



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 4, 1998
To: CALFED Policy Group
From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director
Subject: Restoration Coordination Program Update

Summary

This memo provides an update the on Restoration Coordination Program regarding:

- Status of funds and projects
- 1998 Proposal Solicitation and review process
- Priorities for FY 99 expenditures

Detailed Discussion

Status of Funds and Projects. The total amount of funding available in 1998 for the early ecosystem restoration efforts was \$156.5 million from four funding sources. Table 1 shows the number of projects and programs approved for each funding source.

The Policy Group has recommended selection of 72 projects and 25 programs totaling \$156.5 million. The 72 projects were submitted in response to the 1997 Request for Proposals. The 25 programs were developed by the Integration Panel or, in the case of the Special Support Programs, by CALFED. Each of the projects and programs were assigned to one of the funds and the agency responsible for administering that fund was tasked with preparing a contract or cooperative agreement for it.

Table 2 shows the progress made to date at obligating those funds in contracts or cooperative agreements. It also contains estimates of progress to be expected by the end of the federal fiscal year. The definition of obligated is that a contract or cooperative agreement has been signed.

1998 Proposal Solicitation and Review Process. Technical Review Panels are currently reviewing the proposals submitted under the 1998 Proposal Solicitation Package. The recommendations of the technical teams and Integration Panel will be brought to the Policy Group

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

in September, along with the comments of the Ecosystem Roundtable and Bay-Delta Advisory Council.

Technical Review Panels (TRPs) are currently scoring proposals under nine topic areas and will complete their review by August 19th. The 1998 Integration Panel is scheduled to meet on August 20, 21, 24 and 25 to identify conflicts or synergy between the TRPs recommendations, check for duplicate proposals submitted under other topics, identify unmet restoration needs, and assure the overall integrity of the technical review process.

Integration Panel recommendations for funding will be reviewed by the Ecosystem Roundtable on August 31, Management Team on September 1, Bay-Delta Advisory Council on September 10, and Policy Group on September 14.

The CALFED member agencies, acting through the Policy Group, will make final funding recommendations to the implementing agencies at the September meeting. Final approval for funding proposals rests with the implementing agency for each topic area as listed below:

1. Fish Passage Assessment/Fish Passage and Related Screen Improvements/Small Screen Evaluations - Alternatives and Biological Priorities (Bureau of Reclamation)
2. Floodplain Management and Habitat Restoration (Fish and Wildlife Service)
3. Sediment Management (CALFED/Resources Agency)
4. Fish Harvest Management Tools (CALFED/Resources Agency)
5. Species Life History Studies (CALFED/Resources Agency)
6. Local Watershed Stewardship (US Environmental Protection Agency)
7. Environmental Education (US Forest Service)

Priorities for 1999 Expenditures. The Restoration Coordination Program has been working with a Technical Panel and the Ecosystem Roundtable to develop priorities for FY 99 expenditures that are consistent with the general direction the long term CALFED program is developing. These priorities are based on the draft ERPP Strategic Plan goals.

In 1997 and 1998, the Restoration Coordination Program developed a set of priorities that identified species and habitats. These guided the FY 98 expenditures including the recent Proposal Solicitation Package. The 1997/98 priorities are included as Attachment 1.

For FY 99, these priorities are being revised so they are more consistent with the direction the ERPP Strategic Plan is going and with the progress made on restoration projects in FY 98. A Technical Panel has been preparing a draft set of priorities which are currently under review by the Ecosystem Roundtable. The major changes from last year's priorities include :

- the addition of 18 listed fish and wildlife species which are water, riparian, or wetland dependent as a secondary priority, and
- a focus on recreational and commercially important species which present human health concerns when consumed.

An overview of these revised priorities was presented to the Management Team at their June and July meetings and they provided several comments to help shape the priorities. The major comment of the Management Team was to continue to focus the majority of the funding on listed fish species. In response staff are currently recommending that, as a general guideline, 75% of the funding go towards projects that benefit the listed fish species dependant on the Delta.

The most recent draft document describing the FY 99 priorities is included as Attachment 2. This document is still draft and the Ecosystem Roundtable is still providing comments on it. The 1999 priorities will be scheduled for a decision by Policy Group at the September meeting.

Action:

- Status of funds and projects (Information Item)
- Update on 1998 Proposal Solicitation and review process (Information Item)
- Priorities for FY 99 expenditures (Concurrence Item)