

F1-197

LOWER MOKELUMNE RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM

A COMPREHENSIVE RESTORATION PROJECT FOR CALFED CATEGORY III FUNDING

SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY:
WOODBIDGE IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF LODI

I. Executive Summary

1b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives. Woodbridge Irrigation District (Woodbridge) and the City of Lodi, as joint applicants, present this proposal to CALFED to implement the Lower Mokelumne River Restoration Program (Program or LMRRP). The \$13,454,000 Program is composed of four major elements to be implemented at specific sites along the 35-mile reach of the Lower Mokelumne River between Camanche Dam and its confluence with the Consumnes River near Thornton:

- Element 1. Improve Fish Passage at Woodbridge Dam (\$9,217,000)
- Element 2. Improve Fish Screening (\$3,031,000)
- Element 3. Enhance Spawning Gravels (\$103,000)
- Element 4. Enhance the Riparian Corridor (\$1,103,000)

Element 1 replaces **Woodbridge Dam** with an updated facility with state-of-the-art fish ladders, isolates predator habitat at Lodi Lake, and removes migration impediments to substantially improve adult salmon and steelhead upstream migration and downstream smolt emigration. **Element 2** provides **state-of-the-art fish screens** at Woodbridge's diversion and on 59 other diversions in the Lower Mokelumne River. **Element 3** augments existing East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and anticipated Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) funding to **enhance spawning gravels** at levels consistent with the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) vision. **Element 4** **enhances the riparian corridor** through site-specific bank erosion control, riparian plantings, the creation of buffer zones, and other techniques.

The **primary goals** of this Program on the Lower Mokelumne River are to **implement key elements of existing resource management plans** of CALFED, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to substantially increase fall-run chinook salmon and steelhead populations, enhance critical and limiting aquatic habitats, and restore riparian ecosystem integrity and diversity.

1c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule. The Program undertakes a comprehensive and cooperative approach to improving the ecosystem of the Lower Mokelumne River. Because conceptual design is completed for Elements 1-3, our approach is to quickly move forward sequentially with comprehensive environmental clearance, final design, construction or implementation, and monitoring. This Program **meets CALFED's minimum requirements** by complying with all applicable laws and regulations, not prejudicing decisions on CALFED's long-term program, and by involving willing landowners and parties only. The Program will be **implemented in phases**:

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Phase I in 1998, Phase II in 1999, and Phase III in 2000. The entire program can be completed within the 3-year time horizon.

Id. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED. Our Program directly implements all of the key non-flow provisions for the Lower Mokelumne River watershed as expressed in every key fisheries restoration and management document prepared for the Lower Mokelumne River over the past 6 years, including CALFED's ERPP, DFG's Lower Mokelumne River Fisheries Management Plan, USFWS's Revised Draft Anadromous Fisheries Restoration Program, and the Lower Mokelumne River Project Joint Settlement Agreement (FERC Project No. 2916-004).

CALFED funding of our Program will directly, and within 3-5 years, result in **substantial benefits to anadromous fisheries production, aquatic habitats, and riparian ecosystem integrity and diversity**. The LMRRP is comprehensive and directed specifically at **ERPP's priority habitats** (seasonal wetland and aquatic habitat, instream aquatic habitat, and shaded riverine aquatic habitat), **priority species or populations** (primarily eastside tributary fall-run chinook salmon and steelhead trout, with minor benefits to Sacramento splittail), and **primary stressors** (alteration of flows and other effects of water management, channel form changes, water temperature, undesirable species interactions, population management land use, and human disturbance) on the Lower Mokelumne River. The Program contributes to achieving all of the non-flow ERPP targets for the Mokelumne River and implements **ERPP's vision for the Lower Mokelumne River**. The Program is collaborative; each Program element has been developed by many agencies.

1e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts. The total Program cost is \$13,454,000. Total cost for Phase I (1998) is \$2,166,000; Phase II (1999) is \$9,814,000; and Phase III (2000) is \$1,474,000. Woodbridge and the City of Lodi will provide in-kind services for contract and project management and for administrative services. The City of Lodi will also be soliciting funds to develop key recreational elements related to the Program. **EBMUD will provide substantial in-kind services for three years to this Program for monitoring and for purchase of spawning gravel.** There are no third party impacts associated with the Program.

1f. Applicant Qualifications. Woodbridge Irrigation District has long been involved in efforts to improve fisheries resources on the Lower Mokelumne River, especially at Woodbridge Dam. As the lead applicant, Woodbridge provides the necessary local agency involvement to maintain local support. The City of Lodi is a general law city with strong interests in the condition of the river. The applicants are proposing to use the highest qualified consultant team (Jones & Stokes Associates, Hanson Engineering, Natural Resource Scientists, S.P. Cramer & Associates, and Hanson Environmental, Inc.) to implement this Program.

1g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation. EBMUD will provide substantial in-kind services to conduct all of the necessary **monitoring and data evaluation** associated with the Program.

1h. Local Support/Coordination with Other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives. Our program has **widespread support** from the Mokelumne River Technical Advisory Committee, EBMUD, City of Lodi Chamber of Commerce, County of San Joaquin, State Senator Patrick Johnston (5th District), State Assemblyman Larry Bowler (10th District), and others.