

NINE APPROVED NEAR-TERM CATEGORY III PROJECTS

Provided below is a short description of the nine approved Category III projects. Following each description is a brief status report for each project.

Parrot-Phelen (M & T Ranch) Pumping Station Relocation. A total of \$1,550,000 of Category III monies has been approved to restore Big Chico Creek salmon and steelhead populations by: (1) relocating the M&T Ranch Pumping Station from Big Chico Creek to the Sacramento River; and (2) installing and operating a positive barrier fish screen. The current operation of the unscreened M&T Pumps are a severe impediment to protecting and restoring spring-run Chinook in Big Chico Creek. During many years, these pumps actually cause streamflow reversals during the critical downstream migration period resulting in a 100% loss of downstream migrants. Further, adult spring-run Chinook migrating up the Sacramento River have difficulty locating the mouth of Big Chico Creek when flows are reversed.

Suisun Marsh Wetland Diversion Screening Project (Phase I). A total of \$450,000 of Category III monies has been approved to reduce downstream migrant salmonid mortality and mortality of delta smelt and splittail by providing fish screens for five water diversions located in the Suisun Marsh. The total estimated cost to screen all Suisun Marsh diversions is \$30 million. It is anticipated that additional Category III monies will be requested in 1997.

Extension of the Biologically Integrated Orchard Systems (BIOS) Program. A total of \$660,000 of Category III monies has been approved to expand the BIOS program to Madera, San Joaquin, and Colusa counties. The BIOS program is a three-year information and technology transfer and pollution prevention program for eliminating use of diazinon and reducing other pesticides used in California almond production. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is also attempting to obtain additional money from almond growers to expand the BIOS program to Butte, Glenn, and Yolo counties, thereby expanding the BIOS program to all major almond growing regions adjacent to the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers.

Keswick Spawning Gravel Restoration. A total of \$13,100 of Category III monies has been approved to be made available, on an as-needed basis, to add 7,000 tons of spawning-size gravel to the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam to improve spawning success for Chinook salmon. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) already owns the gravel. Monies will be used to truck the gravel to the Keswick site and dump the gravel into the river.

Battle Creek Restoration Proposal. A total of \$500,000 of Category III monies has been approved to be set aside in a separate account for 1995 to restore anadromous fish production to Battle Creek. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), which owns hydroelectric projects throughout the Battle Creek watershed, has agreed to forego power production at one of its facilities if this request is approved, thereby returning a sufficient portion of the total natural runoff to a segment of the stream channel to produce healthy self-sustaining populations of anadromous fish. The Category III monies set aside serve to indicate the Category III workgroup's commitment to work with PG&E and CDF&G to develop a plan that restores anadromous fish populations to Battle Creek. It is anticipated that CDF&G will make additional Category III requests in 1996 and 1997 to carry out the Battle Creek restoration plan.

Riparian Restoration Sacramento River (Verona to Colusa). A total of \$400,000 of Category III monies has been approved to plant native riparian vegetation on riverside levee toe berms and riprapped waterward edges along the Sacramento River between Verona and Colusa. The project will utilize locally available vegetation, and require approximately three year post-planting maintenance, consisting mainly of watering, weeding, and monitoring. Each site is a nearly-level berm approximately forty feet wide. The project will create nearly 10 acres of riparian habitat where none presently occurs.

Butte Creek Fish Ladder/Screen Project (Durham Dam). A total of \$316,500 of Category III monies has been approved to improve the upstream and downstream passage of adult and juvenile spring-run Chinook Salmon and steelhead by constructing a new fish ladder and fish screen at Durham Dam on Butte Creek.

Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Captive Broodstock Program. A total of \$300,000 of Category III monies has been approved to provide partial support to the existing Winter-Run Chinook Captive Broodstock Program. Specifically, the Category III monies will be used to partially fund one-year of O&M expenses covering Fiscal Year 1995-1996.

Parrott-Phelan Dam Fish Ladder. A total of up to \$100,000 of Category III monies has been approved to assist upstream passage of adult spring-run Chinook salmon in Butte Creek by constructing a new fish ladder on Parrott-Phelan Dam. These monies were approved with the caveat that "Category III contributions would be minimized to the extent other monies become available to fund the Parrott-Phelan Project, including funds from the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Restoration Funds."