



**Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grant Program Funds for the Freeport,
Delta Gateway Monuments Implementation
Staff Recommendation**

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program funding for the Freeport, Delta Gateway Monuments Implementation Project (Project).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Applicant	County of Sacramento
Project ID	P6823
Project Type	Implementation
County	Sacramento
Funding Request	\$505,202
Total Project Cost	\$534,183
Funding Recommendation	\$505,202

RECOMMENDATION

Conservancy staff recommends the Board approve up to \$505,202 in grant funding for the Freeport, Delta Gateway Monuments Implementation Project (P6823) proposed by the County of Sacramento. Conservancy staff prepared the text below based on staff's best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with members of Sacramento County. 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 purpose of this grant is to fund the implementation activities (final design planning and construction) of two gateway monuments in the Town of Freeport. The Freeport, Delta Gateway Monuments project is a three-phase project that seeks to ultimately install a freestanding structure and an interpretive sign in the unincorporated community of Freeport. The purpose of the project is to highlight Freeport's role as: one of the 11 designated Legacy Communities in the Delta; the Northern Gateway to the Delta; the last leg of the National Memorial Victory Highway; and an important historical role in the California gold rush. This proposal (Phase Three) will include project management, final design, construction contract award, and implementation. The previous Phase One, funded by the Conservancy, developed 65 Percent Design Plans and right-of-way mapping for the project. Phase Two, also funded by the Conservancy, funded the acquisition of easements on three project sites.

Environmental Compliance

This Project is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Sacramento County is the Lead Agency under CEQA and prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE), finding the acquisition of the project site and the project implementation were categorically exempt from CEQA because the project will involve new construction or conversion of a small structure (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 15303). After the Board approved P6822, which funded the acquisition of the site, Sacramento County filed their NOE as Lead Agency and Conservancy staff filed an NOE on behalf of the Conservancy as a Responsible Agency under CEQA. The Conservancy Board need take no further CEQA actions if the implementation phase of this project is approved. The NOEs have been filed at the State Clearinghouse and can be accessed at this link: <https://ceganet.opr.ca.gov/Project/2024101027>.

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 the Town of Freeport, the Freeport, Delta Gateway Monuments Implementation Project serves a severely disadvantaged community.

COST SHARE

The County of Sacramento will contribute cost share in the form of in-kind contributions of \$28,981. The in-kind contribution will fund indirect costs and administrative overhead associated with personnel costs.

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. This project aligns with the Economic Sustainability plan in two very specific ways. The entrance monumentation identifying Freeport as the “Northern Gateway to the Delta” helps establish a “Delta Identity,” which is noted as a strategy in Section 8.4.1.2 of the report. Section 8.4.2.5 identifies establishing “Delta-as-a-Place,” noting “The Delta-as-a-Place identity would also be enhanced by efforts to identify and establish Gateways and edges to the Delta that reinforce its unique landscape character, particularly along the primary east-west highway corridors.”

LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Residents and businesses in the Freeport community established the Freeport Citizens Community, a citizens advisory committee to spearhead the renovation of Freeport. Working with the County, the committee is an important supporter of this project, providing their dedication, time, and expertise to the project. Additionally, the project has wide community support, as evidenced by 22 letters of support from local businesses, community organizations, and area governments, including Delta Legacy Communities, California Delta Chambers, and a number of local businesses in and around Freeport. Plans for the Monuments were developed through community meetings with local residents.

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 million 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 traditional 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 Freeport, Delta Gateway Monuments Implementation Project is the seventeenth full proposal staff has presented to the Conservancy Board for consideration of the award of grant funds. The Conservancy has provided a total of \$387,577 for the project to date: \$223,277 in Proposition 68 funds for the planning phase (Phase 1) and \$164,300 for the acquisition phase (Phase 2) of this project.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board award funding up to \$505,202 to the County of Sacramento from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Freeport, Delta Gateway Monuments Implementation Project.

CONTACT

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FIGURE 8.1. MAP OF FREEPORT, DELTA GATEWAY MONUMENTS IN FREEPORT, DELTA GATEWAY MONUMENTS PROJECT AREA

