Evaluation and Selection Process for the 1997 Category III Proposals

Formal proposals will be reviewed in a two step process. First, panels of technical experts made up of state, federal and non-agency representatives will be formed to evaluate and score similar proposals. The number and focus of the technical panels will depend on the nature and number of proposals within the various stressor, species and habitat categories.

The panels will use the seven criteria shown below to evaluate and score proposals. Proposal scores for each of the criteria will range from zero to ten. If a proposal receives a zero ranking for biological effectiveness, applicant's ability, or technical feasibility the proposal will be disqualified. A proposal must receive a score of at least 40 out of a total score of 70 to be considered eligible for funding in this funding cycle. Applicants may be interviewed in August to discuss the proposals.

- Biological and ecological benefits
- Applicant's ability
- Technical feasibility and timing
- Cost sharing and local involvement
- Compatibility and benefits to non-ecosystem CALFED objectives
- Cost
- Monitoring, assessment, and reporting

The second part of the evaluation process involves an integration panel. The individual proposal evaluations and scores from the technical panels will be provided to an integration panel, which will also be made up of state and federal agency technical staff and non-agency technical representatives. Because Category III funding recommendations will be coordinated with appropriate other funding sources (such as CVPIA), and programs administered through other agencies (such as EPA and SWRCB), the integration panel will also include individuals involved with other funding sources.

The responsibility of the integration panel will be to identify the package of projects that would comprise the 1997 Category III funding recommendation. Moreover, the integration panel will recommend how funding should be allocated among the priority species, habitats, and stressors. In order to recommend allocation of funding, it will be necessary for the integration panel to determine the relative importance of the different priority species and habitats in contributing to ecological restoration and to the reduction of conflicts in the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Accordingly, the integration panel will consider various factors in their determination of the 1997 Category III funding recommendation. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- The proposal evaluation scores from the technical panels,

- The relative importance of the different priority species and habitats based on the level of decline and future risk of the priority species and habitats,
- The relative benefit to the priority species, habitats and the ecosystem as a result of addressing a stressor,
- The availability of quality proposals,
- The consistency of the proposals with the CALFED objectives,
- The need for consistency and integration between projects,
- The use of co-funding or alternative funding sources,
- An appropriate distribution of projects regarding; 1) diversity of ecosystem restoration efforts and habitat value, 2) uncertainty of benefits and/or risk of implementation , 3) immediate and long-term benefits, and 4) direct and indirect benefits.

Panel recommendations for funding will be reviewed by the Ecosystem Roundtable and the Bay Delta Advisory Council. Final approval rests with CALFED Policy Group, the decision-making body for CALFED.

It is anticipated that funding decisions will be made beginning in August and may be staggered through August and September, 1997. Contract preparation will begin as soon as possible after notification of awards.

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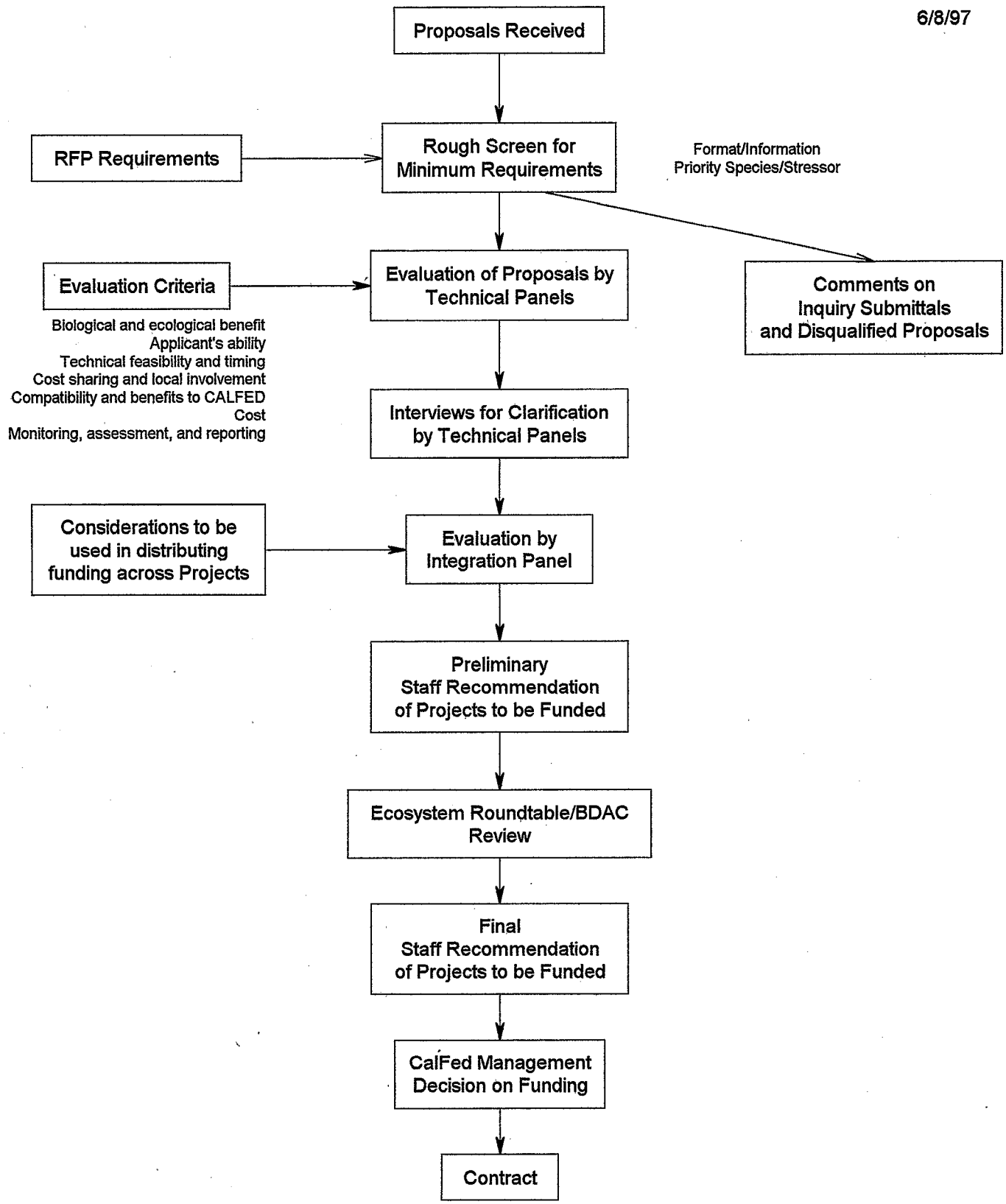
1997 Proposal Evaluation / Funding Decision Process

For Discussion Only
6/8/97



Attachment 3 (4 pages)

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Technical Review Panels

Responsibility: Provide evaluation and scoring of individual proposals within stressor and species/habitat categories; Interview proposal proponents as necessary for evaluation.

Composition: 4-7? members, agency and non-agency representatives

Member Qualifications: Broad working knowledge; Proficiency in area of focus; objective.

Panel Focus Areas (***depending on number and nature of proposals***):

A: "Flow"; Temperature; Human Disturbance; (Water Quality?).

B: Floodplain and Marshplain; Channel Form; Land Use.

C: Undesirable Species Interactions; Adverse Fish and Wildlife Harvest Impacts; Population Management; Artificial Propagation of Fish; (Water Quality?)

D: Landscape (Modelling, data base, research, etc. that are not stressor specific)

Integration Panel

Responsibility: Integrate proposal evaluation scores from various Technical Review Panels into complete package, within funding constraints and consistency with overall goals; Integrate with other funding sources.

Composition: 8-12? members,Agency and Non-agency representatives

Member Qualifications: Broad working knowledge; Proficiency in broader areas of focus; objective; knowledge of other funding sources