

Executive Summary

99C 109

Panel B

Project Title: Napa River Watershed Stewardship Year 2

Applicant Name: Napa County Resource Conservation District

Project Description and Objectives: This project proposal is intended to address a broad range of ecological and biological values in the Napa River watershed, including steelhead and salmon populations, and improved wetlands and floodplain functions. The Napa River Watershed is 426 acres and comprises 48 tributaries feeding the 45-mile long Napa River. The Napa River drains into San Pablo Bay.

Program objectives are to implement the recommendations listed in the Napa River Watershed Owner's Manual, a framework for integrated watershed management of the Napa River watershed. Specifically, this program will address the first six of the nine listed objectives of the management plan: 1) *Stabilize streams using natural processes*, 2) *Promote contiguous habitat*, 3) *Increase biological diversity*, 4) *Increase migratory and resident fish habitat*, 5) *Coordinate natural resource protection and planning*, and 6) *Encourage local land Stewardship*.

The proposal builds upon the work already completed under the current Napa River Watershed Stewardship CALFED grant. Additional restoration and hydrologic modeling work will be done and, stewardship groups will be supported and initiated. These three separable, but mutually supportive segments, are designed to restore ecological health to the Napa River watershed.

Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives. This program will enhance and restore the following CALFED priority habitats in the Napa River watershed: seasonal wetland and aquatic habitat, instream aquatic habitat, and shaded riverine aquatic habitat. It will do so through development of local partnerships to encourage long-term effective habitat management while reducing conflicts related to those resources. Primary species of concern benefiting from this program are steelhead trout and California Freshwater Shrimp. Currently, habitat for these species is severely degraded due to alterations in stream channel morphology, removal of freshwater and tidal wetlands, and excessive erosion and sediment in the system.

Costs and Third Party Impacts: The proposed program is divided into three separable elements that are intended to support one another. The total anticipated cost of this program is \$303,760, of which the amount requested from CALFED is \$191,100. The remaining \$112,660 will be supplied by the participant and collaborators as matching funds. No third party impacts requiring mitigation are expected with this program.

Applicant Qualifications: The Napa County Resource Conservation District has been operating since 1945 to assist local landowners with natural resource conservation in the District. Employees listed in the proposal are trained in the use of computer modeling, database management, GIS, volunteer monitoring training and organization, landscape architecture, fish habitat assessment and restoration, and watershed stewardship facilitation. The District has developed a training program for other agencies and groups that provides consultation and education in developing and maintaining effective watershed management programs. Among the grants successfully carried out by the District are the following: Dept. of Pesticide Regulation Integrated Pest Management Grant (1997), EPA 205(J) planning grant for Huichica Creek Management Plan (1995), EPA 319 grant for creation of a

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Monitoring and Data Evaluation: The District has an established monitoring program with protocols, training, and both a relational and GIS database. It has a strong cooperative relationship with regional monitoring programs such as the San Francisco Estuary Institute. The protocols and database already in use will be extended as appropriate to provide tools for the monitoring of restoration projects. Data will be reviewed and evaluated by the District and cooperators on an on-going basis as well as annually by a team comprised of local interest groups and agency personnel. Data will be made available for general distribution through the next edition of the Owner's Manual and via digital formats.

Local Support and CALFED Compatibility: The local community has expressed support for the restoration and maintenance of the ecological health of the Napa River watershed in a variety of ways, including active participation in the creation of the Owner's Manual and the Community Coalition for Floodplain Management, and through votes to establish an erosion control ordinance and parcel tax for watershed management. The District works formally and informally with community partners of varied interests who desire to protect and preserve water quality, aquatic and riverine habitats, and the species they support: the Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group, Pierce's Disease Task Force, Friends of the Napa River, Napa/Solano Audubon Society, Redwood Ornithological Society, California Dept. of Fish and Game, Napa Valley Steelhead, City and County of Napa, local stewardships and individual landowners, and numerous other state and federal agencies.