

**Ecosystem Restoration
Projects**



M e m o r a n d u m

Date: June 22, 1999
 To: Bay Delta Advisory Council
 From: Lester A. Snow
 Executive Director
 Subject: Restoration Coordination

Summary

The CALFED Integration Panel has recommended 34 proposals for funding under the 1999 proposal solicitation for approximately \$18.7 million dollars. In addition, seven directed programs under the 1998 Non-native Invasive Species Program and one directed program under the 1998 Flood Control Habitat Bypass Program are being submitted for approval. BDAC is requested to review and recommend funding for these projects.

Also part of the 1999 funding package are 13 directed programs approved in February of this year for approximately \$52 million dollars. A list of the February directed programs and projects currently under consideration is attached.

Background

The December 15, 1994, Bay-Delta Accord included a commitment to develop and fund non-flow related ecosystem restoration activities to improve the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. In 1995 the Category III Steering Committee was formed to administer early rounds of Category III funding. In 1996, the administration function for Category III funds was shifted to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Restoration Coordination Program, which receives input from the Ecosystem Roundtable, the Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) and the general public.

To date, CALFED's Restoration Coordination Program has received more than 800 proposals and has funded 195 projects for a total of approximately \$228 million. Types of

CALFED Agencies

California
 The Resources Agency
 Department of Fish and Game
 Department of Water Resources
 California Environmental Protection Agency
 State Water Resources Control Board
 Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Department of the Interior
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Bureau of Reclamation
 U.S. Geological Survey
 Bureau of Land Management
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 U.S. Forest Service
 Department of Commerce
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 Western Area Power Administration

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projects funded have included fish screens, fish ladders, land acquisition, habitat restoration and focused research and monitoring which are designed to provide information which will improve future restoration efforts. Previous funding sources have included contributions from the California Urban Water Agencies, Proposition 204 State bond funds and funding from the Federal Bay-Delta Act, and Federal EPA watershed funding. For 1999, the funds available are from the Federal Bay-Delta Act and State Proposition 204.

Ecosystem Restoration projects may be identified as directed programs or through a public solicitation process. CALFED has the discretion of directing funds towards specific actions (directed programs) which it believes helps the program achieve its long term ecosystem restoration goals. Projects selected as directed programs are identified through public and technical outreach and the use of the Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration, the Ecosystem Restoration Program objectives and the draft Stage 1 action list.

The CALFED Restoration Coordination Program completed a public solicitation for Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs in April of this year. CALFED received 226 proposals requesting over \$264 million dollars in funding. Proposals were reviewed using a two-step technical evaluation process. First, twelve Technical Review Panels (TRPs) made up of State, Federal and non-agency representatives were formed to evaluate and score proposals submitted under each of the seven topic areas. Due to the large number of projects, some topic areas had more than one technical panel. The role of the TRPs was to evaluate and score each of the proposals on its effectiveness and ability to achieve its stated goals based on the criteria described in the Proposal Solicitation Package.

The second part of the evaluation process involved the 1999 Integration Panel, which is comprised of State and Federal agency technical staff and non-agency technical representatives. The role of the Integration Panel is to evaluate proposals based on CALFED's comprehensive goals for ecosystem restoration, which takes into consideration the proposals' ability to meet the funding priorities and implementation guidelines, the system-wide ecosystem benefits of the proposal, and compatibility with non-ecosystem CALFED objectives. A concerted effort was made by the Integration Panel to select projects which would not have any barriers to implementation and that were important to fund in 1999.

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The Integration Panel recommended 34 proposals which were forwarded to the Ecosystem Roundtable on June 16, 1999. The Roundtable's role is to provide policy level guidance and recommendations on the package. Several policy issues were identified including local county notification, permission to access private property, and other miscellaneous administrative issues. The Roundtable did not complete its recommendation at its June 16 meeting, and will be working over the next few weeks to resolve identified policy issues. It is expected that the Ecosystem Roundtable will have a complete recommendation by the July 9th BDAC meeting.

The Policy Group met June 17th and conditionally approved the package provided that the policy issues identified at the Roundtable meeting are resolved and that both the Roundtable and BDAC recommend funding the package. Roundtable and BDAC comments will be presented to the Policy Group at its July 22 meeting.