



Consideration of Updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines

Staff Report

This agenda item requests Board approval of updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Board approval of the updates to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines.

DESCRIPTION

The General Grant Guidelines were released for a 30-day public comment period following the March 25, 2026, Board meeting. One comment letter was received from the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC), and the following revisions were made to the General Grant Guidelines based on these comments:

- Added an additional funding priority for research projects.
- Enhanced the description of the Research, Analysis, or Support grant category and added references to state, federal, and regional plans and policies that are relevant.
- Added or updated text regarding proposal requirements that include description of the project, creation of a project page on the Delta Science Tracker (if relevant), additional exception for Tribal or proprietary knowledge in the expectations of data accessibility, and made organizational changes to the best practices section.

Additionally, the Conservancy staff accepted the DSC's offer of assistance during the review process to provide input on the relevance of proposals to priorities identified in the Science Action Agenda. There were a few comments that requested language changes that would decrease the flexibility for approving and funding projects. Conservancy staff and management recommend the original language to accomplish the goal of balancing clarity and flexibility. The remaining comments from the DSC were determined to be appropriate for inclusion in the Solicitation Notices that contain the detailed requirements for a specific program and funding source.

BACKGROUND

The General Grant Guidelines were updated to maintain consistency with the approach used by other California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) entities. The revisions aim to balance clarity and flexibility. They also provide sufficient direction while avoiding unnecessary specificity that would require frequent updates for every funding source. This approach simplifies the grant application process while maintaining transparency. It also targets a wide audience of community members, NGOs, government agencies, Native American Tribes, and the science community. The Board approved the revised version at the March 25, 2026, Board meeting. The update retained the funding priorities, grant information, proposal and award process, and proposal requirements. However, it scaled back detailed information that is specific to each funding source, which will now be included in the Solicitation Notice(s).

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

Move that the Board approve the updates to Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy General Grant Guidelines for use in granting funds.

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