

## **CALFED North Delta Improvements FY 2000 Implementation**

### **1. Program Background**

The North Delta Improvements Program is made up of three components described below. CALFED Staff, its agencies, and stakeholders are very actively working on these three components. FY 2000 funding is needed to continue this effort.

#### North Delta Regional Plan

The goal of the North Delta Regional Plan is to provide a coordinated regional solution to ecosystem, watershed, water quality, water supply reliability, and flood control concerns in the North Delta Region.

CALFED's role is to:

- a) Direct the implementation of its high priority actions listed in the Phase II Report, and;
- b) Coordinate with the various projects being implemented in the local watershed, including wildlife refuges in the North Delta Region, and provide a forum for comprehensive, integrated, watershed-wide problem solving in all resource areas emphasizing local participation and government at all levels.

#### Suisun Marsh Investigation

In July 1998, CALFED Policy Group directed CALFED Staff to quantify the potential benefits and costs to include the Suisun Marsh levees into the CALFED Levee Program. CALFED Staff is working with CALFED Agency Staff, stakeholders, and consultants to prepare general plans with corresponding benefits, costs, and stakeholder concerns.

#### Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategy

The Risk Management Analysis will develop a Risk Management Strategy (prioritized list of actions) that can be implemented to mitigate the potential consequences. CALFED will perform a phased Risk Management Analysis that will assess system risks, quantify resulting consequences, and develop an appropriate Risk Management Strategy. The Risk Management Analysis is divided into 3 phases with corresponding objectives and deliverables. The seismic vulnerability of the Delta levees has been quantified and will be used in this proposed Risk Management Analysis.

### **2. FY 2000 Funding Priorities**

Staff recommendation is to allocate \$1.5 million between the three projects as follows:

#### North Delta Regional Plan (\$1.0 million)

Perform project formulation and environmental impact analysis for the North Delta Program as described in the Phase II Report-Stage 1a Actions.

Provide a forum to coordinate the following studies/projects currently being planned in the region by various groups.

- a) **The Lower Mokelumne River Restoration Project** - This project is sponsored by the Woodbridge Irrigation District and the City of Lodi to remove barriers to anadromous fish migration, support riparian restoration efforts, minimize ecological stressors and restore spawning grounds. **(Project purpose – Ecosystem Restoration and Water Supply Reliability)**
- b) **Cosumnes River Task Force** - The Cosumnes River Task Force was formed in 1997 as a result of the flooding along the Cosumnes River during the winter of 1997. Sacramento County is providing staff and acting as lead agency on the Task Force, a joint venture of Sacramento County, Lower Cosumnes Resource Conservation District, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District, Florin Resource Conservation District, and Amador Resource Conservation District. **(Project purpose – Flood Control)**
- c) **Cosumnes River Feasibility Study** - The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has teamed with the Corps of Engineers to assess, identify and implement ecosystem restoration and non-traditional flood control improvements along the lower Cosumnes River from the vicinity of Highway 16 to the confluence with the Mokelumne River. **(Project purpose – Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Control)**
- d) **Mokelumne River Feasibility Study** - East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has teamed with the Corps to assess, identify and implement ecological restoration and non-traditional flood control along the Mokelumne River from Camanche Dam to the San Joaquin River. **(Project purpose – Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Control)**
- e) **Joint Settlement Agreement for the Mokelumne River** - This is a joint effort by EBMUD, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance the anadromous fishery and ecosystem of the lower Mokelumne River, including flow enhancement, riparian restoration, aquatic habitat restoration, and reduction and eradication of invasive non-native vegetation from riparian corridors. **(Project purpose – Ecosystem Restoration)**
- f) **The Lower Mokelumne River Stewardship Plan** – The San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District (SJRCDD) is overseeing the preparation of a voluntary, community-based, watershed stewardship plan. The goals of this planning effort are to involve interested stakeholders in:
- Creating an outline of issues and opportunities to be addressed in the Plan by January 2000;
  - Participating on the Plan steering committee to develop the Plan by March 2001;
  - Develop a Watershed Owner's Manual for the Watershed by March 2001;
  - Prepare an Action Plan for implementing priority stewardship actions by March 2002; and
  - Begin Plan Implementation by March 2002.
- (Project purpose – Watershed Management and Water Quality)**
- g) **The San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan Program** - This program sponsored by the San Joaquin County Council of Governments is to provide a mechanism to coordinate County HCP mitigation, enhancement and compensation for impacts to threatened and endangered species. **(Project purpose – Ecosystem Restoration)**

- h) **The Cosumnes Consortium Research and Monitoring Program** - UCD Center for Integrated Watershed Science and Management is sponsoring this program to conduct fluviogeomorphic-ecological studies of the Cosumnes and Mokelumne River. **(Project purpose – Watershed Management and Ecosystem Restoration)**
- i) **South Sacramento County Streams Project** - The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) is currently teamed with the Corps of Engineers to implement the South Sacramento County Streams Project, a flood improvement project on Morrison Creek, Florin Creek, Elder Creek, Unionhouse Creek and the North Beach-Stone lakes area. **(Project purpose – Flood Control)**
- j) **Protection to the Point Pleasant Area** - Sacramento County has developed a conceptual plan for improvements to increase flood protection for the residents of the Point Pleasant area. **(Project purpose – Flood Control)**
- k) **Delta Dredging and Reuse Strategy – Sediment Toxicity Study** – The Resources Agency has teamed with the Department of Fish and Game, the Delta Protection Commission and the State Water Resources Control Board to develop General Order – Waste Discharge Requirements to allow dredging in the Delta. **(Project purpose – Flood Control, Water Supply Reliability, Ecosystem Restoration)**

Discussions among the agencies sponsoring these projects indicate the potential for significant overlap of activities, and the opportunity for mutual benefits through cooperative efforts. For example, potential habitat improvements along the upper reaches of the Cosumnes and Mokelumne rivers may include setback levees and selective flooding of agricultural lands that could reduce peak flows on both rivers. Reduced flows on the Cosumnes and Mokelumne rivers could reduce flooding in key areas throughout the region.

CALFED would facilitate coordination among the various projects and sponsoring agencies, and provide a forum in which issues and conflicts could be fully addressed and resolved. The following activities would be pursued:

- Facilitate Communication
- Identify and Resolve Conflicts
- Address Regulatory Concerns
- Optimize Resources
- Identify Funding Opportunities
- Encourage Partnerships
- Improve Integration.

Suisun Marsh Investigation (\$0.2 million)

Prepare various Suisun Marsh reconfigurations that maximize benefits to CALFED objectives, model to verify benefits, and prepare a cost estimate for each configuration.

Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategy (\$0.3 million)

CALFED will perform a phased analysis that will assess system risks, quantify resulting consequences, and develop an appropriate Risk Management Strategy.

### **3. Stakeholder and Public Input**

#### North Delta Regional Plan

- Stakeholder support and public input for CALFED's North Delta Project is being provided through regular meetings of the CALFED North Delta Improvements Group (NDIG).
  
- Stakeholder support and public input for the other major projects (approximately 12) being planned in the Mokelumne-Cosumnes watershed is being provided through quarterly meetings of the Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed Alliance (MCWA).

#### Suisun Marsh Investigation

Stakeholder support and public input for CALFED's Suisun Marsh Investigation is being provided through regular meetings of the CALFED Suisun Marsh Investigation Team (SMIT)

#### Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategy

Stakeholder support and public input for CALFED's Risk Management Analysis will be provided through BDAC.

### **4. Proposed Method for Distributing Funding**

#### North Delta Regional Plan

CALFED Staff proposes to distribute the FY 2000 funds through a directed contract administered through the USBR for the development of the EIS/EIR.

#### Suisun Marsh Investigation

CALFED Staff proposes to distribute the FY 2000 funds through existing contracts administered through the USBR for scenario development, modeling and cost estimating services.

#### Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategy

CALFED Staff proposes to distribute the FY 2000 funds through a directed contract administered through the USBR for expert consultants to perform the Risk Management Analysis.

### **5. Timeline**

#### North Delta Regional Plan

CALFED Staff recommends initiating an EIS/EIR in February 2000. This is expected to be a 24-month effort.

#### Suisun Marsh Investigation

CALFED Staff recommends continuing the following existing contracts. This is expected to be a 12-month effort.

- DWR – For scenario development assistance and 1-D modeling;
- RMA (Consulting Engineers) – For advanced 2-D model verification, and;
- MBK (Consulting Engineers) – For cost estimating.

#### Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategy

CALFED Staff recommends initiating consultant services contracts in January 2000. This would be a phased approach. If fully pursued it could be a 24-month effort.