

## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### A. Project Title and Applicant Name

Project: South Napa River Tidal Slough and Floodplain Restoration Project

Applicant: City of American Canyon, Attn.: John Wankum, Public Works Director, 2185 Elliott Drive, American Canyon, CA 94589, (707) 647-4366

**B. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives.** The City of American Canyon proposes to restore existing City-owned sewage ponds to tidal wetlands, acquire and restore adjacent degraded tidal wetlands, and create a visitors' viewing area and interpretive program. Not less than 70% of the project lands would be granted in fee title to the Department of Fish and Game to manage as a wildlife area. The City would retain fee-title ownership of up to 30% of the project lands, and manage those lands in a manner compatible with CALFED objectives. The project site is unique in that it defines the historic edge of the Bay, and has a largely intact system of tidal sloughs, which are largely cut-off from tidal action by a levee at the confluence of North Slough and the Napa River. During the 1997 floods, however, a small breach in one levee was formed, thereby allowing partial tidal influence. This breach has not yet been repaired. The project will allow the restoration of tidal marsh contiguous with adjacent natural upland transition areas, creating a unique habitat for several CALFED priority species. Restoration of tidal wetlands would be achieved by removal of approximately 30 acres of City-owned sewage ponds, breaching existing levees along the Napa River, restricting cattle grazing, and creating wetlands in upland areas. The restored tidal wetlands would be a habitat for many species targeted for preservation, including delta smelt, soft bottom invertebrates, crustaceans, splittail, Chinook salmon, striped bass, marine/estuarine fishes, California clapper rail, California black rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, shorebirds, wading birds and waterfowl. The sewage pond access road and a portion of the pond levees would be modified to provide public access and a viewing/educational area. The project would allow for the restoration of the following important habitats identified by CALFED Program Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan for the Suisun Marsh/North San Francisco Bay Ecological Zone: Tidal Perennial Aquatic Habitat, Saline Emergent Wetland Habitat, Sloughs, Seasonal Wetlands, and Perennial Grasslands.

**C. Approach/Tasks/Schedule.** The project would be implemented by a coordinating committee consisting of City and agency personnel. Upon project funding, land acquisition activities would immediately be initiated. Consultants would be retained to perform preliminary project design work, conduct environmental impact analysis, and obtain required environmental permits. Actual restoration work would not begin for at least one year (in mid-1999); however, existing breaches in levees would be closely monitored and emergency modifications would be made, if necessary. A list of specific tasks appears below in item "E".

**D. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED.** Without funding from CALFED, it is unlikely that the proposed project would be implemented. Development pressures from Vallejo to the south, American Canyon to the east, and Napa from the north would encroach on the project area. Continued use of the American Canyon sewage treatment ponds would preclude restoring the area to full tidal action, since tidal action would endanger the pond levees and increase the risk of a sewage release. With CALFED funding, a unique habitat would be protected and improved, several CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) objectives would be supported, habitat for

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sensitive priority species would be restored and conserved, and the use of the existing sewage ponds would be eliminated.

**E. Budget Costs and Third-Party Impacts.** Budget costs for CALFED funding are itemized below by task. No third-party impacts are anticipated to result from the proposed project, however the breaching and/or removal of levees will be conducted in consultation with flood control agencies and adjacent property owners to ensure no adverse flooding impacts.

Phase 1 CALFED-funded Tasks		Cost per Task
1.1	Acquisition of Port of Oakland property fee title and easement transfers	\$1,400,000*
1.2	Preliminary design for levee breaches, pond removal and restoration of City property, Port of Oakland property restoration and wetland creation, and creation of viewing area and new levees.	\$40,000
1.3	Environmental constraints study.	\$15,000
1.4	CEQA / NEPA documentation.	\$250,000
1.5	Permitting.	\$40,000
1.6	Final design plans and specifications for earthwork/demolition/restoration work.	\$100,000
<b>Phase 1 Total</b>		<b>\$1,845,000</b>
Phase 2 CALFED-funded Tasks		
2.1	Breach levees, restore tidal action	\$330,000
2.2	Remove wastewater pond levees	\$380,000
2.3	Restoration of Port of Oakland upland	\$150,000
2.4	Construct viewing/educational area facilities	\$60,000
2.5	Construct new levees to protect City facilities	\$120,000
2.6	Environmental monitoring (short and long term)	\$90,000
<b>Phase 2 Total</b>		<b>\$1,130,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$2,975,000</b>

**F. Applicant Qualifications.** A highly qualified team, led by John Wankum, City of American Canyon Public Works Director, has been assembled to carry out the proposed project. An organizational chart detailing team members is attached as Figure 3. The team, consisting of City staff and technical experts from Environmental Science Associates and Hydrosience Engineers, has successfully completed projects of similar magnitude and complexity.

**G. Monitoring and Data Evaluation.** The City will take responsibility for monitoring the project, either using City personnel, consultants, or an agreement with the Department of Fish and Game. A monitoring program will be developed as an element of an adaptive management plan. Monitoring will be ongoing for the life of the project, and will initially be funded via CALFED monies, but in the long term, funded via CDFG resources.

**H. Local Support/Coordination with Other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives.** The proposed project has the support of the member organizations, including the City of American Canyon, CDFG, the Napa County Land Trust, San Francisco bay Joint Venture, and the Port of Oakland. Letters of support from these groups and Ducks Unlimited and the Coastal Conservancy are provided as attachments to this proposal. The project will be coordinated with the CDFG Napa Sonoma Marsh project located immediately south of the project site. The project is compatible with all CALFED objectives and actively supports two CALFED objectives: improvement of ecosystem quality and improved water quality for beneficial uses.