

Comprehensive and Coordinated Monitoring and Research A Proposal

Summary

The Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) and the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) propose to work with CALFED Bay/Delta Program staff and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive and coordinated monitoring program for the Bay/Delta and its watershed.



Background

- Several agencies and organizations currently fund and/or conduct ecological monitoring and applied research in the Bay/Delta and its watershed. Examples are:
 - IEP;
 - SFEI;
 - Department of Interior under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act;
 - Sacramento River Watershed Program;
 - USGS's non-IEP programs;
 - Local universities in particular the Romberg Tiburon Center of SFSU, UC Davis, and Stanford.
- There is no effective mechanism for ensuring that these efforts are being coordinated and are responding to critical management needs.
- Not all information collected in these programs is widely available to scientists, managers, stakeholders and the general public.
- Information needs associated with monitoring restoration actions are increasing as is the need to evaluate their benefits.
- There is no comprehensive program to help CALFED, its member agencies and stakeholders effectively assess indicators of trends in ecological health, evaluate causes of any positive or negative trends and adaptively manage restoration activities.
- The core group of knowledgeable technical staff working in monitoring and applied research is relatively small and participation by individuals in CALFED and other programs has stretched their capabilities to the limit.

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The Proposal

- IEP and SFEI will work with CALFED staff to assemble a working group consisting of agency staff, stakeholders, and representatives of other monitoring efforts which will:

- prepare a conceptual framework for a comprehensive monitoring and research program;
- develop specific features of the proposed program through the use of designated technical teams;
- propose a structure and process for integrated data management, data analysis, and reporting to meet the needs of CALFED, its member agencies and stakeholders;
- propose a management structure for the comprehensive monitoring and research program which includes agency and stakeholder representatives.

Schedule and Deliverables

- The group will deliver a draft conceptual framework to the CALFED Policy Group for review and approval within three months after this proposal is approved.
- The group will deliver recommendations for the specific monitoring and research program, data management, funding and program management to the CALFED Policy Group within six months after the Policy Group approves the conceptual framework.

Program Management

The program to develop the comprehensive monitoring and research program will be managed by a team consisting of the IEP Program Manager, a representative of SFEI, a representative of the USGS and the CALFED staff person in charge of developing the comprehensive monitoring program. The project managers will be assisted by a small (6-8 person) advisory team which would include:

- Stakeholders representatives;
- Representatives from local State and federal agencies;
- A representative from the CVPIA

Program Budget

Some additional funding will be required to develop the recommended monitoring program. Development of the conceptual outline will cost an estimated \$25,000 for SFEI expenses. (IEP staff time will be underwritten by the member agencies for this phase.) Presentation of the conceptual monitoring and research plan will include a detailed funding request for phase two of the project - i.e., development of the specific monitoring and research program.

Concluding Statement

The proposed action will make maximum use of existing staff technical resources. The resulting management structure of the comprehensive monitoring/research management is expected to resemble the IEP's Central Valley Salmon Team where an umbrella group of agency and stakeholder representatives coordinates and implements a variety of monitoring and research efforts to provide managers with salmon-related information.