

RESTORATION COORDINATION UPDATE

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Restoration Coordination Program will identify and prioritize ecosystem restoration projects suitable for early implementation and coordinate other ongoing restoration efforts to ensure consistency with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's long-term ecosystem restoration strategy, the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP).



The December 15, 1994, Bay Delta Accord included a commitment to develop and fund non-flow related ecosystem restoration actions to improve the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. This commitment is commonly referred to as Category III.

HOW CAN MONEY BE SPENT BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THE EIR/EIS?

While the details of the preferred alternative will not be finalized until Fall 1998, the proposed FY 1998 program concentrated on activities that will be beneficial to the long-term Program regardless of which alternative is ultimately chosen.

The FY 1998 program includes only activities that are consistent with each of the three alternatives and also provide early implementation benefits. This implementation will also provide valuable information for use in adaptively managing the system in later years of the Program.

However, projects pursued for early implementation must:

- be justified independently of the Program by the lead agencies for that project;
- be accompanied by an adequate environmental document, the preparation of which includes consultation with responsible and trustee agencies; and
- not prejudice the ultimate decision on the Program.

Early action projects and programs will be those for which there is existing broad support. Many of these center around ecosystem restoration, such as habitat improvements for many specific species of concern, wetland restoration efforts in upstream areas throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin river systems.

CALFED has received 332 formal Category III proposals totaling \$471 million in requested funding. The evaluation and selection process has begun. CALFED anticipates sending a recommended funding package to the Policy Group in late October for a final decision at the November Policy Group meeting. Comments and recommendations provided by the Ecosystem Roundtable and BDAC will accompany the funding package.

The Category III and CVPIA programs have increased coordination. The Integration Panel, considering the unique mandates of each program, will review both the Category III proposals and selected CVPIA annual work plans to ensure consistency of priorities and coordination of funding.

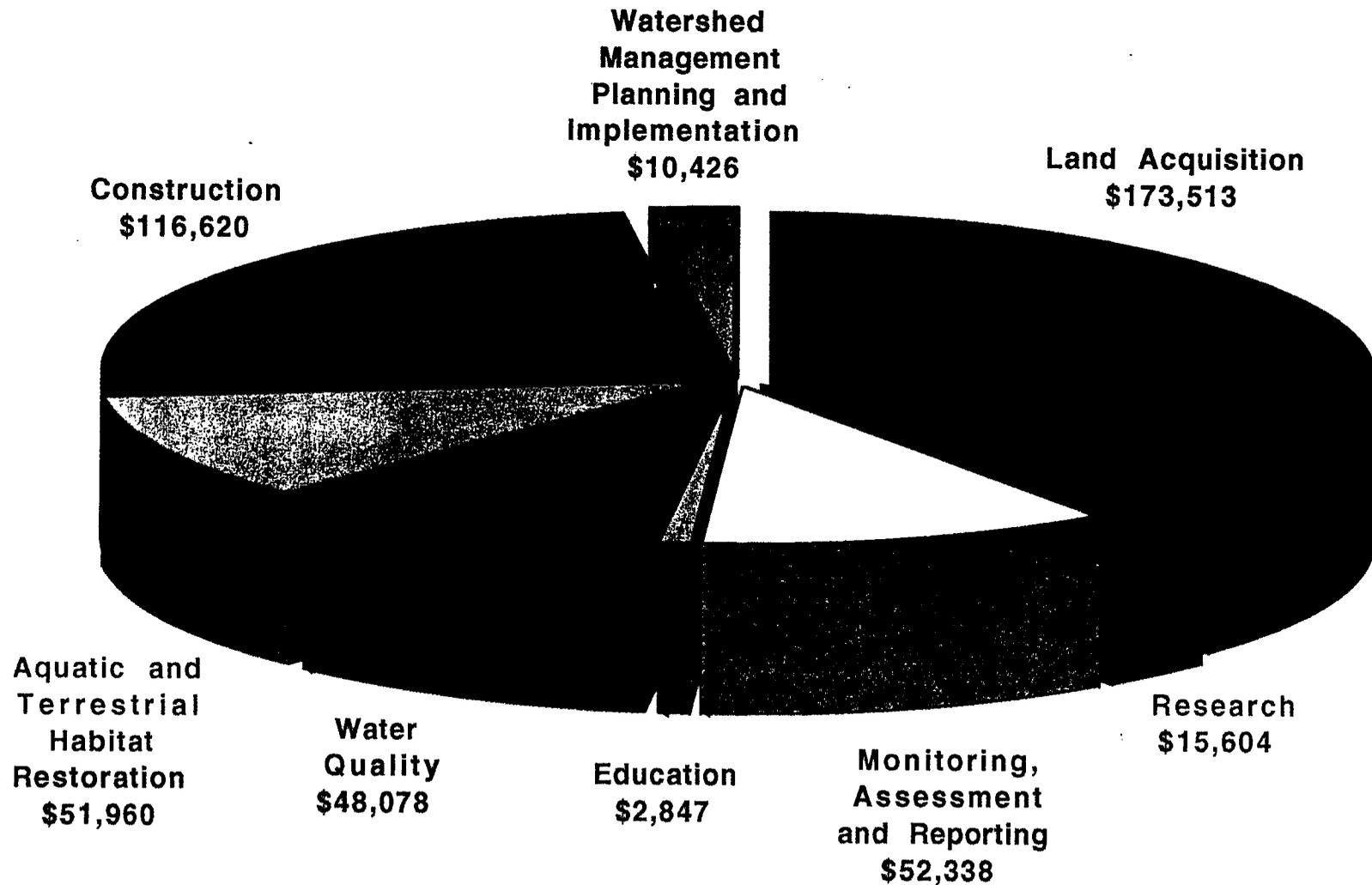
SUMMARY OF CATEGORY III PROPOSALS RECEIVED

CALFED staff have developed an updated summary of the Category III proposals received which is attached. The attached summary describes the distribution of proposals by type of applicant, project type, dollars requested, watershed, habitats, species and stressors. Many proposals address multiple species, stressors, habitats, and even watersheds. Therefore, for those four categories we did not identify a primary single attribute. Consequently, the totals for these four categories exceed the actual dollars requested and proposals submitted.

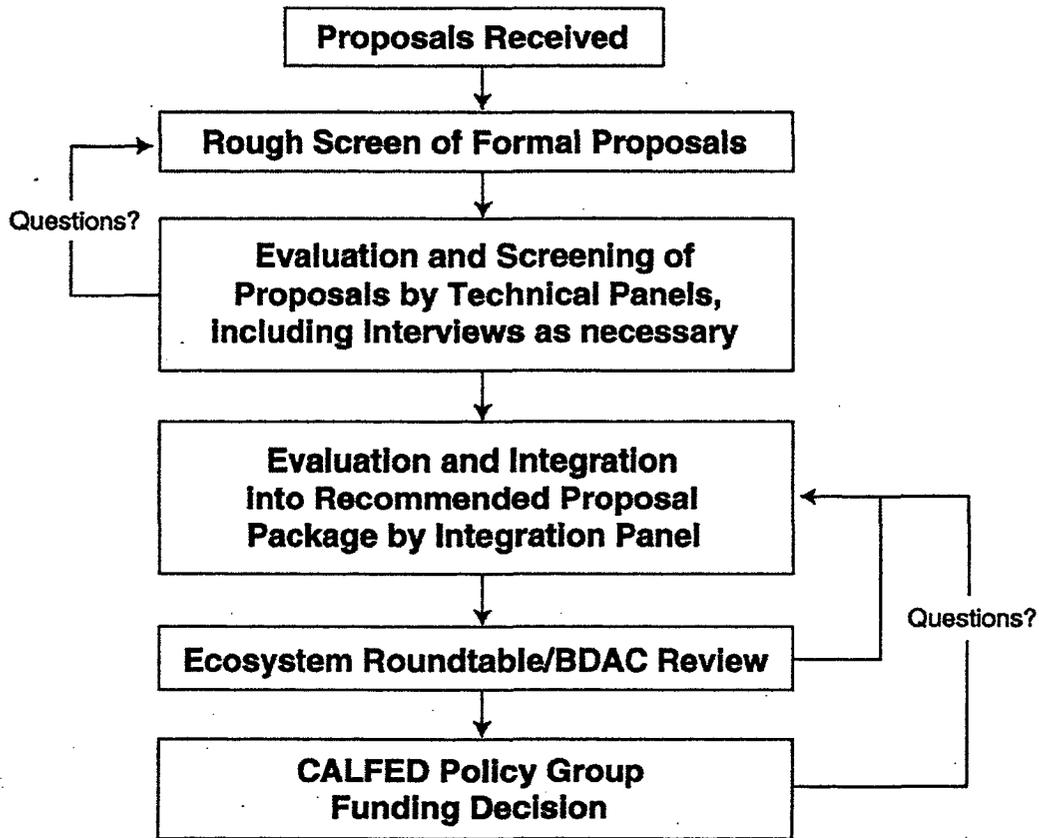
RFP EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

As described at the August meeting, a two-tiered process has been adopted to score and select proposals – technical review panels are meeting to evaluate and score the proposals and an integration panel will be used to identify priorities and select the proposals. Thirteen technical review panels have been formed and are meeting to evaluate and score the 332 proposals. The integration panel has met to identify guiding principles and priorities for proposal selection (priorities and principles attached). The integration panel has identified priorities for species and project type and will identify priorities for habitats and stressors at their next meeting in September.

Proposal Characteristics- Project Type



RFP Evaluation and Selection Process



SCHEDULE FOR FUNDING DECISIONS

The technical review panels and integration panel are expected to complete their work in mid-October. The recommended funding package will be provided to the Ecosystem Roundtable for review and comment at their October 28th meeting and to BDAC for review and comment at their November 4th meeting. The integration panel recommendations and the comments from the Roundtable and BDAC will be provided to the Policy Group for a recommended decision at their November 29th meeting and then forwarded to Secretary Wheeler for a final decision on the Proposition 204 funds.

RESTORATION COORDINATION

Progress has been made to increase coordination between the Category III and CVPIA programs. The integration panel will review both the Category III proposals and on selected CVPIA annual work plans for FY 98. Considering the unique mandates of each program, the integration panel will review both programs using a common set of priorities for those species which are common to both programs. In addition, CALFED staff are meeting with CVPIA and other closely related funding programs to increase coordination regarding project implementation.

NEXT FUNDING CYCLE

Discussion has begun regarding methods of allocating the federal funds anticipated in FY 98 for ecosystem restoration. The following three options, which are not mutually exclusive, are being considered:

\$85 Million

New Grant Requests. A new grant request administered by CALFED or National Fish and Wildlife Foundation,

Existing RFP Proposals. Use existing proposals submitted in the 1997 Category III RFP that are high priority but not funded due to limited funding,

Directed Programs. Provide funding through directed programs to address gaps/voids not funded in the current RFP process or which are determined to be more appropriately funded through directed programs rather than an RFP process.