



## Memorandum

Date: September 29, 1998

To: CALFED Management Team

From: Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

Subject: Amendment to Project 97-N14, Cosumnes Floodplain

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) project to acquire conservation lands at their Cosumnes River Preserve was recommended for approval by the Policy Group in December 1997 for \$5,375,100, and in January 1998 for an additional \$5 million. \$3.4 million in this original funding was ultimately approved from the federal Bay-Delta Act and the remaining \$6,975,100 was approved from Proposition 204.

This project was amended in July 1998 to add \$100,000 in federal funds to cover an additional part of the Denier and Park parcels and to add \$210,000 in Proposition 204 funds because the January 1998 award was an estimate of the costs associated with acquisition of a parcel known as McCormack-Williamson Tract and, after additional development, there were some additional staff costs and a slightly higher price for the property than was expected in January 1998. This brought the total cost for both the state and federal portions of the project to \$10,685,100.

The US Bureau of Reclamation has entered into a Cooperative Agreement for \$3.5 million for the Denier and Park acquisitions which have been completed. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is currently preparing a Recipient Agreement with TNC for \$7,185,100 to cover the remaining tasks, including acquisition of McCormack-Williamson Tract.

TNC has continued to work on the acquisitions involved in this project while the agreement is being written. As TNC has worked on acquisition of the McCormack-Williamson Tract, they submitted the appraisal conducted on behalf of the property owner to the Department of General Services (DGS) through the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

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**CALFED Agencies**

**California**  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board

**Federal**  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service

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to obtain DGS approval. DGS disapproved the appraisal. TNC is now pursuing a new appraisal which they will submit to DGS. However, the WCB submitted the first appraisal to DGS as a courtesy to TNC and will not be involved in the new appraisal.

In addition to the work on the appraisal, TNC is in the process of identifying potential long-term property management options for the parcel. This is especially important considering that the property is ringed by levees that are important for local flood control and so must be maintained as an interim measure. Because of the levee issue, TNC has been exploring the option of having the Department of Water Resources (DWR) take over the levee maintenance function and possibly take over the management of the property. This is likely to be well supported by adjacent landowners due to DWR's experience at levee maintenance.

Given the possibility of DWR's long-term interest in the property, some DWR staff and TNC have proposed that DWR sponsor the new appraisals going to DGS. They would also like to ensure that other activities such as surveys are acceptable to DWR. This will be discussed with Bob Potter in a briefing on September 28.

If DWR determines that they would like to be involved, CALFED would need to provide funds for DWR's involvement in the project. This memo provides approval of \$24,000 for the DWR tasks described in the attachment, contingent upon approval by Bob Potter for DWR staff to participate in this project. Under the current amendment procedures, CALFED is notifying the Management Team and the Ecosystem Roundtable of this amendment.

If you have any questions about this amendment, please contact Ms. Cindy Darling at 653-5950.

Attachment

cc: Spencer Shepherd, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Meaghan Mazzoni, The Nature Conservancy  
Curt Schmutte, DWR  
Ward Tabor, DWR  
Ecosystem Roundtable Members

Attachment

DWR Activities for Land Appraisal and Planning for The Nature Conservancy Land Acquisition of McCormack-Williamson Tract

Task 1: Appraisal to Department of General Services Cost: \$ 10,000.00

Task 2: Legal Transaction Review of various reports for land acquisition. Cost: \$ 3,500.00

Task 3: Initial Planning activities to scope an MOU, RD issues, long term management, flood control operations, restoration plans, biological assessments, liability, etc. Cost: \$ 10,500.00

**Total Cost: \$ 24,000.00**