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### ***Restoration Coordination Program for 1996-1997***

#### ***I. Restoration Coordination Program Goals***

The goal of the Restoration Coordination Program is to provide for implementation of ecosystem restoration activities in a manner that fosters cooperative planning and implementation with all agencies and stakeholders, that addresses high priority environmental needs, and that informs future restoration efforts. The Ecosystem Common Program, including targets, goals, and phasing recommendations, is being developed as part of component refinement and will feed into this Restoration Coordination Program so that a 3 year set of restoration priorities can be developed and implemented. These 3 year priorities will be reviewed and adjusted as needed on at least an annual basis. The goal of this Restoration Coordination Program will be to coordinate all programs that could play a role in implementing the Ecosystem Common Program.

The Restoration Coordination Program will include implementation of the Ecosystem Roundtable, a subgroup of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC). The mission of the Ecosystem Roundtable is to provide advice on the coordination of habitat restoration efforts. The existing BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group will continue to fulfill its mission to develop policy options related to ecosystem restoration and to clarify strengths and weaknesses of options.

#### ***II. Program Objectives***

The program objectives are to develop an integrated, objective planning process following these principles:

- Restoration efforts should be developed through a coordinated, collaborative process that includes technical specialists from agencies, stakeholders organizations, and other technical experts from the broader public.
- The process to prioritize and select projects and programs must be based on objective evaluation criteria and be accessible and understandable to the public.
- The process must focus on restoration of a healthy ecosystem through both short term projects to eliminate sources of mortality and through longer-term, broader habitat restoration efforts that restore the natural functions and productivity of the system.
- The process must have adequate peer review by outside technical experts at all appropriate points in the process.

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- The process must be efficient and result in implementation of the most effective restoration efforts based on the best available information and on available financial resources.
- The program will provide a structure for early implementation of the ecosystem component of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.
- The program will provide for coordinated project and program selection using the objective criteria and priorities that are developed.

### *III. Work Program Elements*

The work effort to accomplish these objectives is generally grouped into five elements:

1. Continue to provide assistance to the Category III Steering Committee so they can complete the 1996 funding cycle.
2. Establish an integrated planning process for 1997 and beyond that includes an integrated process to prioritize restoration needs, development of objective criteria to be used to evaluate projects, and a process to solicit proposals to address those needs.
3. Fully integrate the Category III program into overall habitat restoration and complete transfer of Steering Committee responsibilities to the Ecosystem Roundtable.
4. Develop a working forum for managers of different restoration funding sources to coordinate expenditures.
5. Develop public information tools to increase awareness of restoration efforts.

#### *1. 1996 Project Selection*

The Category III Steering Committee with the assistance of the CALFED Bay Delta Program has been developing projects and programs for Category III funding using a cooperative process that focusses efforts on spring run chinook salmon, delta habitat, and other species at risk. The package soliciting proposals has been distributed and proposals are due October 21. The Steering Committee will hold screening interviews and should make a final decision on 1996 projects by late November.

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### *2. Integrated Planning Process*

With the appointment of the Ecosystem Roundtable, there is an expectation on the part of the stakeholders and the CALFED Management Team that restoration efforts for fisheries, riparian and other wetlands habitat, and other restoration efforts in the delta will be coordinated to increase their effectiveness and decrease duplication. To do this, this program proposes to use a coordinated planning approach with technical workshops that are co-convened by the various funding sources. A draft model of this planning process is being developed and will be shared with other restoration funding sources to seek their input on how it can be modified to meet their needs. The current draft includes the following tasks:

- The CALFED Bay-Delta Program prepares a draft of the Ecosystem Component which is expected to be available in mid-November. This document, including its sections on phasing and implementation strategy, will form the basis for developing annual priorities. The resulting annual planning document will be reviewed by technical groups and the Ecosystem Roundtable. They can then prepare recommendations on overall guidance for the next planning cycle.
- Based on this work, technical teams can then develop recommendations for the priorities for the funding cycle. These can be developed on a geographic basis for areas such as the San Joaquin and Sacramento systems and for the delta. Where there is need for a technical committee to work on a program that spans the geographic areas, one can be convened. These teams will be open to technical representatives from the agencies, the stakeholders, and the general public. Their mission will be to develop a prioritized list of problems to be addressed and goals for the projects and programs to address those problems.
- Based on the work of these technical teams, a draft of the annual workplan should be available for review by mid-winter. This draft should be peer reviewed by outside experts. It can then be reviewed by the Ecosystem Roundtable and by CALFED.
- Once the annual workplan is developed, a CALFED agency team can develop a draft package designed to develop individual projects and programs. This could include CALFED agency actions, solicitation of proposals from outside parties, and other actions as needed. This is expected to take place in early spring. This document will not be widely circulated in draft form but will be reviewed by the Ecosystem Roundtable for policy considerations.
- A complete, final package will be developed where proposals are to be solicited from outside parties. This package will be widely advertised and circulated. Proposals that are submitted will be reviewed and ranked. The list of programs and projects recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Ecosystem Roundtable for their deliberations. They will develop a recommended list of projects and programs. CALFED will be responsible for the final

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decision on the recommended projects and programs in spring of 1997. A decision by CALFED on projects and programs does not represent approval under any regulatory authority and the projects and programs must comply with all appropriate environmental laws and regulations.

The Ecosystem Roundtable has been appointed by BDAC and will take on the function of providing stakeholder input into this priority setting and project selection process. Specific products that need to be developed include a mission statement for the Roundtable and principles to guide their efforts. A set of operating procedures to comply with applicable state and federal laws will be developed. They must also provide their recommendations on the draft planning process outline.

The Ecosystem Roundtable's mission is to provide advice to BDAC and CALFED as appropriate on the coordination of existing and anticipated local, state, and federal habitat restoration programs. Specifically, the Ecosystem Roundtable will provide advice on development of an annual integrated planning process, method and procedure for establishing annual and multi-year priorities, method and procedures for an integrated request for proposal process and evaluation criteria that can be used to rate projects and programs.

The chairperson of the Ecosystem Roundtable will coordinate activities with the BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group.

### ***3. Integration and Transition of Category III***

The Category III Steering Committee intends to complete several tasks before it can completely transfer its responsibilities to the Ecosystem Roundtable. Staff will present four alternatives for addressing the fiscal and administrative duties to the Steering Committee for consideration at its September 26th meeting. With Steering Committee input, CALFED will complete its analysis of these options. We anticipate a package which recommends one alternative will be ready for review by the CALFED Management Team at the October 22 meeting.

As this Restoration Coordination Program has been developed, the intent has been to use the principles from the document prepared by the Category III Steering Committee titled *Creating an Entity*. Another important task that the Category III Steering Committee must complete is to provide feedback to CALFED on whether this intent has been fulfilled and, if not, what suggestions they would offer for changes to better reflect that document.

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***4. Restoration Fund Coordinators Meetings***

Although a joint technical process can result in improved coordination, there is a need for regular contact between the different funding sources so that they can share information on progress of different projects and programs. An earlier effort to convene these fund managers was well received and this task builds upon that effort. Under this program, quarterly meetings could be convened and information circulated so that each agency can be apprised of activities of others.

***5. Development of Public Information Tools to Increase Awareness of Restoration Efforts***

As the program develops, public outreach efforts will be needed to increase the awareness of and support for the ecosystem restoration program and to further coordinate efforts with other programs. This can include techniques such as placing information on the CALFED Bay-Delta home page or regular communications through newsletters or other publications.