

Resolution and Findings of the State Coastal Conservancy
Regarding the
San Francisco Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Project

Resolution

At its regular meeting on June 16, 2005, held in Oakland, California, the State Coastal Conservancy unanimously adopted the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31160 through 31164 of the Public Resources Code:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed eight hundred fourteen thousand seven hundred twenty-five dollars (\$814,725) for implementation of invasive *Spartina* treatment and eradication projects under the Invasive *Spartina* Project (ISP) *Spartina* Control Program. The authorized funds may be used to supplement existing treatment and eradication grants to the Alameda County Flood Control District, California Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Wildlife Foundation, the City of Palo Alto, the East Bay Regional Park District, Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed, and USFWS Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The funds may also be used for grants to the City of Alameda, the City of San Leandro, and the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District for new invasive *Spartina* treatment and eradication projects. Each grant of funds shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to implementing any control and treatment project and prior to disbursement of any funds to the grantee, the grantee shall submit for review and approval of the Executive Officer a site-specific plan, including mitigation measures, and a work program, including a schedule and budget, and shall provide evidence that the grantee has obtained all necessary permits and approvals for the project.
2. In carrying out any control and treatment project, the grantee shall comply with all applicable mitigation and monitoring measures that are set forth in the approved site-specific plan, that are required by any permit or approval for the project, or that are identified in the "Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, San Francisco Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Project: *Spartina* Control Program" (FEIS/R), adopted by the Conservancy on September 25, 2003.

Findings

At the same meeting, the State Coastal Conservancy unanimously adopted the following findings:

1. Disbursement of additional funds for expansion or extension of existing *Spartina* control and treatment projects and for new *Spartina* control and treatment projects is consistent with Public Resources Code Sections 31160-31164 and with the resolutions, findings and discussion accompanying the Conservancy authorization of September 25, 2003, as shown in

the staff recommendation attached as Exhibit 2 to this staff recommendation.

2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the “Addendum to 2003 Invasive *Spartina* Project Control Program Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report” dated May 2005, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 5, and finds that the change proposed in the ISP Control Program, incorporating of the use of the herbicide imazapyr and associated surfactants and colorants for invasive *Spartina* treatment, may be appropriately addressed in an addendum under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because there is no substantial evidence that the proposed change to the Control Program will give rise to: new significant environmental effects not considered in the “Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, San Francisco Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Project: *Spartina* Control Program” (FEIS/R), adopted by the Conservancy on September 25, 2003; or a substantial increase in the severity of the significant effects previously identified in the FEIS/R. To the contrary, because of the lower toxicity of imazapyr and the surfactants to be used with imazapyr, the more rapid degradation of imazapyr, and the greater efficacy of imazapyr and the need for fewer applications over time, substantial evidence supports the conclusion that the use of imazapyr will reduce the effects of treatment of invasive *Spartina* in comparison to the effects considered under the FEIS/R with the use of the herbicide glyphosate and associated surfactants and colorants alone.
4. The environmental effects associated with the 22 treatment and eradication projects proposed for grant funding or coordination by the Conservancy under this authorization and the mitigation measures to reduce or avoid those effects were fully identified and considered in the FEIS/R adopted by the Conservancy September 25, 2003. (See Exhibit 1, September 25, 2003 Staff Recommendation.)

Additional Information

For additional information regarding this resolution and findings, refer to State Coastal Conservancy Staff Recommendation for Invasive *Spartina* Project Phase II – Control Program 2005-2006 Treatment, File No. 99-054, Project Manager: Maxene Spellman, June 16, 2005.