

“Just and reasonable” Worksheet

Consideration of a change in the Employment Agreement between the Conservancy and its
Executive Director

*This purpose of this document is only to assist in determining that the Conservancy
Executive Director compensation meets “just and reasonable” standards.*

May 26, 2020

The Board or an authorized committee of the Board is required to determine that changes to a chief executive officer’s compensation are “just and reasonable.” See excerpt from California Government Code, Section 12586(g):

The board of directors of a charitable corporation or unincorporated association, or an authorized committee of the board, and the trustee or trustees of a charitable trust shall review and approve the compensation, including benefits, of the president or chief executive officer and the treasurer or chief financial officer to assure that it is just and reasonable. This review and approval shall occur initially upon the hiring of the officer, whenever the term of employment, if any, of the officer is renewed or extended, and whenever the officer’s compensation is modified. Separate review and approval shall not be required if a modification of compensation extends to substantially all employees.

There are four sources used to help determine if the CEO’s compensation meets a “just and reasonable” standard in this worksheet:

- Excerpts from *Association Compensation & Benefits Study, 2018 - 2019 Edition*, American Society of Association Executives. This is the most current study available from ASAE. It is the primary resource for non-profit organization compensation administration.
- City and County of Sacramento (for comparable positions or relevant for other reasons).
- Levels of compensation for previous jobs held by the Executive Director in Sacramento (this was requested by a previous Conservancy Board) and helps meet “community standards” test.
- Levels of compensation for California Department of Food and Agriculture Marketing Branch compensation survey for 2017. This is the most current survey we can locate with CDFA. It is used because the duties of CDFA Marketing Branch organization chief executive officers are often similar to the CEO’s role at the Conservancy.

1. Association Compensation & Benefits Study, 2018-2019 Edition¹

The most prevalent of the non-profit organization compensation studies comes from the American Society of Association Executives in Washington, D.C. Its extensive surveys are commonly used in compensation administration by non-profit organizations throughout the United States. In the table below, please find excerpts from the Study that may be helpful.

¹ From: *Association Compensation & Benefits Study, 2018-2019 Edition*. American Society of Association Executives. Washington, D.C.

Relevant Excerpts from
*Association Compensation & Benefits Study, 2018 - 2019 Edition**
 Membership, professional and other organizations
 Base salary only

Non-profit organization comparators by type	Median (\$)	Average (\$)	Source
CEO Base Salary by Total Budget (\$5,000,000 to \$9,999,999) for <i>trade associations</i> (not membership organizations)	309,000	\$334,410	Table 1.1
CEO Base Salary and Total Compensation by Total Budget (\$5,000,000 to \$9,999,999) for <i>trade associations</i> (not membership organizations) <i>in percentile</i>	25% 255,000	75% 392,000	Table 1.1
CEO Base Salary and Total Compensation by Total Budget (\$5,000,000 to \$9,999,999) for <i>professional associations</i> (not membership organizations)	247,129	248,969	Table 1.1
CEO Base Salary and Total Compensation by Total Budget (\$5,000,000 to \$9,999,999) organizations) <i>in percentile</i>	25% 200,000	75% 283,500	Table 1.1
CEO Base Salary by Total Budget (\$5,000,000 to \$9,999,999) for <i>Other types of non-profit organizations</i> (neither trade nor membership organizations)	233,589	231,966	Table 1.1
CEO Base Salary by Total Budget (\$5,000,000 to \$9,999,999) for <i>Other types of non-profit organizations</i> (neither trade nor membership organizations) <i>in percentile</i>	25% 204,000	75% 255,000	Table 1.1
CEO Base Salary by Sector, for " <i>Environmental</i> " <i>trade organizations</i>	235,000	200,272	Table 1.2
CEO Base Salary by Sector, for " <i>Environmental</i> " <i>trade organizations in percentile</i>	25% 150,000	75% 240,888	Table 1.2
CEO Base Salary by Sector, for " <i>Environmental</i> " <i>professional organizations</i>	194,964	201,851	Table 1.2
CEO Base Salary by Sector, for " <i>Environmental</i> " <i>professional organizations in percentile</i>	25% 158,000	75% 205,000	Table 1.2

CEO Base Salary by Sector, for "Environmental" other organizations in percentile	25% 161,000	75% 295,000	Table 1.2
CEO Base Salary Summary Data by Select Metropolitan Area-Sacramento trade associations (membership and other under-represented and no or low data)	234,000	241,814	Table 1.5
CEO Base Salary by Total Annual Budget, \$5,000,000 to \$9,999,999 (most number of reported samples, 260)	257,500	280,776	Table 1.6
CEO Base Salary by Total Annual Budget, \$5,000,000 to \$9,999,999 (most number of reported samples, 260) in percentile	25% 212,575	75% 310,000	Table 1.6

*Compensation includes only base compensation. The Conservancy does not provide other cash compensation or deferred compensation benefits. Note that in previous years, the Conservancy's budget exceeds the \$5,000,000 to \$9,999,999 range. In multiple years, it fit into the ASAE study's \$10,000,000 to \$24,999,999 category. CEO Total Compensation in that category is \$395,633 for the median and \$460,325 for the mean (for Trade Associations) and nearly the same for Professional Associations.

Non-tabled data includes the following:

- A median merit increases was 3.0 percent in the current year. (page 25)
- Most organizations (86.7%) guarantee an annual salary review for the CEO on an annual basis. (Page 30)
- Executive committees most commonly review CEO performance (40.6%) followed by boards of directors (32.6%)

2. Job Description & Salary Schedule, City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento

Prior Conservancy Board of Director discussions noted that the Conservancy Executive Director position would likely fit into the City of Sacramento's Deputy City Manager compensation classification. The City no longer lists a Deputy City Manager job position, so the Director of Public Works and Assistant City Manager classifications have been used as substitutes, even though they are considered at a rank below a Deputy City Manager.

Also added is information about the County of Sacramento since it has multiple similar positions. These are updated below. Source: "Government Compensation in California," Controller's Office, State of California, May 2020. *Important note:* these listings are for positions that include a CalPERS or similar benefit package. The Conservancy does not participate in CalPERS or any other defined benefit pension plan.

Classification	2019 Wages*
Director of Public Works, City	\$197,699
Assistant City Manager, City	\$213,339**
Deputy County Executive, County	\$232,325***

*does not include CalPERS or other pension benefits or health care costs, etc.

**other Assistant City Manager at \$204,978.

***other Deputy County Executive listings at \$228,787 and \$226,242.

3. Levels of compensation for previous jobs held in Sacramento.

In a prior Board discussion on appropriate compensation for the Executive Director, Board members asked that in trying to meet the "community standard" test, one comparator should be the CEO's previous positions and the level of pay set by those employers for his successor(s). The following represents the CEO's previous employers and what each pays its CEO/Executive Director. The information provided is for the most recent compensation report available.

Previous employer	Position	Source	Annual reported Compensation
Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization (renamed Greater Sacramento Area Economic Council)	Executive Director and CEO	IRS Form 990 (2015 return for year ended 6/30/2016) (latest as of 1/2019)	625,720 ²
Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce	Executive Director and CEO	IRS Form 990 (2016) (for year-ended 12/31/16)	\$202,779 ³
California Rice Commission	Executive Director	Department of Food and Agriculture, State of California, (2017)	\$221,000

4. Levels of compensation for similar type positions in Sacramento.

There are numerous jobs in Sacramento for farming related non-profit organizations. However, none are responsible for large land holdings as well as operating complex habitat conservation plans as does the Conservancy. There is excellent published data for these farming-related non-profit organizations through the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Marketing Branch. In the department's 2017 "Salary Summary," the following results are shown:

² The CEO's compensation for prior year was reported at \$581,720. This is total compensation.

³ The Chamber's CEO base compensation for 2015 was available was listed at.

For organizations with annual budgets ranging from \$7,500,000 and over, the range of annual compensation was listed at \$195,500 to \$456,248. The average compensation for this group was \$301,340.⁴

The average salary adjustment for the prior year was shown by CDFA as 3.6 percent with the median at 4.0 percent.

The Conservancy's unique position. The Conservancy is caught between the public world and the private world. Unlike private companies, it doesn't have equity compensation programs, restricted stock awards and profit sharing programs, and unlike public employers, doesn't have such benefits as those offered by CalPERS (e.g., defined benefit pension plans and lifetime health care).

In order to stay flexible and keep fixed costs at a minimum, the Conservancy has contracted out much of what other organizations would add staff for. This addresses "span of control" issues; whereas it would be easy to "staff up" to show a larger span of control, this would likely not be in the best interest of the Conservancy. And unlike the very largest non-profits in the region, many employee benefit programs used by such organizations are impractical for small non-profits like the Conservancy due to relative high costs, administrative burden and compliance liabilities.

I look forward to continued service with the Conservancy, and am quite willing to respond to any questions that may arise.

⁴ Source: "2017 Salary Summary for Chief Executives of California Marketing Programs, California Department of Food and Agriculture."

2017 SALARY SUMMARY FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF CALIFORNIA MARKETING PROGRAMS

Facts about This Summary

- This summary is based on current salary information collected by the CDFA Marketing Branch for full-time chief executives of California’s boards, councils, and commissions. Part-time contractual management arrangements are not included.
- In categorizing the programs by budget size, the Marketing Branch does not intend to imply that the size of a program’s budget is the only or most important criteria that should be considered in establishing a chief executive’s salary. Other criteria such as experience of the manager, diversity of program activities, complexity and size of the industry, and the number of program employees should also be considered in chief executive salary deliberations.
- If a chief executive administers both a state and a federal program, the budgets of both programs have been added and treated as one program.
- Performance-based incentives have been incorporated into the salaries. However, very few programs routinely provide this type of compensation each year.
- Benefits have not been included in this salary summary since there does not appear to be a significant correlation between budget size and benefit packages. A typical benefits package includes vacation/sick leave, a retirement program, medical insurance, dental insurance, and vision insurance. Many programs also provide disability insurance, life insurance, and some form of auto arrangement (use of a company car or a monthly car allowance). In addition, some programs provide some level of funding toward health insurance coverage for the chief executive’s family.
- For instances in which the chief executive position is currently vacant, the program’s target salary for the incoming chief executive is used.

Results of This Year’s Summary

- The average salary adjustment this past year for continuing chief executives was + 3.6%.
- The median salary adjustment this past year for continuing chief executives was + 4.0%.

Additional Information: Average salary and median salary information is presented below. One should exercise caution in referencing these figures because they can vary significantly from year to year depending upon such factors as program start-ups, program terminations, retirements of chief executives, and programs shifting from full-time employees to contracted management services. Percentage salary adjustment figures for continuing chief executives, as presented above, tend to provide a more stable and more accurate reflection of general salary trends.

- The current average chief executive salary is **\$198,413**. This reflects a 0.12% decrease from last year’s average salary of \$198,648.
- The current median chief executive salary is **\$170,000**. This reflects a 9.68% increase from last year’s median salary of \$155,000.

Range of Each Program’s Budgeted Expenditures	Number of Programs Within Range	Average Budgeted Expenditures Within Range	Chief Executive Salary Spectrum Within Range	Average Chief Executive Salary Within Range
up to \$2,500,000	9	\$1,324,043	\$82,160 to \$150,000	\$125,531
\$2,500,001 to \$7,500,000	6	\$5,729,564	\$155,721 to 260,000	\$204,809
\$7,500,001 and over	6	\$23,901,263	\$199,500 to \$456,248	\$301,340

Last Updated: 4-4-2017