

March 12, 1999

Ms. Nedra Stallone
U.S. Geological Survey
Office of Acquisition and Federal Assistance, MS 205A
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Ms. Stallone:

This serves as a letter of support from the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) for a proposal submitted to you for Program Announcement 99HQPA0004 by the Information Center for the Environment (ICE) at the University of California, Davis. ICE is requesting funds to develop methods and procedures to integrate two sources of existing 1:24,000-scale hydrography data into the national framework data layer, the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD). A total of 44 quads that intersect two pilot USGS Cataloging Units in California (18040013 and 18020113) will be integrated.

CALFED (<http://calfed.ca.gov>) is a consortium of state and federal agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. The CALFED mission is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. The solution area for the CALFED Program encompasses much of California, including essentially the entire Bay-Delta watershed.

Federal CALFED agencies include U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (a major contributor of data for the ICE proposal), U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service (also a contributor of data for the ICE proposal), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Western Area Power Administration. State agencies include the California Resources Agency, CA Department of Fish and Game, CA Department of Water Resources, CA Environmental Protection Agency, State Water Resources Control Board, and CA Department of Food and Agriculture.

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

Ms. Stallone

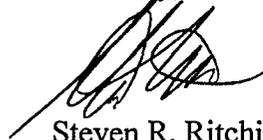
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The methods, procedures and data that would come out of ICE's effort, if funded, would benefit several of the CALFED agencies, if not immediately and directly, then certainly over the long-term. Many of the CALFED agencies rely on hydrographic data to conduct their business. Developing higher resolution hydrography (or at least some methods and standards to develop the information) in the public domain, nested within the 1:100,000-scale NHD data, will not only benefit the CALFED agencies but the public as well. This proposal is supported directly by two of CALFED's agencies and is an example of a collaborative effort.

If ICE's proposal is selected for funding, we will support ICE's efforts by dedicating staff time to assist where possible.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Ritchie
Chief Deputy Director

cc: Gary Darling, California Resources Agency
Karen Willett, UC Davis, Information Center for the Environment
Charles Johnson, USBR