

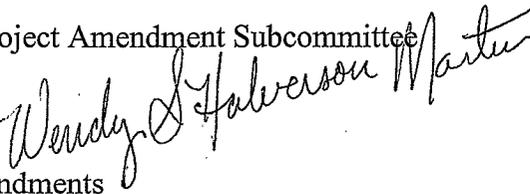


M e m o r a n d u m

Date: March 16, 2000

To: Ecosystem Roundtable Project Amendment Subcommittee

From: Wendy Halverson Martin



Subject: Requests for Project Amendments

SUMMARY

Three projects have requested a Level 2 project amendment. These amendments require Ecosystem Roundtable and Agency Liaison action.

Project and Proponent	Level 2 Project Amendments			Reason for Amendment
	Change Requested			
	Budget	Scope	Time	
San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge (97-B04) US Fish and Wildlife Service	None	None	9 months	Delays in easement negotiations.
Sacramento River Acquisition and Riparian Forest Restoration (97-N03) The Nature Conservancy	None	Increase restoration of 97-N04 property	None	Restoration cost less than anticipated. Savings can be applied to restoring another property.
Riparian Corridor Acquisition and Restoration Assessment (99-B12) Bureau of Land Management	None	Reduce scope	None	Changes based on easement negotiations.

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



One project has requested a Level 3 project amendment. These amendments require Ecosystem Roundtable and Agency Liaison action, followed by Policy Group action.

Level 3 Project Amendments

Project and Proponent	Change Requested			Reason for Amendment
	Budget	Scope	Time	
Assessment of Ecological and Human Health Impacts of Mercury in the Bay-Delta Watershed (99-B06) San Jose State University Foundation	\$1.467 million	Increase scope	None	Requested changes are based on recommendations from an external expert Scientific Review Committee

ACTION

Ecosystem Roundtable Subcommittee members and Agency Liaisons are requested to consider the Level 2 and Level 3 amendments consistent with the contract amendment process (attached).

DISCUSSION

The contract amendment process provides for three levels of amendment depending on the nature and extent of the proposed change (budget, time, or scope). The process for these amendments is discussed on the attached page.

Project Amendments

Four projects have requested a project amendment requiring Ecosystem Roundtable subcommittee action, as follows:

1. San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge (97-B04)

Issue: In 1997, CALFED approved \$10,647,000 to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to fund the acquisition, long-term preservation, protection, and restoration of approximately 6,169 acres of San Joaquin River NWR floodplain. In January 2000 the Bureau of Reclamation approved a 20-month time extension to March 31, 2000. Due to delays in easement negotiations, an additional 9 months (to December 2000) is needed to complete the project.

Staff Recommendation: The increase in time is reasonable and should be granted.

2. Sacramento River Acquisition and Riparian Forest Restoration (97-N03)

Issue: In 1997, CALFED approved \$780,000 for The Nature Conservancy to restore 200 acres of flood-prone lands to native riparian forest along the Sacramento River between Keswick and Verona. The actual cost for restoration of this area was \$142,500 less than anticipated. The Nature Conservancy now requests applying these funds to do additional restoration on another Sacramento River property, the 94.55 acre

Flynn Unit, which was acquired with CALFED funds under Project 97-N04. Restoration of 10 acres of the Flynn Unit is included as part of the 97-N04 project. The additional 84.55 acres could be restored using the \$142,500 remaining from 97-C03. The Nature Conservancy would cost-share for staff time, and comprehensive monitoring of the entire 94.55 acre site under the 97-N04 agreement.

Staff Recommendation: The change in scope is reasonable and should be granted.

3. Riparian Corridor Acquisition and Restoration Assessment (99-B12)

Issue: In August 1999, CALFED approved \$2,240,250 for the protection of approximately five miles of Sacramento River frontage, four and one-half miles of Battle Creek frontage, and one mile of Anderson Creek frontage. The Greening Ranch negotiations have been terminated due to landowners reluctance to continue. Based on negotiations, the acreage of the Gover Ranch conservation easements has been reduced. The appraised value of the Gover conservation easements is greater than originally estimated but with the dropping of the Greening Ranch the total values are approximately the same. Cost to CALFED remains the same.

Staff Recommendation: The change in scope is reasonable and should be granted.

4. Assessment of Ecological and Human Health Impacts of Mercury in the Bay-Delta Watershed (99-B06)

Issue: In 1999, CALFED approved a directed action of \$3,800,000 for the San Jose State University Foundation to provide information that will lead to a reduction of mercury in resident fish tissues to levels that are not harmful to humans and wildlife.

Staff Recommendation: Fund an additional amount of \$158,288 for QA/QC improvement and Phase 1 modeling work, contingent upon adequately addressing the critical need for additional project management by reallocating within the current budget, or through additional cost share from project participants. A \$120,288 increase for QA/QC improvement provides data consistency to the study. Individual QA/QC programs are insufficient to accurately compare mercury data among individual components of the study. \$38,000 for Phase 1 modeling work will provide an overall conceptual model that will help to integrate the various studies, help to direct monitoring strategy, and will provide a management tool for ongoing evaluation of the project's goals and objectives. The modeling work may result in a more focused study and saved costs. The additional project management needs outlined in the amendment request, including increased facilitated communication among participants and external groups and increased initial project planning to improve coordination among the participants, are all deemed critical by staff. These activities should be addressed either by reallocation of existing project funds (change in existing scope), or through additional funds secured from other sources.