House Appropriations Committee

Energy & Water Development Subcommittee

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

Appropriation, 1999	$33,130,000
Budget Estimate, 2000	47,248,000
Recommended, 2000	47,248,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 1999	+14,118,000
Budget Estimate, 2000	

The Central Valley Project Restoration Fund was authorized in Title 34 of Public Law 102-575, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. This Fund was established to provide funding from project beneficiaries for habitat restoration, improvement and acquisition, and other fish and wildlife restoration activities in the Central Valley Project area of California. Revenues are derived from payments by project beneficiaries and from donations. Payments from project beneficiaries include several required by the Act (Friant Division surcharges, higher charges on water transferred to non-CVP users, and tiered water prices) and, to the extent required in appropriations Acts, additional annual mitigation and restoration payments.

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Appropriation, 1999	$75,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2000	90,000,000
Recommended, 2000	75,000,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 1999	
Budget Estimate, 2000	−15,000,000

The California Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration account funds the Federal share of ecosystem restoration and other activities being developed for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta by a State and Federal partnership (CALFED). Federal participation in this program was authorized in the California Bay-Delta Environmental and Water Security Act enacted in the fall of 1996. That Act authorizes the appropriation of $143,000,000 for ecosystem restoration activities in each of fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000. The funds appropriated in this account are transferred to participating Federal agencies based on a program recommended by the CALFED group and approved by the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with the participating agencies.

Of the $75,000,000 recommended for fiscal year 2000, $45,000,000 is for continued ecosystem restoration activities, and $30,000,000 is for other authorized purposes, such as projects to promote or develop water use efficiency, water quality, groundwater storage, surface storage, levees, conveyance systems and watershed management.

The Committee is extremely concerned about the use of Federal funds to acquire and retire productive lands in the Central Valley of California. Specifically, the Committee recognizes that land acquisition and changes in land use could have enormous impacts on the social character, tax base and economic development of communities in northern California. Consequently, the Committee directs that Bay-Delta funds shall not be used for land and water right acquisitions without proper consideration to, and mitigation of, the economic impacts associated with such acquisitions.