

## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### May 1998 CALFED ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

a. Project Title and Applicant Name

TUOLUMNE RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION PROGRAM  
CITY OF MODESTO

b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

The goal of the City of Modesto's proposed Tuolumne River Natural Resources Education Program is to increase public awareness of, develop appreciation for, foster participation in and encourage positive use of the natural resources associated with the Tuolumne River.

c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule

The project staff, in conjunction with local collaborative agencies, will:

- ◆ Develop and distribute approximately 35,000 informational brochures to local residents by April 1999;
- ◆ Plan and conduct three overnight camp experiences for 150 youth and adults during the summer of 1999;
- ◆ Provide environmental educational field trips to include trail hikes, nature activities, fish programs and presentations on natural history to 550 youth, adults and instructors during 1998 and 1999, as appropriate to the topics presented; and
- ◆ Provide workshops in schools and at the Great Valley Museum for approximately 2,650 students in high-risk schools and schools located near the Tuolumne River, during the 1998-99 school year.

d. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

The proposed education program will: review the current status of the natural resources along the Tuolumne River; examine the uniqueness of the river area; provide discussions of riparian habitat restoration and fish spawning; present programs on how the river's natural resources contribute to the overall well being of the community; provide opportunities for high-risk youth to experience and develop a respect for natural resources existing in their own "back yard"; and, assess the pre- and post-program knowledge of participants.

e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

Total proposed budget for this project is \$91,798. The grant request is for \$83,658, with the City of Modesto contributing \$6,218 in funding from local sources.

f. Applicant Qualifications

The mission of the City of Modesto Community Services and Neighborhood Connections Department's Child Services Organization is to provide broad-based positive social and educational leisure services activities for children and families through improving access to activities by: offering innovative, safe and supervised programs at neighborhood parks, elementary schools and other community sites; coordinating outreach services with local schools, community based organizations and neighborhood groups; and, leveraging city resources through partnerships and grants.

g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Pre-and post test instruments will be used for participants in the overnight camp experience, field trips and school presentations components, to measure: increased awareness about various aspects of the Tuolumne River's riparian habitat; improved interest in stewardship and protection of natural resources; and better understanding of the relationship between daily life practices and preservation of the environment. Persons receiving the educational brochure will, at random, be asked to complete an evaluation survey to measure the effectiveness of the brochure in presenting information and increasing interest in preservation of the river.

h. Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives

Letters of support from the City of Modesto's Engineering and Transportation Department's Solid Waste Management Office Recycling Program, Modesto City Schools and the Great Valley Museum are enclosed as Attachment A to this proposal. Each of these entities currently works with the Community Services & Neighborhood Connections Department in planning and presentation of various programs, and each has pledged to collaborate in presentation of the proposed grant project.