget. Additionally, the Grantee

requests the removal of those specific permits from the conditions associated with implementation tasks to reflect the requested permitting and compliance updates.

To accommodate delays due to staffing changes on the project team and to adapt the project based on the initial aerial reconnaissance, the Grantee is requesting a one-year term extension of the grant's funding end date from February 15, 2026 to February 15, 2027. The extension will allow time to test and identify workable solutions to remove invasive species and promote native plant re-establishment on the project site. The cost savings from the removal of permitting tasks would be applied to staff time to cover the permitting agency coordination, unexpected labor associated with mapping and reconnaissance, expected increase in labor during implementation of weed removal, and grant management for an additional year.

BACKGROUND

The Little Franks Tract Invasive Weed Removal Project (Project ID P1-2204) is an implementation project designed to remove invasive species and promote native plant re-establishment to enhance and restore habitat and to protect water quality and quantity along levees in the Franks Tract State Recreation Area and nearby restoration sites. This project was awarded \$427,707 of Proposition 1 funds in 2023. This is the first amendment request initiated by the Grantee. In September 2024, the Grantee requested a funding term extension to accommodate delays in the Project. This request will have no impact on the availability of current funds as they are not set to expire until June 30, 2027.

CONTACT

Lauren Damon, Ecological Restoration and Climate Adaptation Programs Supervisor

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Lauren.Damon@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

(916) 634-5308