Proposition 1 Delta Conservancy Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program

Aaron Haiman, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, aaron.haiman@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
Laura Jensen, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, laura.jensen@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
Beckye Stanton, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, beckye.stanton@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) is a lead state agency in the implementation of ecosystem restoration in the Delta and supports efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. The Conservancy works collaboratively and in coordination with local communities, leading efforts to protect, enhance, and restore the Delta’s economy, agriculture and working landscapes, and environment, for the benefit of the Delta region, its local communities, and the citizens of California. Voters approved the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) in November 2014. Proposition 1 identifies $50 million for the Conservancy “for competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities” (Sec. 79730 and 79731). The Conservancy’s Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program (Grant Program) has three programmatic focal areas: ecosystem protection, restoration and enhancement; water quality; and water-related agricultural sustainability. These focal areas directly align with several of the Estuary Blueprint goals such as 1) Sustain and improve the Estuary’s habitats and living resources and 2) Bolster the resilience of Estuary ecosystems, shorelines, and communities to climate change. All proposed projects must be consistent with statewide priorities as identified in Proposition 1, the California Water Action Plan, the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, the Delta Plan, the Conservancy’s 2017 Strategic Plan, as well as applicable recovery plans. The Conservancy anticipates administering one grant cycle each fiscal year for at least five years, beginning in 2015. In its first two grant cycles, the Conservancy awarded $10.3 million of Proposition 1 funds for 12 eligible projects. This poster reports on the projects funded to date, their size and habitat type, their geographic distribution in the Delta, and highlights some of the challenges that have arisen during the granting process.

Keywords: Delta Conservancy, Proposition 1, Grant Program, Ecosystem Restoration, Water Quality

Poster Topic: Habitat Restoration - Water Quality
Red Rock Warehouse Creosote Removal and Pacific Herring Habitat Restoration

Austin Payne, Ducks Unlimited, apayne@ducks.org
Renee Spenst, Ducks Unlimited, rspenst@ducks.org
Marilyn Latta, California State Coastal Conservancy, Marilyn.Latta@scc.ca.gov

It is estimated that San Francisco Bay is littered with over 33,000 derelict pilings. Many of these pilings were treated with creosote to provide protection from decay in the marine environment. Creosote is toxic to marine organisms and fish, including pacific herring and their roe. The demolition phase of the Red Rock Warehouse project removed 450 derelict creosote pile from subtidal, intertidal, and upland areas along with other miscellaneous debris. The project scaled up previous creosote pile removal efforts in an attempt to make the process more cost effective. This poster provides a summary of the demolition phase of the project, lessons learned, an overall project update, and construction photos.

Keywords: creosote piling herring oyster restoration shoreline

Poster Topic: Habitat Restoration - Water Quality