

F1-111



TEHAMA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2 Sutter Street, Suite D, Red Bluff, California 96080
916-527-4231 Fax: 916-527-7451

DWR WAREHOUSE
97 JUL 28 PM 1:35

July 25, 1997

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Category III Proposal

Please accept application from the Tehama County Resource Conservation District for funding under the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, 1997 Category III, Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs.

Restoration of accelerated erosion conditions in two watersheds in our District continues to be a priority for action. Enclosed are ten (10) copies of application to facilitate work in those watersheds.

Thank you for giving your full attention to our application. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program in restoration activities in the near future.

Sincerely,

ERNEST E. WHITE, President
Tehama County Resource Conservation District

enclosures: ten (10) applications

FI-111

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DWR WAREHOUSE

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REEDS CREEK / RED BANK CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT
Tehama County Resource Conservation District

Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives:

Formation of a landowner/stakeholder organization could significantly benefit future restoration activities in the Reeds Creek (RC) and Red Bank Creek (RBC) watersheds. The historic independence of the ranching and farming way of life lends more credibility to the 'show me' approach than to the 'I'm with the government and I'm here to help you' approach to change. A landowner organization, promoting improved management practices and land uses sharing results of demonstration projects with members, is more likely to succeed than previous one-on-one attempts to affect change within the watersheds.

The purpose of this request for funding for a two year project is to develop a landowner/stakeholder group, in the form of a watershed conservancy effort, for the RC and RBC watersheds. Coordination of such an effort requires either intense dedication on the part of several landowner volunteers or the support of staff to assist landowners with formation of a conservancy effort. Although accelerated erosion has been previously documented, no organized effort has been developed to address the causes watershed wide. The conservancy effort would work to resolve accelerated erosion issues.

The geology of the two watersheds and some current land uses lead to significant annual erosion within the basins. Erosion was documented by the California Department of Water Resources in their 1991 Erosion Study of the Reeds Creek watershed, citing that stream turbidities are abnormally high during winter storm flows, and that soil loss was approximately 1.5 to 2 times the geologic rate. In 1986, within one of the subbasins of Reeds Creek, runoff turbidity was measured in excess of 2,300 Nethelometer Turbidity Units(NTUs) [note the following standards: 10 NTUs maximum allowable for drinking water, 30 NTUs for fishability]. The significance of such turbidity levels could be substantial if rain events, in the fall when some soils are bare of vegetation, coincide with salmon spawning in the river.

Approach/Tasks/Schedule:

Within 18 months a broad based landowner organization will be formed. The formation of a group of landowners will require a recognition of the interests of ranchers/farmers (upper/middle reaches RC and RBC) and the town residents (lower reach RC-urbanized, RBC- somewhat urbanized). The interests will not be the same, but the interrelationship of the various interests will likely become obvious upon study of the resource issues and concerns. Specific tasks and schedule of activities are discussed on page 7.

Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED:

The accelerated erosion of the watersheds has a cumulative impact on the entire Sacramento River system. Fine sediment deposition as a result of increased sediment loads has a negative impact on the function of the two creeks as well as the same affect on the Sacramento River system. CALFED's recognition of Channel Form Changes should consider the impact of west side streams on the overall big picture. Although documentation of historic salmon runs is difficult for the two streams, locals at the 3-5 mile section of Reeds Creek claim salmon sightings, including during the past year.

Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts:

Costs of the project will be matched by local in-kind support from local government, schools and agencies. Other support in the form of demonstration projects will likely be provided by EPA 319 (h) funding in the near future, which is discussed further on page 6.

Beneficial third party impacts would accrue downstream as a result of less sediment, within the watersheds and into the Sacramento River system. Reduction of sediment build up on spawning gravels in the Sacramento River system would be a direct benefit. Restoration of functioning creek systems would also have many potential benefits to the entire food chain within the stream/river systems. In the RC watershed reduced sediment could result in less deposition at the mouth of the creek (noted as aggravating flooding problems in the City of Red Bluff).

Applicant Qualifications:

The Tehama County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a tax exempt Special District under Public Law Division 9 with previous successful experience administering grant funded projects: AmeriCorps Watershed Project 1995-1996 (\$40,000.00+) and US Forest Service, Stewardship Incentive Program 1992 (approx. \$5,000.00).

Monitoring and Data Evaluation:

Success of this project will be measured by number of restoration projects, participation of interested landowners and actual formation of a conservancy effort. Compilation and analysis of existing data will be utilized to guide the efforts of the conservancy group. The long term affect of the project, its impact on reducing sediment will be measured by other agencies i.e. DWR in future years. It may take several years for the sediment load in the system to clear out so actual effect can be measured.

Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED objectives:

Landowners contacted to date have indicated interest in the concept of a watershed wide organization and are concerned about the resource issues as well as the economic issues of the watersheds. Local support has been indicated by the City of Red Bluff, local schools both elementary and secondary, County of Tehama staff, numerous agencies through attendance at several steering/planning meetings. Watershed wide planning efforts are consistent with CALFED objectives to change stressors and ultimately to increase the naturally occurring processes of the watersheds and their riparian areas.

II. TITLE PAGE

REEDS CREEK / RED BANK CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT

Tehama County Resource Conservation District

Ernest E. White, President

2 Sutter Street, Suite D

Red Bluff, CA 96080

(916)527-4231 phone

(916)527-7451 fax

email contact: lbranham@ca.nrcs.usda.gov

Type of organization and cite tax status:

Special District under Public Law Division 9, tax exempt

Tax Identification Number:

Technical Contact Person:

Larry Branham, District Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service

2 Sutter Street, Suite D

Red Bluff, CA 96080

(916)527-4231

Participants/Collaborators in Implementation:

Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, CA DF&G, CA DWR, California State University-Chico, City of Red Bluff, US Department of Ag-Cooperative Extension, County of Tehama - Various Departments, Job Training Center of Tehama County, Red Bluff Elementary School District, Red Bluff Joint Union High School District, Reeds Creek School, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Shasta College, Tehama County Department of Education, Tehama County AmeriCorps Watershed Project, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USFS, US F&WS,

RFP Project Group Type: Group 3, Other Services

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

a. Project Description and Approach:

The project will fund a Watershed Coordinator position, who will:

1. facilitate establishment of landowner/stakeholder organization for the Reeds Creek (RC) and Red Bank Creek (RBC) Watershed Project.
2. collect existing information on the causes of current conditions and possible effective solutions for the two watersheds from various technical experts and individuals. As the watersheds are typical of many west side tributaries in the Sacramento Valley, geological formations, climate and biotic features, the information gathered will provide valuable input to the overall Sacramento River Watershed.
3. coordinate educational opportunities and events for both the general public and for school age children/schools regarding the processes of the watersheds where they live, work and play.
4. work for the on-going restoration of RC and RBC watersheds and their riparian environments with landowners, residents and stakeholders through planning processes utilizing proactive restoration projects and encouragement of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on lands throughout the watersheds.

Key to organizational efforts will be involvement of landowners and partnerships with stakeholders. Within 18 months a broad based landowner organization will be formed. Ownership of a project usually insures it's success, thus involvement from the start up will be encouraged.

Consideration of the unique features of the RC watershed that will have significant impact on the organization of a landowners/stakeholders group must be given. The upper and middle reaches of the watershed have historically been utilized for cattle ranching and dry land farming, often in large holdings, passed down through generations of family members. Today, many of the activities continue, although development is moving into the middle reaches in the form of small parcel splits and related housing. The lower reach of RC encompasses much of the City of Red Bluff, which has expanded west and east of the Sacramento River.

The interests of the landowners in the upper reaches may well be quite different than the interests of those owning properties in the lower reach of the drainage. Recent flooding in the lower reaches has caused damage to housing units, and siltation at the mouth of RC has been noted as aggravating the flood events. Siltation appears to be accelerated by the affect of Lake Red Bluff, when the Red Bluff Diversion Dam is closed. Recent observations of silt deposits indicate that even with the gates of the Diversion Dam open siltation continues to build up at the mouth of RC. Manmade modifications at the mouth of the creek may additionally affect siltation deposits.

The largest landowner, in the Reeds Creek drainage, with holdings in excess of one third (1/3) of the entire watershed, indicated interest to be involved in restoration activities and to share demonstration project areas with school age children and other landowners. The ranch could provide an excellent opportunity for students to undertake long term studies and to monitor the effect of various management practices on an operating cattle ranch i.e. vegetation response following adjustments to grazing management. Demonstration projects are a valuable tool to show first hand how management changes can result in positive affects on the land.

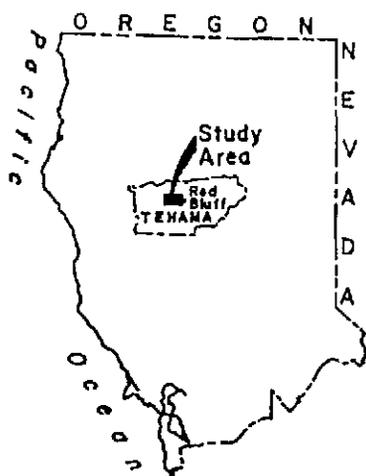
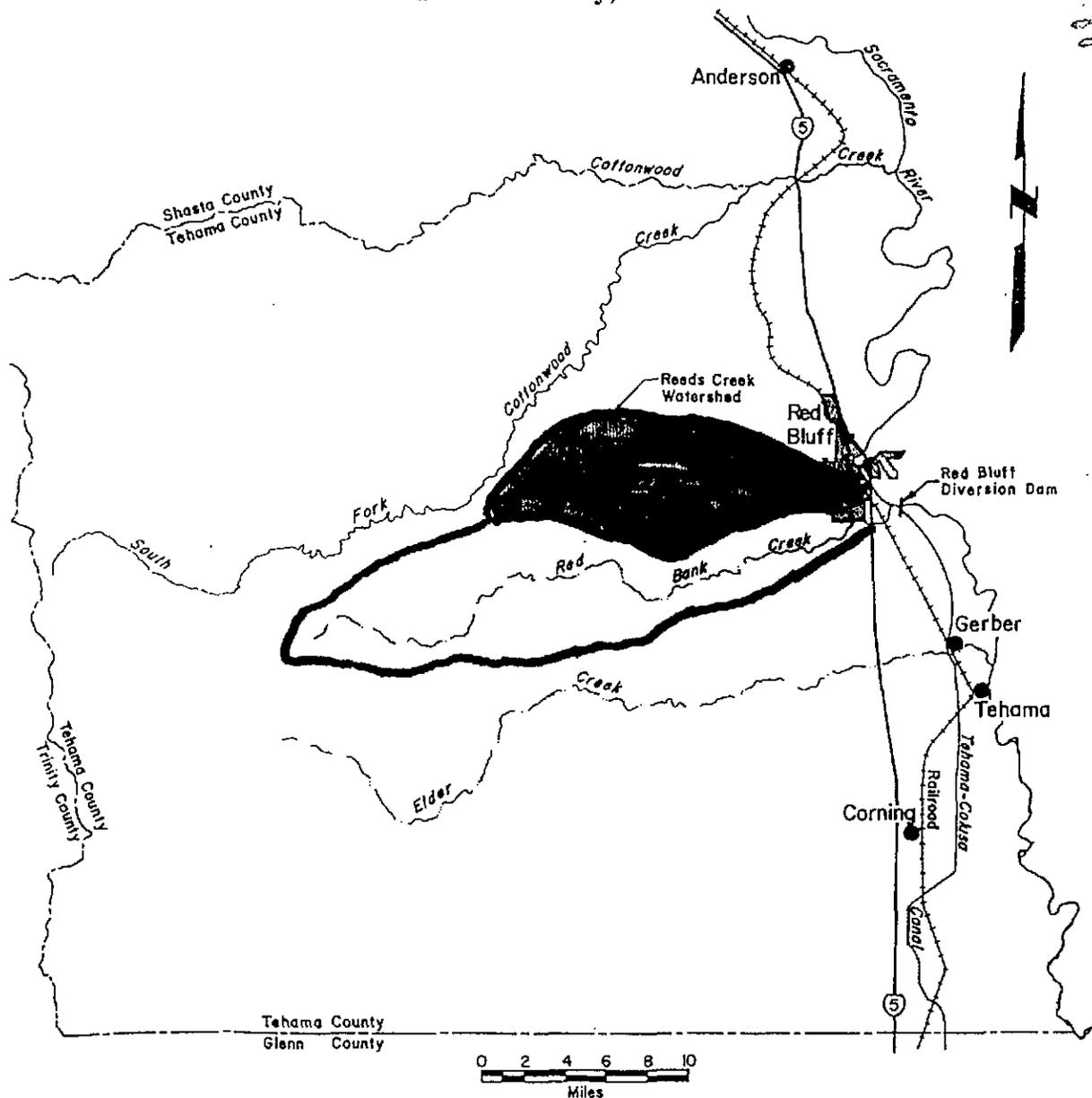
b. Location and/or geographic boundaries of project.

Reeds Creek and Red Bank Creek watersheds are both located within Tehama County, California.

Reeds Creek Watershed approximately 48,000 acres.

Red Bank Creek Watershed approximately 70,750 acres. Map included next page.

Map of Reeds Creek / Red Bank Creek Watershed Project Tehama County, California



Red Bank Creek Watershed
Reeds Creek Watershed

c. Expected benefit(s)

By decreasing the amount and source of accelerated erosion in the RC and RBC watershed, improvements to the ecological functions of the land and riparian areas will occur. As an example, the eventual removal of tamarisk in the RBC riparian areas will aid to bring that system back to a naturally functioning riparian area, providing habitat and assisting the return of native species.

Numerous benefits will be related to reduction of accelerated erosion. Since the major land use is grazing, management changes that ultimately reduce accelerated erosion will likely increase riparian vegetation, result in shaded stream corridors and reduction in water temperatures, increase aquatic and amphibian life, and increase forage for large animals. Water quality will improve. Reduction of fine sediment loads will improve suitability of spawning gravels for salmonids species into the mainstem as well. Nutrient cycling will improve and food production for fish and wildlife species would result.

The Tehama County Resource Conservation District encourages and facilitates Best Management Practices on private lands in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Additionally, because of Resource Conservation Districts status, they can request technical assistance from other state and federal agencies and finalize MOUs with those agencies.

NRCS provides support to the District's efforts through voluntary landowner assisted activities including resource inventories; selection of suitable plant materials and planting techniques; field surveys, analyzing grazing land health, measuring occurrence of exotic species (species that have caused significant decline in the upland areas general health, creating problems with stability and equilibrium in the upper watershed); and resource planning including restoration planning. Additionally, NRCS administers several programs that offer technical and financial assistance to landowners to cost share many of the recommended practices, i.e. the current Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

d. Background and Biological/Technical Justification

RC and RBC are low elevation, mostly rainfall watersheds with high potential for improvement of environmental conditions which directly affect the watercourses and associated natural processes and resources. RC and RBC conditions (i.e. high erosion and sediment discharge; high storm flow response and poor water retention in the basin; poor riparian habitat and poor aquatic habitat conditions) represent typical conditions in west side Sacramento River tributaries throughout Shasta, Tehama, Glenn and Colusa Counties. Conditions result from a combination of the area's geology, current land use practices, climate, and biotic conditions.

To date, initial landowner/stakeholders meetings have been held (3). During the June meeting it was recommended that a part time coordinator would significantly benefit the process of developing a landowner group.

e. Proposed Scope of Work

The goal of the project will be the formation of a landowners/stakeholders organization, frequently known as a conservancy, to address and resolve resource concerns and issues within the watersheds. Landowners will be invited to learn about the project with an emphasis on the potential direct economic benefits to them for implementing alternative BMP's. Experience working with other watershed groups indicates that leaders will likely emerge to direct efforts of the group. Always of concern are private property rights when talking about land management. As a result, landowners in this area generally desire to maintain a level of control over processes. The Watershed Coordinator will facilitate efforts, and generally assume a role as staff to the group. Requirements of this funding proposal will be the trade off of being available to work for the benefit of furthering the group.

e. Proposed Scope of Work (continued)

Through the efforts of the organization, projects will address erosion problems. Focus will be on riparian fencing, livestock watering facilities and riparian plantings; rangeland cross fencing to allow landowners to uniformly graze the range while providing adequate rest to prevent overgrazing. Vegetation management projects to improve forage production, soil condition and wildlife habitat will be considered. Management of plant residue will be encouraged by providing educational workshops conducted for landowners to learn and understand the natural processes, conservation biology, and stewardship. Additionally, focus on the watersheds in the lower reaches will include the influences and contributions of urbanization on water quality, and general riparian area functions.

Office space, telephone, computer and related equipment and supplies will be provided by the Tehama County Resource Conservation District for use of the project.

To evaluate and manage the progress of the project, monthly progress reports and invoices for reimbursement of expenditures will be submitted utilizing the format of the "Costs and Schedule to Implement Proposed Project", below in section IV. Reportage will include in-kind project contributions and to date restoration projects facilitated by this project.

f. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

The projects' success will be measured by attainment of specific tasks outlined in this proposal, working towards the ultimate goal of establishment of a conservancy for the watersheds. Data collected for the project will include measurements of participation, from attendance in meetings to actual involvement in restoration activities. Existing resource data will be utilized to guide the efforts of the conservancy group.

Through educational activities with the 3 schools with property bording Brickyard Creek (a tributary to RC), there is certainly potential to develop student monitoring programs in those riparian areas. Additionally, another school serving most of the elementary students from both RC and RBC middle and upper reaches, rests next to RC approximately 5 miles west of Red Bluff and would provide similar opportunities. Coordination will likely develop between Shasta Jr. College's new Red Bluff Campus and will continue with California State University - Chico.

g. Implementability(sic)

The integrity and sustainability of the natural resources found in the RC and RBC watersheds depends largely on landowner's cooperation, knowledge and willingness to implement Best Management Practices. What will be beneficial to the watersheds health and resulting water quality will also benefit the economic output of the watershed. Unproductive ground contributes little to the health of large animals. The challenge will be to change existing practices to benefit the watersheds and thus the economic health of the area.

One landowner in the upper reach of RC wants to implement restoration practices and utilize their ranch for demonstration project areas. The interest to modify current practices, and to utilize those areas for demonstration to the community, is part of the focus of a State Water Quality Control Board 319 (h) application submitted by the Tehama County RCD. Notification is pending, but verbally, the RCD has been notified that the proposal is ranked #1 from the region and will likely be funded within 10 to 12 months.

IV. COSTS AND SCHEDULE TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROJECT,

a. Budget Costs

The following depicts costs of providing a part-time 2 year position for the RC/RBC Watershed Project:

Task	Hours	Direct Labor and Benefits	Travel and Fees	Supplies and Materials	Printing and Reproduction	Other	Total
Task 1	48	\$1,056.00	\$106.00	0	0	200	\$1,362.00
Task 2	48	\$1,056.00	\$106.00	0	0	0	\$1,162.00
Task 3	96	\$2,112.00	\$211.00	0	0	\$100.00	\$2,423.00
Task 4	96	\$2,112.00	\$211.00	0	0	\$100.00	\$2,423.00
Task 5	168	\$3,696.00	\$370.00	0	0	\$500.00	\$4,566.00
Task 6	288	\$6,336.00	\$634.00	0	0	\$750.00	\$7,720.00
Task 7	240	\$5,280.00	\$528.00	0	0	0	\$5,808.00
Task 8	96	\$2,112.00	\$211.00	0	0	\$150.00	\$2,473.00
Task 9	96	\$2,112.00	\$211.00	0	0	0	\$2,323.00
Task 10	144	\$3,168.00	\$317.00	0	0	\$200.00	\$3,685.00
Task 11	144	\$3,168.00	\$317.00	0	0	0	\$3,485.00
Task 12	96	\$2,112.00	\$211.00	0	0	\$200.00	\$2,523.00
	1560	\$34,320.00	\$3,433.00			\$2,200.00	\$39,953.00

- Task 1 Identify landowners/stakeholders within the watersheds.
- Task 2 Develop landowners/stakeholders database.
- Task 3 Conduct historic conditions assessment.
- Task 4 Identify and document perceived resource issues and concerns.
- Task 5 Promote public awareness of the watershed wide project, on-going activities and opportunities for involvement and action.
- Task 6 Promote best management practices and potential restoration actions in general.
- Task 7 Facilitate the development of specific plans for interested landowners with agencies.
- Task 8 Tour restoration locations to promote further restoration activities on additional properties.
- Task 9 Through the media promote activities of the organization.
- Task 10 Coordinate educational opportunities for general public.
- Task 11 Coordinate educational opportunities for schools.
- Task 12 Facilitate development of formalized landowner organization.

Partnerships specifically to fund the position of a coordinator do not exist at this time. Partnerships to support the position do exist in the form of in-kind contributions from local govt., agencies and schools. If funding is not available through this funding source other sources will be sought. Landowner volunteers have not to date, nor appear in future to be sufficient to get the project off the ground. Part time assistance is needed.

b. Schedule Milestones

Task #	Task Description	Month of Completion
Task 1	Identify landowners/stakeholders.	month 1
Task 2	Develop database.	month 2
Task 3	Historic conditions assessment.	month 4
Task 4	Perceived resource issues and concerns.	month 6
Task 5	Public awareness of project, involvement and action	month 4 ongoing
Task 6	Promote best management practices.	month 4 ongoing
Task 7	Facilitate the development of specific plans.	month 6 ongoing
Task 8	Tour restoration locations.	month 12
Task 9	Media promotion	ongoing
Task 10	Ed opportunities for general public	month 6 ongoing
Task 11	Ed opportunities for schools	month 7 ongoing

As cited in III e. monthly progress reports and invoices for reimbursement of expenditures will be submitted utilizing the format of the “Costs and Schedule to Implement Proposed Project”, and will include in-kind project contributions and to date restoration projects facilitated by this project.

c. Third Party Impacts

No negative third party impacts are anticipated from this project. Beneficial third party impacts were outlined on page 2, “Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts.”

V. APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

The Watershed Coordinator would report to the Tehama County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors specifically to the President of the Board. Coordinator position would be responsible for all aspects of the project management and daily operation. Overall administration and financial management would be the responsibility of the Board of Director’s with payroll requirements met by a local personnel service.

Proposed candidate for position has experience working successfully with both the TCRC and with organizing a watershed organization in a similar capacity. No conflict of interest is anticipated

VI. COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Per requirements outlined in Attachment D and Table D-1 Request for Proposals, 1997 Category III, as Special District under Public Law Division 9, the Tehama County Resource Conservation District would be bound by Standard Clauses-Interagency Agreements and agree to the terms and conditions set forth. Terms and Conditions attached(Attachment D) and Standard Clauses - Interagency Agreements (Item 3).

Attachment D Terms and Conditions

This attachment provides the terms and conditions applicable to contracts issued through this RFP. The specific terms and conditions may vary, depending on the source of funds (Proposition 204, Stakeholder contributions), the applicant category (State entities, Federal and other public entities, non-profit organizations, and private entities), and the type of project (Public Works/Construction, Real Estate transactions, and Services), as identified in Table D-1.

Specific documents that must be submitted with the proposal are shown in Table D-1.

The general terms and conditions which will be applicable to Category III contracts funded with Proposition 204 funding are provided below. Terms and conditions for contracts using Stakeholder contributions are expected to have equal or less stringent requirements.

In addition to these general terms and conditions, specific additional standard clauses will be applicable depending on the type of project and applicant category. Table D-1 provides a summary of those standard clauses for different types of projects and different applicant categories. Those standard clauses are provided at the end of this attachment.

1. **Term of Contract:** The term of the agreement will be dependent on the project and may range from 1 to 3 years. The agreement shall not become effective until fully executed by the parties and approved by CALFED.
2. **Payment Schedule:** No funds will be disbursed by State(NFWF) to Contractor without 1) an executed copy of the Contract, (2) receipt of an original invoice with supporting documentation, and (3) receipt and satisfactory completion of deliverables and/or phases of work as set forth in the agreement, including quarterly financial and programmatic reports. Payments shall be in arrears on a monthly basis or after completion of agreed-upon project phases.
3. **Budget Variances:** Variances which exceed ten percent of a project task's approved budgeted amount must have approval in advance, with written explanations of programmatic changes to cover such variances and to remain within the maximum contract amount.
4. **Subcontracts:** Contractors are responsible for all subcontracted work. Subcontract terms and conditions must include all applicable contract terms and conditions as presented herein. Subcontractor agreements require approval by the State (NFWF), unless the subcontract is already a part of the contract agreement. Any amendments to subcontractors must be approved by the State (NFWF). In obtaining subcontracts,

contractor must obtain at least 3 competitive bids, or comply with the provisions of Government Code 4525 et seq., as applicable, or provide written justification for non-compliance with these requirements.

5. Substitution: Should the State (NFWF) be dissatisfied with the work of subcontractors or employees of the contractor, State (NFWF) may require the contractor to substitute different qualified subcontractors or employees. State (NFWF) must approve such substitutions in advance of providing applicable services.

6. Conflict of Interest: Contractor shall comply with all applicable State laws and rules pertaining to conflict of interest, including but not limited to Government Code 1090 and Public Contract Code 10410 and 10411.

7. Standard of Professionalism: Contractor shall conduct all work consistent with the professional standards for the industry and type of work being performed under the contract.

8. Rights in Data: All data and information obtained and/or received under contract shall be in the public domain. Contractor shall have the right to disclose, disseminate and use, in whole or part, any final form data and information received, collected and developed under this agreement, subject to inclusion of appropriate acknowledgment of credit to the State (NFWF), CALFED, and all cost sharing partners for their financial support. Use of draft data requires pre-approval by State (NFWF) and CALFED. Contractor shall not sell or grant rights to a third party who intends to sell such product as a profit-making venture.

9. The Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend and save harmless the State (NFWF), (specific Stakeholder contributor as applicable), its officers, agents and employees from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any or all contractors, subcontractors, materialmen, laborers, and any other person, firm or corporation furnishing or supplying work services, materials or supplies in connection with the performance of this contract, and from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm or corporation who may be injured or damaged by the Contractor in the performance of this contract.

10. The Contractor, and the agents and employees of Contractor, in the performance of the contract, shall act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees or agents of the State of California (NFWF) (specific Stakeholder contributor as applicable).

11. The State (NFWF) may terminate this agreement and be relieved of the payment of any consideration to Contractor should Contractor fail to perform the covenants herein

contained at the time and in the manner herein provided. In the event of such termination the State (NFWF) may proceed with the work in any manner deemed proper by the State. The cost to the State shall be deducted from any sum due the Contractor under this agreement, and the balance, if any shall be paid the Contractor upon demand.

12. Without the written consent of the State, this agreement is not assignable by Contractor either in whole or in part.

13. No alteration or variation of the terms of this contract shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the parties hereto, and no oral understanding or agreement not incorporated herein, shall be binding on any of the parties hereto. This contract may be amended upon mutual written agreement of the parties and approved by State (NFWF) and CALFED.

14. The consideration to be paid Contractor as provided herein, shall be in compensation for all of the Contractor's expenses incurred in the performance hereof, including travel and per diem, unless otherwise expressly so provided.

Agreement No. _____

Exhibit _____

**STANDARD CLAUSES -
INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS**

Audit Clause. For contracts in excess of \$10,000, the contracting parties shall be subject to the examination and audit of the State Auditor for a period of three years after final payment under the contract. (Government Code Section 8546.7).

Availability of Funds. Work to be performed under this contract is subject to availability of funds, ^{Category III}

Interagency Payment Clause. For services provided under this agreement, charges will be computed in accordance with State Administrative Manual Section 8752 and 8752.1.

Termination Clause. Either State agency may terminate this contract upon 30 days advance written notice. The State agency providing the services shall be reimbursed for all reasonable expenses incurred up to the date of termination.