

*DRAFT*

*Restoration Coordination Program for 1996-1997*

*I. Restoration Coordination Program Goals*

The goal of the Restoration Coordination Program is to provide for implementation of ecosystem restoration activities in a manner that fosters cooperative planning and implementation with all agencies and stakeholders, that addresses high priority environmental needs, and that informs future restoration efforts. The Ecosystem Restoration Strategy, including targets, goals, and phasing recommendations, is being developed as part of component refinement and will feed into this Restoration Coordination Program so that a 3 year set of restoration priorities can be developed and implemented.

*II. Program Objectives*

The program objectives are to develop an integrated, objective planning process following these principles:

- Restoration efforts should be developed through a collaborative process that includes technical specialists from agencies, stakeholders organizations, and other technical experts from the broader public.
- The process to prioritize and select projects and programs must be based on objective evaluation criteria and be accessible and understandable to the public.
- The process must focus on restoration of a healthy ecosystem through both short term projects to eliminate sources of mortality and through longer-term, broader habitat restoration efforts that restore the natural functions and productivity of the system.
- The process must have adequate peer review by outside technical experts.
- The process must be efficient and result in implementation of the most effective restoration efforts based on the best available information
- The program will provide a structure for early implementation of the ecosystem component of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Program.wpd September 24, 1996

missing page  
around 5

### III. *Work Program Elements*

The work effort to accomplish these objectives is generally grouped into five elements:

1. Complete the 1996 funding cycle with the Category III Steering Committee.
2. Establish an integrated planning process for 1997 and beyond that includes an integrated process to prioritize restoration needs, development of objective criteria to be used to evaluate projects, and a process to solicit proposals to address those needs.
3. Fully integrate the Category III program into overall habitat restoration and transition the Steering Committee to the Ecosystem Roundtable.
4. Develop a working forum for managers of different restoration funding sources to coordinate expenditures.
5. Develop public information tools to increase awareness of restoration efforts.

#### 1. *1996 Project Selection*

The Category III Steering Committee with the assistance of the CALFED Bay Delta Program has been developing projects and programs for Category III funding using a cooperative process that focusses efforts on spring run chinook salmon, delta habitat, and other species at risk. The package soliciting proposals has been distributed and proposals are due October 21. The Steering Committee will hold screening interviews and should make a final decision on 1996 projects by late November.

#### 2. *Integrated Planning Process*

With the appointment of the Ecosystem Roundtable, there is an expectation on the part of the stakeholders and the CALFED Management Team that restoration efforts for fisheries, riparian habitat, and other restoration efforts in the delta will be coordinated to increase their effectiveness and decrease duplication. To do this, this program proposes to use a coordinated planning approach with technical workshops that are co-convened by the various funding sources. A draft model of this planning process is being developed and will be shared with other restoration funding sources to seek their input on how it can be modified to meet their needs. The current draft includes the following tasks:

- The CALFED Bay-Delta Program prepares a draft of the Ecosystem Component which is

Program.wpd September 24, 1996

## *DRAFT*

expected to be available in mid-November. This document, including its sections on phasing and implementation strategy, will form the basis for developing annual priorities. The resulting annual planning document will be reviewed by technical groups and the Ecosystem Roundtable. They can then prepare recommendations on overall guidance for the next planning cycle.

- Based on this work, technical teams can then develop the priorities for the funding cycle. These can be developed on a geographic basis for areas such as the San Joaquin and Sacramento systems and for the delta. Where there is need for a technical committee to work on a program that spans the geographic areas, one can be convened. These teams will be open to technical representatives from the agencies, the stakeholders, and the general public. Their mission will be to develop a prioritized list of problems to be addressed and goals for the projects and programs to address those problems.
- Based on the work of these technical teams, a draft of the annual workplan should be available for review by mid-winter. This draft should be peer reviewed by outside experts. It can then be reviewed by the Ecosystem Roundtable and by CALFED.
- Once the annual workplan is developed, a CALFED agency team can develop a draft RFP. This is expected to take place in early spring. This document will not be widely circulated in draft form but will be reviewed by the Ecosystem Roundtable for policy considerations.
- A complete, final RFP will be widely advertised and circulated. Proposals that are submitted will be reviewed and ranked. The list of programs and projects recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Ecosystem Roundtable for their deliberations. They will then pass the entire package along with their recommendations to the CALFED Management Team for a final decision in spring of 1997.

The Ecosystem Roundtable has been appointed by BDAC and now must organize itself so that it can take on the function of providing stakeholder input into this priority setting and project selection process. Specific products that need to be developed include a mission statement for the Roundtable and principles to guide their efforts. They must also provide their recommendations to the CALFED Management Team on the draft planning process outline.

The CALFED Management Teams expectations are that the Ecosystem Roundtable's mission is to provide advice to CALFED on the coordination of existing and anticipated state and federal habitat restoration programs. Specifically, the Ecosystem Roundtable will provide advice directly to CALFED staff on development of an annual integrated planning process, method and procedure for establishing annual and multi-year priorities, method and procedures for an integrated request for proposal (RFP) process and evaluation criteria that can be used to rate projects and programs.

**Program.wpd September 24, 1996**

## ***DRAFT***

The CALFED Management Team also expects that the chairperson of the Ecosystem Roundtable will coordinate activities with the BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group.

### ***3. Integration and Transition of Category III***

The Category III Steering Committee must complete several tasks before it can completely dissolve in favor of the Ecosystem Roundtable. The one aspect they must take on independent of the Roundtable is identification of an appropriate mechanism for the treasury and contract administration functions for the stakeholder contributions to Category III. Four alternatives are being considered. They will be discussed at the Category III Steering Committee meeting on September 26. We anticipate a final package which recommends one alternative will be ready for review by the CALFED Management Team at the October 22 meeting.

As this Restoration Coordination Program has been developed, the intent has been to use the principles from the document prepared by the Category III Steering Committee titled *Creating an Entity*. Another important task that the Category III Steering Committee must complete is to provide feedback to CALFED on whether this intent has been fulfilled and, if not, what suggestions they would offer for changes to better reflect that document.

### ***4. Restoration Fund Coordinators Meetings***

Although a joint technical process can result in improved coordination, there is a need for regular contact between the different funding sources so that they can share information on progress of different projects and programs. An early effort to convene these fund managers was well received and this task builds upon that effort. Under this program, quarterly meetings could be convened and information circulated so that each agency can be apprised of activities of others.

### ***5. Development of Public Information Tools to Increase Awareness of Restoration Efforts***

As the program develops, public outreach efforts will be needed to increase the awareness of and support for the ecosystem restoration program and to further coordination efforts with other programs. This can include techniques such placing information on the CALFED Bay-Delta home page or regular communications through newsletters or other publications.

Program.wpd September 24, 1996