



SACRAMENTO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
65 Quinta Court, Suite C, Sacramento, California 95823

July 28, 1997

To: CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office

Subject: Category III Grant Proposal

As required, attached are 10 copies of a Category III Grant proposal submitted by Sacramento County Resource Conservation Districts. If you have any questions, please direct them to this office. Thank you.

MARK PARSON
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

DWR WAREHOUSE

97 JUL 28 PM 1:30

CALFED



BAY-DELTA

PROGRAM

1997 Category III

Proposal

COSUMNES RIVER TASK FORCE

Coordinated Resource Planning Support

Submitted By:

Florin Resource Conservation District
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Lower Cosumnes Resource Conservation District

I. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

a. **Title:** COSUMNES RIVER TASK FORCE – Coordinated Resource Planning Support
Submitters: Florin Resource Conservation District
Lower Cosumnes Resource Conservation District
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

b. **Project Description:** The primary purpose of the Cosumnes River Task Forces is to develop a CRMP type process by which stakeholders can identify resource concerns, plan and implement improvements, and collaborate on common goals within the Cosumnes River watershed. In response to problems associated with flood impacts along the river, the Governors office asked the *County of Sacramento and the Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District* to form a task force to examine issues and potential long-term solutions. Stakeholders, including landowners and various ~~local~~, state and federal agencies, recognize that any potential solutions within the Cosumnes River watershed must address factors beyond immediate impacts associated with flooding. The direction from the Governors office was originally embodied in Senate Bill 9, which potentially provided funding for levee repair along with the condition that long term planning be explored. Stakeholders agree that in order to address flood impacts, the Task Force should also examine other resource issues such as land use; infrastructure; water quality and supply; riparian and terrestrial wildlife habitats; channel management including levee, floodway, easement, non-structural options, and other stream management issues; rare and endangered species (especially anadromous habitat issues); *grant and cost-sharing issues*; and CALFED issues. An educational component would serve to help stakeholders understand the function and complex scientific issues regarding resource management.

The overall objective is to provide a forum for discussion that will lead to collaborative partnerships and opportunities for resource improvement through a watershed-wide planning process. The Category III grant would be utilized to fund a coordinator position and funds needed to facilitate a Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) process. A primary goal is to complete the process with development of an implementation plan that can be used by stakeholders. The Task Force is to be chaired by a Sacramento County Supervisor.

c. **Approach/Tasks/Schedule:** It is the intent of the proponents to utilize a Coordinated Resource Management Approach to planning, which utilize collaborative concepts such participation, facilitation, goal setting, etc. Planned two-year schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| - Stakeholders Organizational Meetings | September - 1997 |
| - Steering or Executive Committee Meetings | October/November - 1997 |
| - Goal/Objectives Meetings | January-March 1998 |
| - Issues/Concerns Development | May-July - 1998 |
| - Alternative Solutions Development | September-November - 1998 |
| - Final Watershed Plan Decisions | January-March - 1999 |
| - Publish Plan Document | May-July - 1999 |

The Watershed Coordinator would be responsible for coordination of meetings; *notification of all stakeholders; arraigning for facilities, presenters, and other logistical duties; follow-up for assigned tasks; agenda's; minutes; plan document formation and editing; and other duties associated with a planning process such as this.* Meetings would be chaired by a Supervisor from Sacramento County or an approved alternate. The overall grant in support of this process would be coordinated by Sacramento County Resource Conservation Districts who would also provide logistical support.

II. TITLE PAGE

a. COSUMNES RIVER TASK FORCE - Coordinated Resource Planning

b. Name of Applicant: Florin Resource Conservation District
Lower Cosumnes Resource Conservation District
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

Contact: Mark Parson, District Conservationist
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Sacramento, California 95823
Voice: 916-682-7844
Fax: 916-689-8871
Email: mparson@ca.nrcs.usda.gov

c. Type of Organization and Tax Status:
Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) are legal subdivisions of the State of California authorized by Division 9 of the Public Resources Code. By Government Code, RCDs are considered non-profit tax-exempt organizations. RCDs are authorized to carry out resource management plans in cooperation with landowners, organizations and agencies. RCDs may contract, hire employees, purchase land and equipment, and other functions.

d. Tax Identification Numbers: Florin RCD: - 932-0272-9
Lower Cosumnes RCD - 932-0273-7
Sloughhouse RCD - 944-0599-0

e. Contact Person: Same as above

f. Potential Partners/Collaborators in Project: (These individuals, organizations, or other stakeholders have expressed an interest in participating, but as yet have not formally met. The primary purpose of this grant and task of the Coordinator is to assist stakeholders define and pursue a formal planning process.)

Landowners in the Cosumnes River Watershed
County of Sacramento, Board of Supervisors & various departments
CA Department of Water Resources
CA Department of Fish & Game
CA Department of Forestry & Fire Protection
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Cooperative Extension Service
USDI Fish & Wildlife Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
The Nature Conservancy

g. RFP Project Group: GROUP 3 - PLANNING

Seasonal Wetland Habitat: Efforts to manage flooding have a direct impact upon wetland habitat along the Cosumnes. Presently, there are already efforts being promoted and funded by various State and Federal agencies that provide incentives to protect, enhance and create new wetlands within the watershed. These programs may provide valuable assistance and options to consider that best be implemented through a coordinated approach. Present efforts are not being offered or implemented using any watershed wide plan or strategy. The Cosumnes River Task Force plan would help provide the guidance needed to assure these programs would be implemented in a responsible and efficient manner.

Instream Aquatic Habitat:

Shaded Stream Aquatic Habitat:

North Delta Agricultural Wetlands & Perennial Grasslands:

All these habitat types exist in various locations, quantity and quality within the Cosumnes River watershed. A watershed wide management plan or strategy would help identify resource needs and opportunities for collaborative solutions using available technical and financial assistance from participating agencies and organizations. Here again, State and Federal agencies offer programs to protect, enhance and create aquatic and wetland habitat without the benefit of an overall watershed plan. The Cosumnes River Task Force plan would again provide the guidance needed to assure these programs would be implemented in a responsible and efficient manner.

PRIORITY SPECIES OR POPULATIONS

Chinook Salmon, Steelhead Trout: The Cosumnes River is known historically and presently as providing habitat for various species and 'runs' of Chinook Salmon, Steelhead Trout and other fish species. As mentioned earlier, the Cosumnes is one of the last free flowing streams in California and as such is potentially of great importance to restoration of endangered and threatened anadromous fish. It is also recognized that both transport habitat and upstream spawning areas have over time been negatively impacted. Towards the goal of improving habitat for these species and support of the CALFED mission, a Coordinated Resource Management Plan for the Cosumnes River watershed would only improve the probability for natural resource and land use measures that will benefit this important fishery.

STRESSORS

1. Alteration of Flows and Other Effects of Water Management Hydrograph Alterations: Over time significant changes have taken place throughout the watershed that impact natural flow in and around the Cosumnes River watershed. Besides the obvious impact of channelization by levees, there are many land use changes and infrastructure that have and continue to develop. Although the stream was managed initially to provide for development of agricultural land, flood impact did not result in the kind of widespread economic damage experienced during today's events. The addition of urban and suburban land uses throughout the watershed has added a new dimension to the equation of watershed management. Any unmanaged high flow event poses potentially significant economic impact to not only agriculture, but also public infrastructure and many private homes. This issue alone will be a significant challenge to the Task Force and resource planners. Of interest to the mission of this project are specific impacts such as when the Cosumnes River outflow slows during flood events and causes flooding or backs up into the Morrison-Laguna Creek system. Also of interest is how changes and management in this watershed will impact and influence water transference throughout the Bay-Delta.

d. **Background and Biological/Technical Justification:**

The project is essentially a new planning effort similar to CRMP or the approach used by Conservancies and watershed groups throughout the state. As stated previously, land users and managers in the Cosumnes River watershed face many of the same kinds of environmental challenges others have. The proponents anticipate that the proposed planning effort will meet with the same kind of success similar groups have embarked upon. The only alternative approach is essentially status quo resulting in continued fragmented discussion and single purpose solutions to resource concerns. Landowners, agencies and special interest organizations can no longer afford this approach. A cooperative planning effort results in a better understanding of divergent viewpoints and for identified common goals can assist in the acceptance and implementation of measures and strategies for multiple partners. Coordinated planning does not guarantee, but provides opportunity for collaborative projects consistent with the CALFED mission. The proponents and many landowners also recognize that this effort is more effective and acceptable than the alternative of potential regulatory action.

e. **Proposed Scope of Work:**

The proposed scope of work does not involve any project implementation. The tasks to be completed are listed in I. Executive Summary, Item c. Progress reports will be provided by the proponents in the form of a quarterly newsletter.

f. **Monitoring and Data Evaluation:**

There is significant incentive for participation and success for completion of the project. As mentioned, the Governor's office has encouraged development of the Task Force, landowners have expressed interest in finding long term solutions for concerns such as flooding and various agencies and organizations are offering technical assistance and financial incentives to implement resource related projects. It is anticipated that the planning effort will result in defined goals, objectives, alternative solutions, needs for further study, and some kind of monitoring plan to evaluate any planned implementation. Meanwhile the planning process itself can be monitored using scheduled tasks and milestones

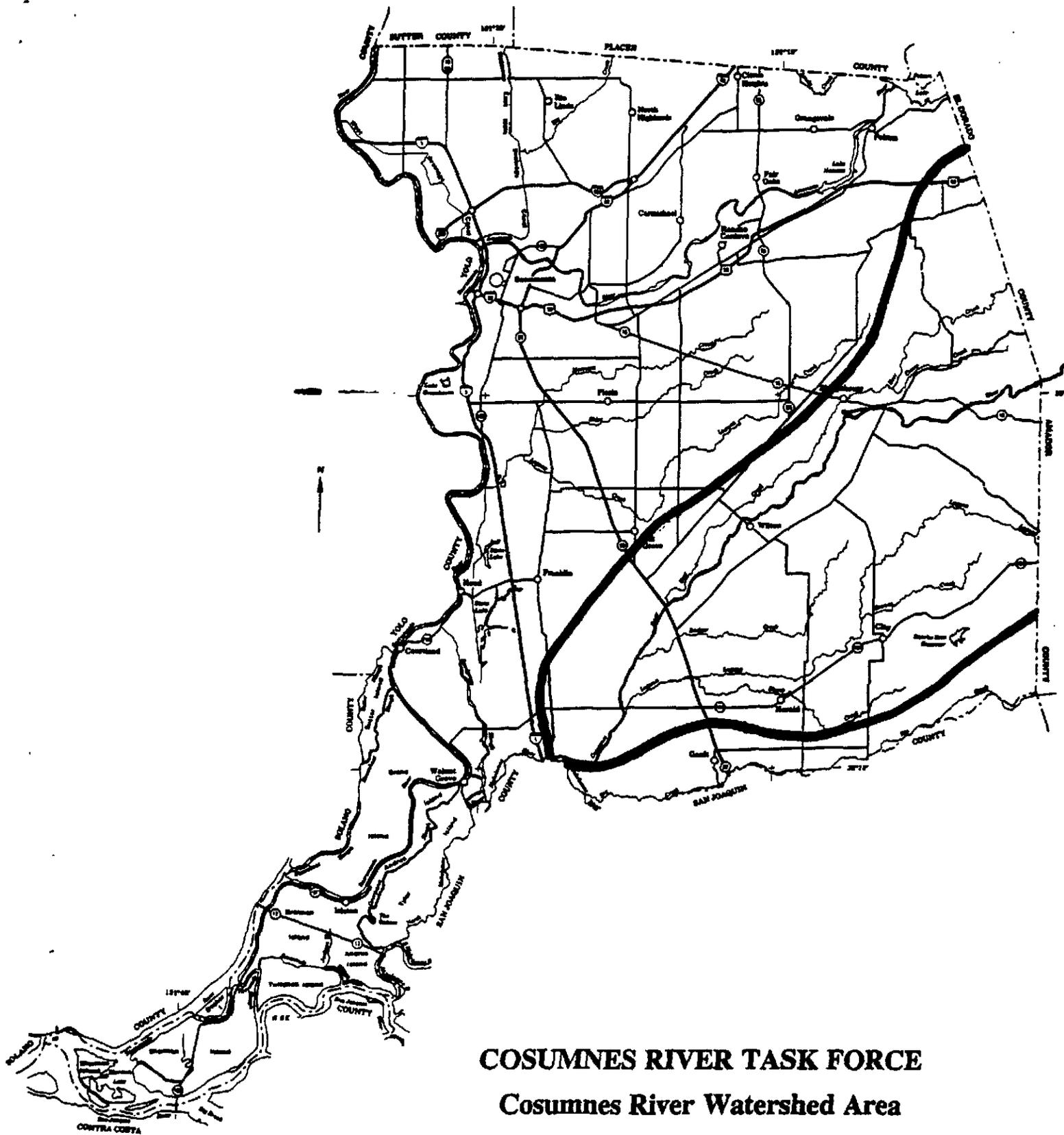
g. **Implementability:**

The project does not interfere with any ongoing study, program or agency effort and has no statutory authority to regulate. As such the program itself will comply with existing laws and regulations. However, the process may eventually promote use of practices, programs or other implementation that may require individuals, groups or agencies to need permits or other environmental review. The process itself will not implement any program or regulated activity, but may encourage such activity. The proponents anticipate the process will be in compliance with existing laws and regulations.

Project Phase And Task	Direct Salary & Benefits	Quarterly Newsletter Publishing Mailing & Final Report	Direct RCD Support (copies, mailing etc.)	In Kind Contributions (RCD Admin)	Miscellaneous: Meeting Room (12 Meetings at \$100/meeting)	Total Cost
<u>Year 2:</u>	\$30,000	\$3,500	\$1000	\$3,500	\$1,200	\$39,200
1. Agenda – News Release for all meetings						
2. Minutes for all meetings						
3. Prepare plan document, edit, solicit agency & participant contributions						
4. Alternative Solution Meetings 9-11/98						
5. Watershed Plan Decisions 1-3/99						
6. 4 Quarterly Newsletters						
7. Final Report Document 5-7/99						
Total Costs	\$60,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$7,000	\$2,400	\$77,400

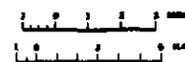
Total Category III Grant Funds Requested: \$68,400.00
 Total Direct RCD Support Funds: \$ 2,000.00
 Total RCD In-Kind Contribution: \$ 7,000.00

 Total Project Cost: \$77,400.00



COSUMNES RIVER TASK FORCE
Cosumnes River Watershed Area
1997 Category III Proposal

Florin Resource Conservation District
Sloughouse Resource Conservation District
Lower Cosumnes Resource Conservation District



0	1	2	3	4	5
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