

May 1998 Proposal Solicitation Package Questions and Answers

The following summarizes some frequently asked questions regarding the CALFED May 1998 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP).

1. What is the geographic scope for this proposal?

Projects and programs must be within the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) study area, which includes the Bay-Delta and its tributary watersheds (see Attachment A of the PSP). Although not within the ERPP study area, the Trinity River watershed may be considered for funding if the applicant can demonstrate a direct benefit to the ERPP study area and the priority species.

2. What topics are covered under this proposal?

This PSP requests that applicants submit proposals tailored to one of nine specific topics: Fish Passage Assessment, Fish Passage and Related Screen Improvements, Floodplain Management and Habitat Restoration, Sediment Management, Fish Harvest Management Tools, Species Life History Studies, Local Watershed Stewardship, Environmental Education, and Small Screen Evaluations and Alternatives.

3. How much money will be distributed and what are the funding sources for this PSP?

A maximum of \$24,550,000 will be awarded under this PSP. Funding is available from state Proposition 204 bond funds, the federal Bay-Delta Act funds, and FY 98 EPA federal Watershed funding.

4. Who will be contracting the projects and programs awarded money from this PSP?

CALFED will coordinate the proposal solicitation, evaluation, and selection process. Other CALFED member agencies will prepare and manage individual contracts with the successful applicants. Implementing agencies for each Topic section are outlined on pages 10-11 of the PSP.

5. Which additional topics will be covered under subsequent solicitations?

Other program recommendations are still being developed and there may be opportunities for interested applicants to compete in these areas in the future. The program topics still being developed include habitat restoration planning for the flood control bypasses, prevention and control of exotic species, and assessment of the impacts of contaminants in the Bay-Delta system.

6. How much money will be available in the next Fiscal Year?

The President's budget for FY 99 (beginning October 1, 1998) currently contains \$143 million. However, the federal budget has not yet been passed by Congress and is subject to change.

7. How will proposals be evaluated?

Proposals will be reviewed using a two-step process. First, Technical Review Panels made up of state, federal and non-agency representatives with the necessary expertise will be formed to evaluate and score proposals submitted under each Topic section. The panels will use the criteria described in each Topic section to evaluate and score proposals. Scores for each of the criteria will typically range from zero to twenty-five. A proposal must receive a score of at least 40 out of a total score of 70 to be eligible for funding in this funding cycle. Then the proposal will be reviewed by the 1998 Integration Panel who will look for conflicts, overlap and synergy between proposals.

8. What is the timeframe for review and selection of projects and programs?

Proposals are due at CALFED at 4:00 p.m. on July 2, 1998, and will be distributed to the Technical Review Panels soon thereafter. As necessary, letters to applicants requesting clarification will be sent out by the end of July. Final selections should be approved at the end of September. The timeframe for actual distribution of the funds will vary based on the contracting agency. This process could take from two months to up to a year.

9. If I previously submitted an application but did not receive funding, can I re-apply?

Yes. To ensure the proposal meets the requirements of the solicitation package and can be clearly understood by the technical review panels, applicants are strongly encouraged to review the proposal completion checklist (page 23 of the PSP), including completion of a cover sheet (Appendix H). If you wish to have an application funded under this PSP, you must resubmit an application responsive to the criteria and application requirements in the PSP.

10. If my project received partial funding in the previous round, can I apply for the remainder of the funding for future phases?

Yes, applicants can apply for future phases of previously funded projects.

11. How much should I budget for monitoring?

To ensure coordination of ecological and biological monitoring, CALFED will require successful applicants to complete ecological and biological monitoring plans where necessary. Some proposals may not require ecological and biological monitoring due to the nature of the proposal (e.g. Species Life History). The cost of ecological and biological monitoring could be up to 10-15% of a project's budget, depending on the type of budget.