

**DRAFT LETTER TO
Honorable Bruce Babbitt
Re: Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Appropriation**

A total of \$3,200,000 is initially requested for the CALFED Program in support of the following five programs:

Projects Selected for Federal Funding from the CALFED Directed Programs Process

1. Project Title: Integrated Phasing (Endangered Species Act Compliance)

Agency: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (DOI)

Recommended Funding: \$1,300,000

Project Description: The Program is developing a programmatic Species and Habitats Conservation Strategy for compliance with the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts and the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. This Strategy will integrate all of CALFED's ecosystem restoration and mitigation actions, and provide a framework for site-and-project-specific compliance with the Acts. The Strategy will prescribe conservation actions for species and habitats which will increase certainty that Program actions can be implemented.

2. Project Title: Coordinated Permitting

Agency: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (DOI)

Recommended Funding: \$200,000

Project Description: CALFED's Phase III actions will involve regulatory oversight from a number of federal, state, and local government agencies. Although a programmatic EIS/EIR is being prepared, most of CALFED's proposed actions will require additional environmental documentation and permitting before they can be implemented. CALFED will develop an environmental compliance strategy which assures compliance with various regulatory requirements such as the National Environmental Policy Act, California Environmental Quality Act, State and Federal Endangered Species Acts, the Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act.

3. Project Title: Comprehensive and Coordinated Monitoring and Research Program (CMARP)

Agency: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (DOI)

Recommended Funding: \$263,000

Project Description: The CALFED program is organized around the concept of adaptive management because there is incomplete knowledge of how the ecosystem functions and the effects of individual project actions on populations and processes. Monitoring key system functions, completing focused research to obtain better understanding, and staging implementation based on information gained are all central to the adaptive management process. The program will develop an institutional framework to ensure that the correct questions are identified for monitoring and research actions, that monitoring and research are conducted appropriately, that the data collected and obtained are stored properly and available to those with an interest, and that relevant information is developed from the data obtained to further the incremental process of adaptive management.

4. Project Title: Ecosystem Restoration and Planning

Agency: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (DOI)

Recommended Funding: \$1,200,000

Project Description: The Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) is one of the CALFED Common Programs which is strongly driving the selection of the preferred alternative, which is a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecosystem health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. The Program will complete the ecosystem restoration strategic plan, develop local implementation strategies for the restoration effort, refine conceptual ecosystem models, indicators of ecological health, and quantifiable objectives, and develop and implement the Ecosystem Restoration Science program to ensure that the scientific underpinnings of the ERP are demonstrable and supportable.

5. Project Title: Watershed Management

Agency: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (DOI)

Recommended Funding: \$210,000

Project Description: An integral part of CALFED's mission is to solve problems in ecosystem and water quality. Watershed management is critical to solving many of the issues which manifest themselves in the Bay-Delta system. CALFED's Watershed Management program focuses on locally-led watershed programs and supports and encourages those activities that benefit the Bay-Delta system. The Program will refine the Watershed Management Strategy, assist with the development of watershed monitoring, assessment, and research component to the overall restoration and water quality plan, develop a technical assistance plan for local watershed groups, and develop a coordination framework which describes the mechanism to integrate watershed efforts among agencies, organizations, and watershed programs.