



**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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Date: September 18, 1996  
To: Interested Party  
From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
Subject: Request for Category III Applications

The Category III Steering Committee is seeking projects or programs that benefit spring run chinook salmon, Delta habitat, and high risk fish species and has asked the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to facilitate distribution of this package for them. These are the priorities identified for the 1996 funding cycle by the Category III Steering Committee.

This package contains information on Category III, instructions for submittal of applications, details regarding the types of projects and programs Category III is seeking and the application format. Please note the deadline for submittal for the 1996 funding cycle is October 21, 1996.

Specifically, applications, in no order of priority, are being sought to do the following:

1. Establish watershed conservancies;
2. Conduct an interdisciplinary evaluation of wetlands habitat in the Delta;
3. Conduct habitat evaluation of the Yolo Bypass;
4. Address stranding in the Deep Water Ship Channel;
5. Develop Delta habitat restoration projects;
6. Develop tools to help identify juvenile salmon by race in the Delta;
7. Evaluate the success of different life history strategies of juvenile salmon in the Delta;
8. Address unscreened diversions in Suisun Marsh;
9. Map riparian habitat along the Sacramento River and its tributaries;
10. Develop innovative measures to address fish screening issues;
11. Investigate the genetic structure and parentage of salmon in the Sacramento River and its tributaries from the Feather River upstream to Keswick Dam;
12. Improve adult fish passage at Ward's Landing;
13. Reconstruct the existing water control structure at Lindo Channel on Big Chico Creek;
14. Develop a spill contingency plan for Deer and Mill Creeks;
15. Address fish passage and screening issues at six location identified in Attachment A;

**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  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service

16. Begin restoration of Battle Creek;
17. Conduct a "state of knowledge review" concerning toxics as a factor influencing chinook salmon and other species.

Category III was established as a result of the December 15, 1994 Bay-Delta Accord. Its charge is to address non-flow factors affecting the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Specific factors identified as part of the Category III mandate include: unscreened water diversions, waste discharges and water pollution prevention, impacts due to harvest, poaching, land derived salts, exotic species, fish barriers, channel alterations, loss of riparian wetlands, and estuarine habitat degradation. The program is currently managed by the Category III Steering Committee and funding arrangements are made through the California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA). The program has approved funding for 16 projects to date which have a total cost of \$40.2 million, of which \$11.7 million was funded by the Category III Steering Committee. It is anticipated that an additional \$10 million will be available to fund Category III projects in October 1996.

In 1996, at the request of the Category III Steering Committee, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program prepared a Guidance Document to provide technical recommendations regarding projects and programs for 1996. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program recommended that the Category III 1996 funding cycle be focussed first toward projects benefiting spring run chinook salmon and second, towards Delta habitat. The Steering Committee approved the Bay-Delta Program's recommendations and added a third priority for "high risk fish species" including efforts on the San Joaquin River.

The Guidance Document was subsequently reviewed at a scientific workshop attended by technical specialists from a variety of agencies and organizations. Proceedings from that meeting are included as Attachment C. Following the workshop, a tiered approach was developed to proceed with the 1996 selection process. The following tiers were adopted: Tier 1 included projects or programs which could be funded with no additional review; Tier 2 included projects or programs where applications had already been submitted or where work had begun on the project through another funding source, but which needed to undergo a feasibility review; and Tier 3 included suggested programs or projects for which applications needed to be developed.

In July, the Steering Committee approved funding for four Tier 1 projects and directed that additional applications be solicited in an open process for the remaining projects in Tier 2 and 3, that all applications be evaluated, and a final funding package be assembled for their review.

Details regarding the types of projects and programs where applications are being solicited for funding by Category III are provided in Attachment A. Attachment B provides the format for submitting projects or programs to address needs outlined in Attachment A.

**Instructions for submittal of applications.**

Applications using the format in Attachment B should be submitted to the following address:

Ms. Nancy Quan  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
1121 L Street, Suite 900  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Six copies of the application should be submitted to the address above and they must be postmarked no later than October 21, 1996.

If you have previously submitted a application to the Category III Steering Committee, you have the option of reviewing Attachment A and revising your application as needed to follow the new format included in Attachment B and resubmitting your application by the deadline. However, if you do not wish to revise your application, but are still interested in seeking funding from Category III for your original application, please inform Ms. Quan in writing, postmarked by October 21, 1996.

**Process for considering applications**

The following criteria, in no particular order, will be considered in reviewing applications:

- a. Demonstrated understanding of the problem statement (as expressed in the enclosed paper, Restoring Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Populations: Technical Workshop to Identify Candidate Programs and Projects for Category III Funding, and Attachment A);
- b. Biological benefits of the program or projects;
- c. Ability/expertise to carry out such projects/programs, as demonstrated through previous assignments;
- d. Specific expertise relevant to the goals;
- e. Applicant's capacity to perform the work as specified within the stated time frame;
- f. Responsiveness to the scope of work;
- g. Degree to which application is supported by local partners, including cost sharing with other funding sources;
- h. Proposed total cost;
- i. Degree to which approach is cost effective, innovative, and can inform future efforts;
- j. Quality and completeness of the monitoring plan for the project;

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- k. Ecosystem and synergistic benefits, and;
- l. Effectiveness as a stand-alone project.

Applications will be acknowledged by postcard when they are received. They will be ranked by a team created by the Category III Steering Committee. Final interviews will be held for short-listed applications. We anticipate that selection of projects for funding will be completed by mid-November, 1996.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cindy Darling at (916) 657-2666.

Enclosures