

Restoration Coordination



Memorandum

Date: January 20, 1998
To: CALFED Policy Group
From: Lester A. Snow *snaw snow*
Executive Director
Subject: Restoration Coordination Program Update

Summary of 1997 Proposal Status -- Implementation

At its November meeting, the Policy Group approved \$60.6 million and 50 proposals for funding as a result of the 1997 Request for Proposals. At the January meeting, CALFED staff will provide an update on implementation of the 50 proposals, including the status of contract administration, funding sources, oversight and coordination by CALFED, and reporting and monitoring requirements for the proposals.

Summary of 1998 Funding

1998 Available Funds. The available funding in 1998 is \$88.5 million from these sources:

- \$21 million in Category III funds from Proposition 204
- \$64 million from FY 98 federal appropriation
- \$1.5 million from EPA Category III watershed funds
- \$2 million from CUWA Category III

1998 Process and Time Line. The 1998 funding process approved at the December Policy Group meeting is underway to identify priority actions for funding from the \$88.5 million in available funds. An overview of this process will be presented at the Policy Group meeting.

1998 Proposals. See attached tab-action item.

1998 Designated Actions and Grants. See attached tab.

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

North Bay Funding. At the last Policy Group meeting in December, the Policy Group directed staff to bring the issue of additional funding for North Bay to the Ecosystem Roundtable and Management Team for further discussion and recommendation prior to the Policy Group making a final recommendation. See the detailed discussion later in this memo for additional information.

Summary 1999 Funding Process

CALFED staff are developing a process to revise and expand the near term restoration priorities for 1999. The basic steps to this process include the following:

1. Priorities will be identified by a technical panel, reviewed by Roundtable and BDAC and approved by Policy Group. Priorities should be revised and expanded to cover a three-year period, ensure their consistency with the ERPP, integrate them with CVPIA, and to build on restoration actions to date.
2. Actions or types of actions needed to address the priorities will be summarized in an Action Plan cooperatively with both agencies and stakeholders.
3. Actions will be implemented using a number of administrative mechanisms such as grants or actions undertaken by state or federal agencies.

Each of these steps will be reviewed by the Ecosystem Roundtable and BDAC and approved by the Policy Team.

Action

- 1997 Update - Informational Item
- 1998 Process and Time line- Informational Item
- 1998 Proposals - Action Item
- 1998 Designated Actions and Grants- Informational Item
- North Bay Funding - Action Item
- 1999 Funding Process- Informational Item

Detailed Discussion -- North Bay Funding

In the 1997 Funding Package recommended by the Integration Panel, approximately \$650,000 was recommended for two North Bay proposals and those two proposals were approved by the Policy Group in November. Concerns were raised by the Ecosystem

Roundtable, BDAC Management Team and Policy Group that the funding for North Bay appeared insufficient. The Integration Panel revisited the funding for the North Bay and based on the 1997 priority species did not recommend additional funding for the North Bay in 1998. The Integration Panel suggested that if the Policy Group wanted to provide additional funding for North Bay based on other policy concerns that the proposal rankings provided by the North Bay Technical Review Panel (TRP) be used to guide selection of proposals.

EPA staff have suggested the following four options for providing additional funding to the North Bay.

- Option 1. Based on the TRP highest ranking proposals, fund \$3,364,000 in additional proposals for the North Bay because of the importance of providing a more balanced geographic distribution of restoration actions.
- Option 2. Fund the following selected North Bay proposals with unique features that provide broad benefits to the CALFED program. (\$2,626,000 to \$19,073,000)
 - a. Regional Wetlands Goals Project \$76,000 (San Francisco Estuary Institute)
 - b. Hamilton Wetlands Restoration \$1M, or \$4M, or \$15M (State Coastal Conservancy)
 - c. Napa River Watershed Stewardship \$250,000 or \$347,200 (Napa Resource Conservation District)
Sonoma Creek Watershed Restoration \$300,000 or \$1,726,029 (South Sonoma Resource Conservation District)
 - d. Napa River Wetland Acquisition \$1M or \$2M (Napa County Land Trust)
- Option 3. As part of the 1998 Focused Grant include a specific amount of funding for North Bay proposals.
- Option 4. Include policy direction for funding North Bay in the 1999 Funding process.

The following summarizes the Roundtable and Management Team recommendations and concerns regarding additional funding for the North Bay.

The Ecosystem Roundtable expressed support for funding for North Bay restoration but recommended funding be considered as part of the 1999 funding allocations. (Chose Option 4 above.)

The Management Team expressed support for Options 2 and 3 above but agreed that any additional of funding for North Bay in 1998 needs to be based on the clear identification of CALFED Overriding Principles which would clarify the reason for additional funding and thereby maintain a credible funding process. For example, overriding principles suggested include:

1. The importance of additional restoration data obtained from a proposal that will help implement the ERPP.
2. The importance of a demonstration dredge reuse project to provide data for future wetlands restoration as part of the ERPP.
3. The importance of maintaining funding for all major geographic areas in the eligibility areas to reflect the broad ecosystem approach of CALFED.

Staff will work with EPA and other CALFED agencies to further refine the proposed Overriding Principles which will be discussed at the Policy Group meeting

North Bay Action Item

Does the Policy Group want to provide additional funding for North Bay proposals as part of the 1998 or 1999 funding process?

If additional funding is recommended for 1998, does the Policy Group want to fund specific proposals submitted as part of the previous process and/or set aside funding in the 1998 focused grants? If the Policy Group recommends adding funding for 1998 and final decision should be deferred until the February meeting to allow for Ecosystem Roundtable input.