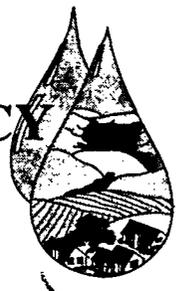


Project Criteria

SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

March 6, 1997

Mr. Rick Woodard
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814



Subject: Evaluation Criteria for Early Implementation Projects

Dear Rick:

The North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) Contractors appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to CALFED on the draft criteria for evaluating the early implementation projects. We have reviewed the draft criteria proposed by CALFED staff and we offer the following comments.

- Expected degree of water quality improvement - One possible criterion to use in evaluating projects is the expected degree of improvement in water quality conditions. For example, a project that will significantly improve a water body that currently has very poor water quality or known effects on beneficial uses should be rated more highly than a project that will have a minor effect on water quality or beneficial uses.
- Availability of other funding - The funding from this program should not be used as a substitute for funding from other programs. For example, funding is available through the State Water Resources Control Board's Proposition 204 Agricultural Drainage Management Program to correct agricultural drainage problems and funding is available through the Category III Program for habitat restoration projects so the Early Implementation funding should not be used for these types of projects. High priority should be given to projects that are not eligible for other funding.
- Regulatory compliance - The funding from this program should not be used to correct problems that a party has been ordered to correct under another regulatory program. For example, this funding should not be used to assist a wastewater discharger to come into compliance with an existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

We urge you to consider funding water quality assessment studies in this program. Funding should be available for studies addressing water quality problems as well as physical projects. There appears to be an emphasis on physical fixes in the early implementation projects. We believe that focused studies to evaluate water quality problems should be funded through this program so that appropriate corrective measures can be taken in the future.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft evaluation criteria and look forward to continued participation in the CALFED program. If you have any questions on our comments please call me at (707) 451-2904.

Sincerely,

David B. Okita, General Manager

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Overall (CALFED) project selection - outside support of NBA Program (Project Selection)

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