

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Operations Committee

May 14, 2021

Agenda Item 4f

Contract – Grant Agreement between Metropolitan Transportation Commission and State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board to Fund a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy for the North Bay Baylands (\$640,000 incoming)

Subject: Approval of a grant agreement between MTC and the State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for preparation of the North Bay Baylands Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS).

Background: Since 2015, MTC has been collaborating with California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA), Solano Transportation Authority, Napa Valley Transportation Authority, and Transportation Authority of Marin to deliver State Route 37 corridor improvements. As approved by the State Route 37 Policy Committee, MTC has facilitated planning for project delivery that integrates transportation and ecology goals and actions that guide multi-modal mobility, wetland conservation, sea level rise adaptation, and social and economic equity.

In February 2021, MTC in partnership with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP), Caltrans, and SCTA applied for funding from the WCB to prepare an RCIS for the North Bay to support delivery of State Route 37 corridor improvements. This RCIS would assess the vulnerability of species and ecosystems to sea level rise, other climate change impacts, and other stressors and develop ecosystem-based conservation strategies to improve resiliency from identified stressors in the proposed geographic area shown in Attachment A. The RCIS would also define a framework to promote the implementation of these conservation strategies.

Under the proposed grant agreement, WCB would provide funding for the following activities in FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22, and FY 2022-23:

1. Project management, including coordination with a core team of co-proponents, consultant services procurement, contracting and contract management; partner coordination; Steering Committee support and participation; and overall grant management including invoicing and reporting;
2. Convening a Steering Committee of key stakeholders to provide overall guidance through the life of the project. The Steering Committee will consist of representatives from key cities/counties, transportation agencies, landowners, land managers, conservation organizations, tribal representatives, regulatory agencies, environmental non-profits, and community-based organizations. The Steering Committee will meet at least six times over the two-year project and may form topic area subcommittees to provide more detailed feedback and guidance on specific topic areas;

3. Performing targeted outreach with Steering Committee member organizations and with other partners outside of the Steering Committee. Additional stakeholders would be engaged through at least four Stakeholder Group Meetings and at least three broader community workshops; and
4. Preparation of the RCIS, including the following subtasks: 1) Regional Setting: define purpose and need, identify natural, built and planned environments, define RCIS area, identify relevant plans in RCIS area; 2) Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Analysis: update climate change/sea level rise analysis as needed, identify vulnerable areas, identify climate adaptation strategies; 3) Conservation Strategy: discuss pressures and stressors to focal species and other resources, outline conservation goals and objectives and conservation priorities; 4) Draft and Final RCIS.

The grant agreement would provide resources to support accomplishing the activities above by the project's core team and a consultant(s). WCB grant funding of \$640,000 would be matched by \$100,000 from the Bay Area Toll Authority plus in-kind staff cost contributions from MTC, SFEP and Caltrans.

Issues: None.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Operations Committee authorize the Executive Director or designee to negotiate and enter into a grant agreement with the State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board to support development of a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy.

Attachment: Attachment A: RCIS Location Map


Therese W. McMillan

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Summary of Proposed Grant Agreement

Grantor:	State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board Sacramento, CA
Work Project Title:	North Bay Baylands Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)
Purpose of Project:	Identify and promote the implementation of conservation strategies as compensatory mitigation, and as advanced mitigation, for State Route 37 corridor improvements.
Brief Scope of Work:	Provide funding to support staff and consultant project management, convening a steering committee, performing targeted outreach, and developing an RCIS during FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22, and FY 2022-23.
Project Cost Not to Exceed:	Total Cost: \$981,127 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board: \$640,000 Grant• Bay Area Toll Authority: \$100,000 Match• MTC/SFEP: In-Kind Personnel Match: \$132,334• Caltrans: In-Kind Personnel Match: \$108,793
Funding Source:	State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) - \$640,000, per the proposed grant agreement MTC/SFEP In-Kind Personnel Match Caltrans In-Kind Personnel Match
Fiscal Impact:	Funds are to be included in the MTC FY 2021-22 Budget
Motion by Committee:	That the Executive Director or designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a grant agreement with the State California, Wildlife Conservation Board to support development of an RCIS.
Operations Committee:	<hr/> Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Chair
Approved:	May 14, 2021

