

## ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COORDINATION PROGRAM

### **Request for a Project Amendment**

While the BDAC Ecosystem Roundtable, CALFED Management Team, and CALFED Policy Group have approved the formation of an Amendment Subcommittee, the Subcommittee is not yet in place and an amendment decision is necessary at this time.

The Nature Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board, Cosumnes River Acquisitions (H307). The Nature Conservancy has requested that the original \$10,375,100 budget be increased by \$310,000. There are two reasons for this need:

1. There is a \$100,000 funding gap in one of the two properties which are already under option. Basically, TNC will be purchasing 240 acres more than anticipated when the original proposal was submitted. This additional land is a portion of the Denier Family Trust parcel with high ecological values which the seller had originally intended to withhold for future use. However, the seller changed his plan in early 1998, making it possible for TNC to add these 240 acres to the acquisition. This created a funding shortfall for TNC of \$600,000. TNC has covered most of the additional cost with a grant from the State Lands Commission (\$500,000); however, TNC has requested that CALFED provide the outstanding \$100,000. These funds would come from the Federal Bay-Delta Act.
2. TNC is requesting an additional \$210,000 to the \$5 million previously allocated for the McCormack-Williamson Tract acquisition. TNC had originally estimated the purchase price at "approximately \$5 million." The final negotiated figure, which still remains below appraised valuation, is \$5.1 million. In addition, TNC estimates \$110,000 will be spent in staff and service contract costs (attorneys fees, closing fees, Phase I toxics assessment, and appraisal fees), and is requesting that CALFED cover this overage. These funds would come from State Proposition 204 bond monies.

**Staff recommendation:** Approve the Ecosystem Roundtable's recommendation that an additional \$310,000 be awarded to the Nature Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board because:

- For the \$100,000 — The additional acreage is consistent with the CALFED ecological priorities for habitat restoration at the Cosumnes River Preserve.
- For the \$210,000 — The original funding request was only a general estimate and therefore payment of the full negotiated costs and minor associated staff and service contract costs are appropriate.