

Individual Proposal Report

Title: Big Chico Creek Watershed Management Plan (F219)

Geographic Area: Sacramento Tributaries/Big Chico Creek

Primary Stressor Addressed: Land Use

Project Type: Planning

Applicant Type and Name: Joint. Suzanne Gibbs, Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance (530-342-3429) and Donald Holtgrieve, CSUS Chico (530-898-5780).

Funding: The applicant has requested \$422,830. \$276,631 was approved in the 1997 Category III funding. It is recommended to fund the remaining amount, \$146,199, from 1998 Category III funds.

Cost Share: No cost share has been proposed.

Project Description: The proponent will create a Watershed Management Strategy to serve as a tool for the protection and restoration of the watershed, with an emphasis on the recovery of special-status fish and wildlife. Phase I, funded with 1997 monies, includes a survey of issues and concerns of the stakeholders and the development of a report documenting the existing conditions within the watershed. Phase II, proposed for funding, is the development of a Watershed Management Strategy handbook. The WMS will serve as a tool for the protection and restoration of the watershed ecosystem, and will provide for the recovery of special-status fish and wildlife. Phase II will also identify and develop implementation measures, monitoring protocol, restoration projects, educational programs, and educational projects to improve and provide high-quality habitat for fish and wildlife.

ERPP Linkage: The proposal meets the goals of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (CALFED, Volume II, 28 July 1997) as it should help restore upper watershed processes (page 224).

AFRP Linkage: This proposal contributes toward making all reasonable efforts to at least double natural production of anadromous fish as it supports the following action listed in the Revised Draft Restoration Plan for the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (USFWS, 30 May 1997): Preserve the productivity of the habitat on Big Chico Creek through cooperative watershed management and development of a watershed management plan (Big Chico Creek Action 8, page 60).

Applicant's Proposed Monitoring: Specific actions (repair of flood control structures for fish passage, gravel recruitment, etc.) will have monitoring protocols included in each plan. The applicant will include permanent cross sections in each drainage for replicable data collection and monitoring. CALFED staff will review the proposed monitoring plan and revise as necessary.