

Water Storage Investment Program Concept Paper

Contact Information:

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Agency/Organization Name: Deckhands Marine Supplies

Agency Type: Other: There is the potential for funding to go through a nonprofit agency for administrative purposes.

Project Information:

Project Name: Delta Legacy Project

Project Type: Conjunctive Use

Estimated Project Cost: \$4.5M

Estimated WIP Funding Request: \$4.5M

Please describe your (1) project; (2) including location; (3) water source; (4) facilities; and (5) operations:

I have lived and worked in the Delta for the past 50 years. My crew and I are well versed in the waterways of the Delta, marine operation and repair, and are aware of areas of concern that are known dumping grounds with an accumulation of underwater obstructions both visible and invisible from the surface. In conjunction with local contractors, as specialists in their field, we propose an effort to assemble the equipment necessary to locate and remove abandoned vehicles, vessels, and accumulated debris that poses negative threats to the water and ecosystem.

A challenge in the Delta is to balance the beneficial uses of the water that flows through it with proper, well-managed restoration and reconciliation to create a foundation for its resilience. This project provides that foundational support in several conjunctive areas of concern.

It creates a two-fold approach to removing obstructions and nuisances from the Sacramento River and its tributaries in the Primary and Secondary Zones that degrade the ecosystem, habitat, water quality, flood control, and recreation by removing accumulated debris along with water hyacinth, an invasive species currently out of control in the Delta sloughs and tributaries.

The main headquarters for this project will be at 14090 State Highway 160, Walnut Grove, CA 95690 where there is a current commercial location for boats, barges, and machinery. Additional facilities will be coordinated and created throughout the Primary and Secondary Zones of the Delta, and the operation of the project will include 8 employees along with contracts with other businesses as required.

Per Water Code section 79753, the Commission may only fund the public benefits of water storage projects. Further, ecosystem improvements must make up 50% of the funded public benefits (Water Code section 79756(b)). What public benefits does your project provide (select all that apply):

This project provides all 5 public benefits listed: improves public health and safety through ecosystem improvements, water quality improvements, flood control benefits, and emergency response and recreation benefits.

Please provide the magnitude of the public benefits and how the project will be operated to provide the public benefits:

This project will help to restore, enhance, preserve and protect the life in the Delta and all life that the Delta waters support, both humans and wildlife, which depend on the water that flows through the Delta for a myriad of reasons. The project can be classified as an adaptive management tool for the preservation of the Delta from invasive, detrimental activities that leave behind an accumulation of waste in the water that need to be removed on an ongoing basis. Debris in the water will be removed that proves hazardous to boaters and recreation activities and that often prove to be harmful to fish and wildlife as well.

The project will be operated in a way that provides dual purpose as a means to remove water hyacinth from the waterways in a way that inactivates the germination of the seeds and thus stops the continual propagation of the hyacinth nurseries in the sloughs and tributaries. The water hyacinth is an invasive species that is causing havoc to all forms of life in the Delta, is clogging agricultural irrigation pumps, is stopping commerce in the Port of Stockton, and is creating a huge decline in recreational uses and marine facilities. It is a threat to wildlife and the normal cycle of nature in the Delta. Removal of this threat to the Delta economy will be a huge benefit to everyone concerned. It is a mechanical approach that stops the over spraying of toxic chemicals onto the plant and that eventually ends up in the public drinking water.

Water Code section 79752 requires that funded projects provide measurable improvements to the Delta ecosystem or to the tributaries of the Delta. Please describe how your project provides ecosystem improvements in the Delta or tributaries to the Delta:

Clearing the main Sacramento River channels and tributaries for accumulation of debris is the major cost. This project is designed to support the ecosystem by removing hazards, toxic wastes, hazards to the fish and wildlife, providing deeper flows with less impediments thereby making the water colder and less stagnant. It will be set up to recycle the wastes removed.

Water Code section 79755 and 79757 require the Commission to make a finding that a project will advance the long-term objectives of restoring ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses in the Delta prior to allocating funding for a project. Please describe how your project could help advance the long-term objectives of restoring ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses in the Delta:

This project promotes the rehabilitation and overall quality of the Delta emphasizing the effects on wildlife habitat and recreation activities, flood control and preserving channel configurations. It will help to mitigate sea level rise as it affects the overall water flow through the Delta. More water will be allowed to stay in the rivers and tributaries adding to cooler water for migrating fish and a less desirable location for invasive species to perpetuate growth.

Clearing the main Sacramento River channels and tributaries from accumulated debris is the major cost. This is designed to be a long term ongoing, evolving project that keeps improving the health of the Delta for generations to come in a way that umbrellas all five of the participating Delta Counties that will experience the long term benefit of a process, system and structure designed to improve and maintain ongoing response for removal of sunken and abandoned vehicles, vessels, protruding hazardous vegetation, and invasive species that do not belong in the waters of the Delta. It will be an ongoing project, operating 5 days a week and for emergency removal as well. The project will operate in with advice and counsel from the Delta Protection Commission as well as the California Delta Chambers of Commerce and Visitors Bureau .

Please describe any other benefits provided by your project, such as water supply reliability benefits, and the potential beneficiaries:

This project will help to take stress off the levees providing resilience from the effects of climate change and supports flood control efforts in the Delta. Flood control is enhanced during high flows by opening up narrowed and congested channels from accumulated debris.

It also benefits humans, fish and wildlife by finding and removing contaminants and toxins from that are negatively impacting the quality of the water, as well as the sources of the contaminants that have heavy metals, antifreeze, and glycol-based ingredients. These destructive elements cause riparian loss, degradation of water quality, increased pollution, degradation of the Pacific Flyway habitat, reduced public access, increased flood hazards, and adverse impacts to navigation and recreational uses.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.