

1998 Ecosystem Restoration Funding Process

This paper briefly describes the 1998 Ecosystem Restoration funding process. This process will generate the federal spending plan that is due to Congress in February as well allocate the remaining Category III funds from Proposition 204, CUWA and EPA.

1. Priorities

The 1998 process will be based on the priorities identified for the 1997 funding cycle.

2. Available Funding

The available funds include:

- * \$21 million in Category III funds from Proposition 204,
- * \$64 million from 1998 federal appropriations,
- * \$ 0.5 million in EPA funds for Category III, and
- * \$2.0 in CUWA funds.

A total of \$87.5 million could be allocated in 1998.

3. Special Support Programs

\$2.27 million will be used for four special support programs: the integrated planning strategy, monitoring, watershed management, and coordinated permitting. These are further described in attachment A.

4. Administration and Reserves

\$4.5 million of the federal funds will be set aside as a reserve fund for contingencies. Bureau of Reclamation will also require approximately \$500,000 for administration of the federal funds and the CALFED Bay-Delta Program will require \$300,000 to cover project development and selection related to federal funding.

5. Remaining Funds Available

After administrative costs and special support programs are funded, \$79.93 million could be allocated in 1998 for new actions and proposals.

6. Proposal for Allocating Remaining Funds

The remaining funds would be allocated in the following manner:

A. Existing Proposals from the 1997 Process - High priority proposals that were not funded in the previous round of funding are being evaluated for funding.

B. Designated Actions - There are a number of important problem areas that were not addressed in the previous funding process. Some of these gaps can be filled by designated actions. These would not necessarily be through a state or federal agency.

C. Focused grants - A grant program can be developed to target unresolved ecosystem problems. This program may be administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in order to leverage state and federal funds.

7. Selection Process

The following steps would be taken:

- A. The Integration Panel has reviewed the unfunded, high priority proposals remaining from the 1997 applications and will make recommendations regarding these proposals to the Ecosystem Roundtable and CALFED agencies at their January meetings.
- B. The Integration Panel has identified gaps where there are high priority problems that haven't been addressed. For each problem, the Integration Panel will define types of actions to address the problem, geographic scope, and estimate of funding to be used to address the gap.
- C. Staff will recommend which problems should be addressed through focussed grants and which through designated actions. Staff will also recommend which funding sources be used for grants and actions. One designated action regarding water acquisition should be ready for the Ecosystem Roundtable and the CALFED agencies to consider at their January meetings. The recommendations for focused grants and other designated actions should be available for consideration by the Ecosystem Roundtable and the CALFED agencies at their February meetings.
- D. The focussed grant process will begin in March.
- E. All funding recommendations from any of these funding sources will be presented to the Ecosystem Roundtable prior to final action by the CALFED agencies.