



**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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July 30, 1998

The Honorable K. Maurice Johannessen  
Chair, Senate Select Committee on CALFED  
State Capitol, Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Johannessen:

This is in response to your letter of June 30, 1998, requesting information for the Select Committee. This response reiterates each request, then follows with our reply.

1. "A list including detailed description of all projects related to the ERPP and under the Ecosystem Roundtable for review and funding."

Near-term ecosystem restoration funding has been underway since 1995. These near-term ecosystem restoration projects result from the December 1994 Bay-Delta Accord ("Principles for Agreement on Bay-Delta Standards") between the State and Federal governments and stakeholder groups. I have enclosed a copy of the Accord for your review.

Prior to 1997, 38 ecosystem restoration projects were selected by a committee of stakeholders and financed with stakeholder funds. In 1997, CALFED agencies selected 71 projects for funding, using a combination of State, Federal, and stakeholder funds. We have enclosed a packet of material describing these 71 ecosystem restoration projects. So far in 1998, CALFED agencies have selected an additional 9 projects for funding. We have enclosed a table summarizing all 80 ecosystem restoration projects selected for funding by CALFED agencies during 1997 and 1998. Information packets for the 1998 selections are still in development.

In addition, we have received another 181 proposals requesting funding. These proposals were submitted in response to a Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) that we released in May 1998. As described in the PSP, evaluation of these proposals will follow a multi-step process, consisting of review by Technical Review Panels, review by an Integration Panel, review by the Ecosystem Roundtable, review by the Bay-Delta

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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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Advisory Council, and recommendations by CALFED agencies. As further noted in the PSP, these proposals will become public records upon completion of the review by the Integration Panel.

I believe additional background information is needed to put this information into context. In brief, CALFED has two related work activities underway regarding ecosystem restoration. The first work activity is implementation of near-term ecosystem restoration projects. These near-term ecosystem restoration projects result from the December 1994 agreement (the Bay-Delta Accord) between the State and Federal governments and stakeholder groups. These are called "Category III" projects. As noted above, these projects are financed from a combination of Federal, State, and stakeholder funds. The State financing comes from part of Proposition 204 (1996). The projects are selected through a competitive, objective, technically-based process that includes stakeholder input through the Ecosystem Roundtable and the Bay-Delta Advisory Council and final recommendations by the CALFED agencies. The final decisions are made by the Secretary for Resources for State funds and the Secretary of the Interior for Federal funds.

The second work activity is development of a long-term, integrated plan for the Bay-Delta Estuary and its watershed. This long-term, integrated plan is presented in our draft programmatic environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (PEIS/EIR).

One part of this long-term, integrated plan is the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, and it will describe targets and goals for the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Achievement of these targets and goals will help restore ecological processes that have been disrupted by various factors such as mining, water diversions, and non-native species. The plan will also describe projects that will help meet those targets and goals. The plan will not specify which agency will carry out any specific project. No CALFED ecosystem restoration project will go forward without the appropriate specific level of review required by the California Environmental Quality Act or the National Environmental Policy Act.

CALFED agencies rely on stakeholder advice and comment in the implementation of the Category III program and in the development of the ERPP. The Ecosystem Roundtable is a group of representatives from water agencies, environmental organizations, and other interested parties that have an interest in the successful implementation of ecosystem restoration projects. Advice from the Ecosystem Roundtable helps ensure that Category III projects are consistent with the overall goals of the ERPP. This advice also helps ensure that Category III projects will not prejudice

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the agencies' decisions on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program preferred alternative. The Ecosystem Roundtable has also addressed many other concerns, such as local involvement in projects and evaluation of local benefits and impacts from projects.

In a parenthetical note, you observe that a previous, similar request resulted in a map and a list of projects but no details on locations, acreages, or costs of projects. I am aware of a March 23, 1998 request for a list of Category III projects and associated environmental documentation. I am not aware of a request for project locations, acreages, or costs. For the Select Committee's information, I have enclosed a copy of the March 23 request and the April 27, 1998, response.

2. "As the agency tasked with the coordination of the affiliated State and Federal agencies supporting the CALFED mission, a detailed listing of all habitat restoration, acquisition, and species improvement projects undertaken by agencies participating in CALFED, e.g. BOR, DWR, California Department of Fish and Game, etc."

As part of overall Program development CALFED is now developing a geographic information system (GIS) that will include information on habitat restoration, acquisition and species improvement projects. This GIS will focus on the Bay-Delta ecosystem and will include projects that help achieve the ERPP goals and targets. When completed this will be a valuable tool to track Program progress and land use changes in the valley.

Currently the most extensive inventory of ecological restoration projects throughout California is maintained by the University of California at Davis. This inventory is called the California Ecological Restoration Project Inventory (CERPI), and it is available on the Internet at <http://endeavor.des.ucdavis.edu/cerpi>. For the Committee's review, we have enclosed the project listing from the Inventory.

CALFED has the mission of developing a long-term plan to "fix" the Bay-Delta system. Fifteen state and federal agencies are coordinating in this effort. However, each agency is continuing to administer its statutory responsibility in ongoing programs and efforts. As such, CALFED does not have a role in an individual agency's responsibility for compliance with an existing mitigation requirement (as an example). The CALFED GIS system combined with the existing CERPI system will provide a good assessment of overall activities.

3. "Specific information identifying the exact location and acreage of all public property CALFED has identified and intends to use to comply with the ERPP goals."

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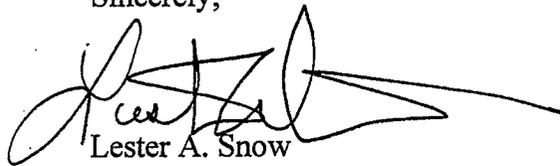
As mentioned above, the ERPP is a component element of an integrated Bay-Delta Program, and we are working on a programmatic environmental analysis of the Program. CALFED agencies are aware of the potential effects of land use changes that would accompany ecosystem restoration projects proposed in the ERPP. CALFED agencies are examining methods to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those effects. One method is use of public property before use of private property. CALFED agencies have not yet identified which parcels of public property would be most suitable for ecosystem restoration projects.

4. "Verify that the Senate Select Committee on CALFED is on all your mailing lists."

We have verified that each of our mailing lists contains the Capitol address of the Chair of the Select Committee.

I hope the Committee finds this information to be helpful. If you have further questions on this material, please call me at (916) 657-2666 or Daniel McCarroll, Legislative Coordinator, at (916) 653-5704.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

cc: Sen. Jim Costa  
Sen. Dede Alpert  
Sen. David Kelley  
Sen. Richard Rainey  
Sen. Hilda Solis

Enclosures

December 1994 Bay-Delta Accord ("Principles for Agreement on Bay-Delta Standards")  
Packet describing funded Category III projects selected in 1997  
Restoration Coordination Projects (table summarizing Category III projects selected in 1997 and 1998)  
Letters of March 23 and April 27, 1998  
California Ecological Restoration Project Inventory project list  
July 1994 Framework Agreement