

For SSA

Preparation of the Bay-Delta Conservation Strategy

Need: CALFED is preparing a Multiple Species Conservation Strategy that will meet the need of complying with the state and federal endangered species laws. There is a need to ensure incorporation and implementation of the ERPP within the conservation strategy in a timely and sequential fashion.

Specific Tasks:

Task 1. Compile information on the demographic/life history requirements of the species found within the legal Delta. Contractor should include sources such as existing species recovery plans, literature, grey literature and discussion with species experts.

Task 2. Identify ERPP habitats and ecological processes which meet species requirements. Using the information from task 1., contractor should provide a matrix which shows the relation of the species' requirements to habitat types and ecological processes from the ERPP.

- a. Which actions benefit the species, prioritized and quantified (if possible).
- b. Do those actions in (a) above, have any detrimental affect on any other species, quantified (if possible).

Task 2(a). Develop a matrix which lists the ERPP objectives and targets, the actions necessary to achieve the targets, the species which would benefit and the species that would be detrimentally affected, if any.

→ **Task 3. Identify areas of ERPP deficiencies in meeting species requirements.** Using the ERPP objectives and targets for the Delta, where and/or how do those objectives fall short of conserving the species.

Task 4. Provide recommendations for revisions to the ERPP targets or actions that would remedy the shortfalls, where feasible.

Task 5. Where revising the ERPP is infeasible, determine how other conservation measures could remedy the shortfalls. Using recovery plans, other conservation planning efforts, and species expert opinion, quantify what habitat/process is necessary to conserve the covered species, its present status, its nexus to ERPP projects, and the most feasible way of obtaining/implementing it.

Task 5. Prioritize habitat protection/restoration/enhancement. Using information from stakeholders, scientists, agency staff and CALFED staff, the contractors should prioritize the need for habitat protection/restoration/enhancement based on the level of species endangerment, potential threat of habitat loss/direct mortality, priorities set by existing recovery/conservation plans, and on CALFED Program's focus (Delta solution).

Task 6. Determine which ERPP objectives best meet the prioritized habitat needs.

Task 7. Develop a schedule of ERPP project implementation that provides the habitat requirements necessary to initiate recovery of the high priority species. Contractor would develop a matrix which indicates the relationship of tasks 2, 3, 5, and 6 above. Contractor will develop a GIS that depicts the juxtaposition of ERPP projects to other ERPP projects, and to existing protected habitats. GIS layers will be developed that visually demonstrate the level of habitat quantity and quality attained through the implementation of ERPP and how that level meets recovery requirements.