

99C-114

Panel A

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**“The Yuba River is one of the most important Ecological Management Units in the Feather River/Sutter Basin Ecological Management Zone.”**



-2/99 Revised Draft of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, Vol. 2 – Ecological Management Zone Visions (page 281)

The intent of this proposal is to request funding for a watershed coordinator position, including the materials, equipment, and office space necessary to administer and coordinate the efforts of the Yuba Watershed Council (YWC).

The project area encompasses the Yuba River watershed and is part of the Feather River/Sutter Basin Ecological Management Zone. The 1,325 square miles of rivers, creeks and tributaries within the Yuba watershed supply drinking and irrigation water for several million consumers.

In past years, natural resource management in the Yuba watershed has primarily been limited to jurisdictional boundaries with little or no consideration on the effects to neighboring public and private properties. It is the intention of the Yuba Watershed Council to work towards removing the boundaries and encouraging well-founded management practices across the watershed. All participants in the Council have agreed to collaboratively pursue full restoration, monitoring and education within the Yuba watershed.

The vision and mission of the Yuba Watershed Council directly correlate to the overall goals and objectives for CALFED, as defined in the Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration (Revised Draft). The YWC will help to achieve the long-term ecosystem objective of a fully rehabilitated, self-sustaining Yuba River watershed and Bay-Delta ecosystem by developing the local capacity to improve and enhance watershed management, identifying good management practices, providing assistance and training for monitoring programs, and supporting locally developed education programs.

The Yuba Watershed Council is a collaborative effort of over 20 local, state and federal agencies, community groups, environmental organization and neighborhood associations. One of the primary goals of the Council is to represent and provide balance in the diverse interests that occur within the Yuba watershed. The YWC encourages the participation of all interested stakeholders.

There are no adverse effects. A potential third party benefit will be to provide other watersheds with a successful model of collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders in a watershed management process.

Monitoring will be based on stakeholder participation and involvement throughout the development of the Yuba Watershed Council. The watershed coordinator will be responsible for identifying and coordinating all current restoration and monitoring efforts in order to help pool resources where possible, prioritize activities and provide a forum for discussion of future efforts.

The Yuba Watershed Council is requesting \$142,618 over a 2-year period from the CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Programs and Projects. The funding will provide the financial and technical assistance necessary to meet the initial administrative, organizational, and support costs of the YWC.