

# 1998 Proposal Solicitation Package

## Summary of 1998 Funding

Recommendations have been forwarded for approval for projects and programs to allocate the full 1997-1998 funding which totals \$157 million (see Attachment 1). Those recommendations include \$85 million for 71 individual projects and \$55 million for programs. 71 projects were recommended for approval in November and December and the funding allocation by programs was recommended for approval in February.

As described at the February Roundtable meeting, the \$55 million for programs will be allocated as either a designated action to an agency for implementation, or will be allocated through a proposal solicitation process. The next proposal solicitation is scheduled for April 1998. Attachment 2 describes the funding allocated for designated actions and for proposal solicitation. All remaining funds except \$5.8 million will be either included in the April solicitation or committed as a designated action. Additional program development and scoping is necessary for the remaining \$5.8 million before proposals are solicited.

The Proposal Solicitation Package will allocate approximately \$26 million in state and federal funds (see Attachment 3). To meet the deadline to select proposals by September 1998 (end of the 1998 federal fiscal year), we are planning to finalize and mail the Proposal Solicitation Package by the end of April. The tasks and schedule are described in Attachment 4.

## Action - Advise

The Ecosystem Roundtable will be asked to review and comment on the schedule and tasks for finalizing the Proposal Solicitation Package and the approach being used. Additional detail on the Proposal Solicitation Package will be available at the Roundtable meeting on April 10.

## Detailed Discussion

Proposals will be solicited through a coordinated set of packages prepared by state, federal, and CALFED staff. It is the goal to have one document mailed by CALFED including all programs and including both state and federal funds, but with clear and distinct requirements for each solicitation package and funding source. The schedule and tasks described in Attachment 4 will provide for a coordinated solicitation process with the goal of final decisions on project selection by the end of the 1998 federal fiscal year.

Technical Review Process. The technical review of proposals will be divided between CALFED, for the state funds and federal agencies for the federal funds. Technical Review Panels will be formed to review and provide initial recommendations for selection of proposals. CALFED will provide a coordination role to ensure that the schedule and

standards for technical review are consistent. The technical review process should include technical experts from state and federal agencies as well as from outside the agencies. The process should provide an opportunity for panel members to ask applicants questions to clarify details about a project. The Ecosystem Roundtable will provide input into the formation of the panels.

An inter-disciplinary technical team will review the recommendations of the individual technical teams to ensure that there are no conflicts or overlap.

Confidentiality and Communication. For the Proposal Solicitation Package, the goal is to have multiple opportunities to answer questions from potential applicants during the application period, an opportunity to ask written questions during the review process and to clarify proposals in response to technical review panel questions, and an opportunity to have the Ecosystem Roundtable review and comment on recommended proposal. We are proposing that the applications remain confidential until after the inter-disciplinary technical team makes its recommendations. Applications will be made available to the public after technical review is complete.

Selection Criteria and Rating System. For the Proposal Solicitation Package the selection criteria should continue to address the 1997 priorities, as well as the additional guidance given by the Policy Group at the January meeting regarding watershed planning and the North Bay region. The criteria and rating system may be based on the 1997 RFP criteria with modifications and improvements as needed.