



Memorandum

Date: September 1, 1999

To: Ecosystem Roundtable

From: Wendy Halverson Martin
Restoration Coordinator

Subject: Funding Additional Watershed Projects

At its June 1999 meeting, the CALFED Policy Group expressed concern over the small number of watershed projects which were recommended for funding as part of the 1999 ecosystem restoration projects and directed CALFED staff to consider additional watershed projects from the 1999 solicitation for funding. At the August 1999 CALFED Policy Group meeting, the CALFED Policy Group recommended funding of a minimum of \$2 million of additional watershed projects from the 1999 Proposal Solicitation Package.

The Restoration Coordination Program solicited for ecosystem restoration projects in 1999. 226 proposals were received at an estimated value of \$264 million. \$18.7 million in Federal and State funding was available for projects for this solicitation. The CALFED Integration Panel considered all 226 proposals and prepared a package of 34 projects recommended for funding. Of the projects recommended, three were for watershed projects.

While the Integration Panel had developed adequate and reasonable rationale for the funding package, the Policy Group expressed a desire that an additional Watershed Management package be developed due to the necessary lead time and ultimate importance of Watershed management to the Program. CALFED staff reviewed the 1999 watershed proposals not only from the standpoint of the ecosystem needs, but also from the context of the Watershed Management Program. Staff used four criteria to review high scoring projects and determined the \$1.8 to 2.0 million would enable funding a diverse and beneficial group of watershed projects. The criteria are:

- Improved coordination and assistance - project includes a broad array of collaborators, including landowners, local groups, and all levels of government;

CALFED Agencies

California

- The Resources Agency
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Water Resources
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of the Interior
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Department of Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Department of Commerce
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Western Area Power Administration

- Development of monitoring protocols and application of adaptive management processes - project includes a comprehensive monitoring element that, to the extent possible, will be compatible with the IEP monitoring effort in the Delta;
- Improved and expanded watershed education and public outreach - project would provide training to stewardship groups regarding watershed evaluation and monitoring, and implementation techniques;
- Improved watershed stewardship - project will establish demonstration sites for floodplain wetland restoration, and riparian corridor redevelopment (including exotic species removal);

The Policy group requested the projects and rationale be reviewed by the Ecosystem Roundtable and brought back to the Policy Group for final recommendation. Projects recommended for funding are attached. Additionally, watershed management has been included on the draft FY 2000 priority list.

Attachment