

Subject: Research Program - Open Topics

Background: CALFED has made a commitment to implement ecosystem restoration through adaptive management. This commitment recognizes that there are important scientific questions that remain to be answered about the ecological processes and functions of the Bay-Delta system. In many cases, these questions must be evaluated to increase the effectiveness of ecosystem restoration actions and to focus funding and effort to the highest priority areas. To promote rigorous scientific evaluation of these questions, there is a need to seek innovative scientific research as related to the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Any scientific research should be rigorously peer reviewed, the hypothesis clearly stated, the methods documented, and the results broadly disseminated.

Proposed Action: Develop an open research program. This program could use a similar program, the Research Enhancement Program, as a model. The Research Enhancement Program was managed by the Interagency Ecological Task Force and resulted in the type of rigorous research programs which answered important scientific questions. Proposals may be submitted on any topic of interest within the Bay-Delta ecosystem; the only constraint is that a direct link must be shown to the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan. A strong scientific peer review process will be used to evaluate the proposals for funding and then to evaluate the results of the research projects.

Geographic Area: Anywhere within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta system.

Recommended Funding: \$1,000,000 per year for three years.

Coordination: Use the old Research Enhancement Program RFP as a model for this focused grant.

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