

CALFED ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS PROPOSAL

Executive Summary

II.a. Project Title and Applicant Name

Title: Cold Water Fisheries and Water Quality element for the State of the Santa Clara Basin Report

Applicant: City of San Jose - Environmental Services Department in Cooperation with the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative

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II.b. Project Description and Primary Biological and Ecological Objectives

In the summer of 1996, the Regional Board initiated the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative (Initiative). Initiative stakeholders, including local agencies, environmental and community organizations, have committed to conducting a Watershed Assessment (Assessment), preparing a State of the Watershed Report (Watershed Report), and to creating and implementing a Watershed Management Plan (Watershed Plan) for the Santa Clara Valley Basin.

The Initiative is requesting funding for components of the Watershed Plan that relate directly to CALFED program objectives. Assessment and monitoring work is proposed to furnish data for the production of the Cold Water Fisheries and Water Quality elements of the Watershed Report. These elements will be used to establish restoration priorities for the Watershed Plan.

The primary biological and ecological objectives of this work are to protect and/or restore streams, reservoirs, wetlands and the South Bay for the benefit of fish, wildlife and the community. Specific monitoring and restoration objectives will be formulated by the Initiative stakeholders. Restoration and protection priority areas will be identified during the planning process.

II.c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule

The Initiative's watershed management approach is stakeholder driven. Its elements include:

- developing a Watershed Assessment Report based on existing data (now - 12/99)
- initiating a field sampling and monitoring program to fill data gaps (3/99),
- developing a State of the Watershed Report, including management alternatives (9/99-9/00),
- preparing a Watershed Management Plan (6/00-9/01),
- implementing the Watershed Management Plan (6/00- ongoing),
- conducting periodic reviews and updates of the Assessment and Plan, and
- continuous stakeholder outreach and education.

Funding is being requested from CALFED to: identify data gaps after an assessment of existing data, develop a sampling plan, initiate a field sampling/monitoring program to fill data gaps, develop the Cold Water Fisheries and Water Quality elements of the Watershed Report, and conduct stakeholder education and outreach.

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II.d. Justification for Project Funding by CALFED

The Santa Clara Valley Basin is a critical part of the San Francisco Bay-Delta system and CALFED solution area. Several CALFED priority species (including Steelhead Trout and Fall Run Chinook Salmon) occur within the Santa Clara Basin Watershed (see Attachment A). Opportunities exist to re-establish populations of these species that previously inhabited the area. Prompted by legal actions, a collaborative effort has developed between the Initiative and the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collective Effort (FAHCE) to improve instream habitats and resolve conflicts over land use and flood control issues. FAHCE members, including the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Department of Fish & Game, federal agencies, local government, and environmental groups are collecting data that will provide a solid base for the Cold Water Fisheries component of the Assessment.

As importers, reusers, and ultimately, dischargers of Delta water, watershed residents are concerned about the quality and quantity of local fresh water supplies. The desire to maintain a reliable and clean water supply for the basin's residents and aquatic environment has vested us as stakeholders in the CALFED process. Through the Initiative, watershed residents can directly help the CALFED program realize its ecosystem restoration objectives for the Bay-Delta system.

II.e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

Local agencies have been the Initiative's primary funding sources. Expenditures thus far have amounted to about \$500,000, not including in-kind services. The Initiative is requesting \$301,000 from CALFED.

The Initiative's comprehensive stakeholder involvement process will serve to identify and avoid potential third party impacts which could arise during this process.

II.f. Applicant Qualifications

The City of San Jose - Environmental Services Department, is well known for its environmental programs and is well qualified to coordinate the preparation of this assessment.

II.g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Upon completion of the Assessment, stakeholder group members assisted by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will review its findings. If necessary, the group will recommend studies to fill data gaps. Monitoring and data evaluation procedures will be refined by the TAC in accordance with the guidelines of the Initiative's draft Data Management Plan. The Initiative will coordinate with other monitoring programs to ensure compatibility in data collection techniques for long-term data sharing, where appropriate.

II.h. Local Support/Coordination With Other Programs/Compatibility With CALFED Objectives

The goals and procedures of the Initiative are fully compatible with the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program's objectives.