

CALFED BAY DELTA PROGRAM**1997 CATEGORY III PROPOSAL**DWR
WETLANDS
97 JUL 29 PM 03

Title of Project: South Napa River Wetlands Acquisition and
Restoration Program

Applicant: Napa County Land Trust
1040 Main Street, Suite 208
Napa, CA 94559
Phone: (707) 252-3270; **Fax:** (707) 252-1071
Contact Person: John Hoffnagle, Executive
Director

Project Type: Land Acquisition

Amount Requested: \$2,005,750

I. Executive Summary

Project Title: South Napa River Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Program

Project Description/Ecological Objectives: The proposed acquisition and restoration of 956 acres of historical wetlands adjacent to the Napa River from five different private property owners - represents a unique opportunity for restoration of native marshland habitat in the North Bay. The properties proposed for restoration comprise some of the most important potential restoration sites in the San Francisco Bay estuary and will, when restored, improve habitat quality for several federally-listed species, including the Delta smelt and Sacramento splittail. The Stanly Ranch wetlands at the southern boundary of the project area and the Stewart and Ghisletta properties to the north (See Exhibit 3) have long been acquisition targets of the Napa County Land Trust and the State Department of Fish and Game (DFG) due to both their importance as historical wetlands and that they are at risk of development and annexation into the City of Napa. Once these lands are acquired, proposed restoration will modify or remove levees and other structural interventions to restore and enhance natural wetland functions. These activities will promote habitat goals specific to this region.

Justification for Project and CALFED Funding: All of the lowlands proposed for acquisition are immediately adjacent to the DFG's Napa Marsh Project and all are contemplated for acquisition in DFG's current master plan. The proposal focuses on species and habitats whose restoration will result in achieving the CALFED mission to "restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system..." The CALFED objective of "improving and increasing aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improving ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species" is clearly addressed by this proposal. Furthermore, this project site is located at the "crossroads" of three distinct sources of development pressure - the City of Napa immediately to the north, the City of American Canyon (3 miles to the south) and the Napa Airport Industrial area (1 mile to the southwest), the latter projected by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to be the fastest growing employment center in the Bay Area (See Exhibit 1).

An additional benefit may develop as a by-product of this project. The proposed Napa River Flood Control Project - which has evolved from a classic Army Corps of Engineers concrete-oriented, channelization project (1995) into a community-based, environmentally-sensitive plan - would also require the acquisition of these properties to expand the floodplain and marshland ecosystem as a key component of the new plan. Although the implementation of the flood control project is dependent upon Napa County's adoption of a 1/2-cent sales tax by the voters in the next few months, the acquisition and restoration project being proposed here will provide its primary benefits whether or not the flood control project moves forward and, therefore, is *not* contingent upon the success of the flood control project.

It is important to note that, while the flood control project - if implemented - would offer funding for most of the acquisition aspects of this project, it would not provide for purchase of the Southern Stanly Ranch property. In addition, CALFED funding is critical in the absence of the flood control project for both acquisition and restoration.

Applicant Qualifications: The Napa County Land Trust (NCLT) seeks to "acquire and preserve natural resources and wildlife areas for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, to preserve and protect historic sites, to educate the public about the wise use of natural resources and to work with other organizations having similar purposes."

In response to growing development pressures, the NCLT was formed in 1976 by a group of residents who cared about the Napa Valley and shared concerns about the protection of agricultural lands, wetlands, woodlands, watersheds, wildlife habitat, and open space lands that together sustain ecological diversity and a rural way of life. The NCLT is a member-supported, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with an annual operating budget of \$250,000 funded primarily by membership dues, charitable contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations, and income from a small endowment. Working primarily in the private sector, with no ongoing support from any taxing authority or government agency, the NCLT has succeeded in permanently protecting over 11,000 acres of open space and agricultural land to date thanks to dedicated volunteer leadership and financial support from loyal members. Operations are carried out by a 15-member Board of Trustees and a small professional staff.

Approach/Budget/Schedule: As indicated in Exhibit 2, we have adopted a 3-phase approach to this project. In each of the three phases, we propose to acquire property - simultaneously transferring title to DFG - with restoration

activities to be performed on these properties once title is conveyed. These activities will include the breaching and/or removal of existing levees and the design and construction of new setback levees along the boundaries between wetlands and uplands, among others. The three phases are scheduled to occur one year apart, starting in 1998.

Project costs are delineated in two ways - first, "Acquisition & Restoration", and second, "Administrative", with the latter category including staff time, overhead, and professional services (e.g. appraisers, attorneys, title and escrow fees). Please note that the acquisition costs have been estimated at two possible levels of appraised value - \$5,000 and \$7,500 per acre. Including an estimated total of \$250,000 per phase for restoration planning and implementation activities, it is estimated that the total cost of the three phases is as follows:

<u>Phase 1:</u>	\$1,390,000/\$1,960,000 (\$5,000/acre vs. \$7,500/acre)	plus \$45,750 for Administration	
<u>Phase 2:</u>	\$1,425,000/\$2,012,500 (" " ")	plus \$46,787 " "	
<u>Phase 3:</u>	\$2,715,000/\$3,947,500 (" " ")	plus \$45,901 " "	

Therefore, the total amount of funding being requested at this time - for Phase 1 only - is \$2,005,750. Please be advised that there is a possibility of higher appraised values due to a precedent-setting sale of one of these properties at \$10,000 per acre in 1995. However, our request assumes the \$7,500 figure indicated above. In the event that a higher appraised value is forthcoming, we believe that other revenue sources will be available to absorb the extra cost. At this time the private landowners in Phase 1 of the project are willing sellers and a Request for Proposals to qualified appraisers has been distributed. The successful appraiser will be notified on August 1 with completed work expected by September 1. At that time we will have a bona fide appraisal of fair market values for the Phase 1 acquisitions.

Monitoring and Data Evaluation - The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will take fee title to the property upon purchase and will maintain it in perpetuity and, in the event that the Napa River Flood Control Project is implemented, would provide flood easements on these properties to the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District"), comprised of the County Board of Supervisors, the Mayors of the five municipalities in the County, plus one additional Councilmember from the City of Napa.

Please note however, that if the flood control project is approved, the Army Corps of Engineers will perform the actual restoration activities as part of that project. If the flood control project is not approved, these activities will be performed by either DFG or the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Local Support and Coordination: Local support is extensive and is documented by the enclosed resolution of the District. The proposed CALFED project, while beneficial on its own merits, would also provide a great deal of benefit to the Napa River Flood Control Project. This project is currently being redesigned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - in accordance with the "Living River" principles and parameters articulated by the "Community Coalition for a Napa River Flood Management Plan" - is a notable exception to most concrete-oriented Army Corps projects. In 1995, a Corps project was designed which was soundly rejected by both the community at large and the federal, state, and regional resource agencies (e.g. Bay Area Water Quality Board, State Fish and Game Department, etc.). Since that time, the Coalition was formed, which included representatives of those resource agencies, among many other diverse interests. The process of redesigning the Army Corps' project to one which is environmentally-sensitive is complete, currently awaiting the reissuance of the Army Corps General Design Memorandum and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

The basic concept underlying this revised Flood Control Plan is to widen the flood plain, allowing the river to overflow its banks downstream onto lands which are primarily used for agricultural purposes or as open space. Some properties will require acquisition by the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, including those currently occupied for residential and commercial uses. However, the properties in the downstream reaches of the flood control project are being requested under this CALFED proposal. One of the primary benefits of the flood control plan - in the minds of the Coalition members - is the restoration of wetlands and habitat as a result of the acquisition of these particular properties.

II. TITLE PAGE

Title of Project: South Napa River Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Program

Applicant: Napa County Land Trust
1040 Main Street, Suite 208
Napa, CA 94559
Phone: (707) 252-3270; Fax: (707) 252-1071
Contact Person: John Hoffnagle, Executive Director

Tax Status: The Napa County Land Trust (NCLT) was founded in 1976 as a 501(c)(3) California non-profit corporation, with Tax ID Number 94-2315096

Collaborators: The California Department of Fish and Game; Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (NCFWCWD), U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Community Coalition for a Napa River Flood Management Plan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Project Type: Land Acquisition (and Restoration of Wetlands)

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

a) Project Description and Approach

This project would acquire 956 acres of diked, historic wetlands along the Napa River for the purpose of restoring estuarine, riparian and aquatic habitat, flood and marsh plain. This proposal targets the primary objectives of the CALFED program by acquiring lands which were historically part of the San Francisco Bay Area wetland system, and which directly influence the survival of several endangered species. These lands are at high risk of conversion to vineyard and/or urbanization, as evidenced by the annexation of the Stanly Ranch property into the City of Napa.

This proposal is presented as a phased approach to land acquisition and restoration, with the first phase being the acquisition of 228 acres of historical wetlands in 1998, the second phase 235 acres in 1999, and the third phase 493 acres by 2000 (See Exhibit 2). Once acquired by the Napa County Land Trust, the title to these properties will be simultaneously conveyed to the California Department of Fish and Game, along with the responsibility for maintenance thereof. As described in the Executive Summary, restoration activities will be undertaken by either the California Department of Fish and Game, the Army Corps of Engineers, or the County Resource Conservation District/U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, pending upon the outcome of the Flood Control Project.

These restoration activities will include planning, design, and construction of setback levees, modification or removal of some existing levees or other structural elements, and - possibly in certain locations - the use of earth moving equipment to create a setting more conducive to habitat. These activities would be undertaken in each of the three phases, unless such activities on a piece of property already acquired would have negative impacts on any property not yet acquired. In such an event, certain of these restoration activities may be delayed to await the acquisition of the other properties and, then, undertaken simultaneously.

The rationale for the proposed phasing is the applicant's understanding of the relative willingness of these property owners to sell and the integral nature of the acquisitions. The properties listed in Exhibit 2 reflect the belief that those "most willing" will be acquired first (i.e. Phase 1). Phase 1 acquisitions can stand alone, to be complemented by future phase acquisitions.

b) Location of Project

The project location comprises the lower reach of the Napa River south of the City of Napa, where the river is influenced by both fluvial and tidal processes. The boundary of the project area on the north is defined by medium-density residential development on South Newport Drive (City of Napa); to the east by the Napa River itself; and to the South and west by State Highway 29. Adjacent uplands are currently threatened by conversion to vineyard or commercial uses. (See Exhibit 3).

The Napa River drains a 426-square mile watershed into San Pablo Bay. The river is fully tidal with an average daily tidal range of 6.6 feet. During the winter, freshwater flows down the river maintain mostly fresh to brackish water conditions while, in the summer months, salinity increases to approximately 75% that of seawater.

Early coast and geodetic survey maps and records indicate that the project area was tidal marshland and the remainder functioned as alluvial floodplain. Levees constructed in the early 1900s isolated the marshlands from tidal inundation and isolated the floodplains from the Napa River. Since that time these lands have been systematically converted to agricultural - mostly hay production - and urban uses with the threat of additional conversion to vineyards and/or housing imminent.

Much of the proposed project site is currently used for cattle grazing and haying. The majority of the site is mapped as "palustrine farmed wetland" by the National Wetlands Inventory. The Horseshoe Bend property (owned by Giovannoni) is mapped as seasonal wetlands, as indicated in Exhibit 3.

c) Expected Project Benefits

The Napa River is widely recognized as an important waterway because it provides critical fish and wildlife habitat. Twenty-five species of fish are known to inhabit the river, including an remnant steelhead and salmon population, as described below. The river has historically had a wide flood plain regularly overflowed by the river channel.

Historical maps indicate the dendritic patterns of tidal slough channels and tidal wetlands. Over the last 150 years the river has been impacted by channel and floodplain encroachments with levees along its entire urban reach. The river channel has been artificially constrained by riprap and concrete rubble and the floodplain narrowed by levees and berms. Riparian vegetation has been removed and exists in a mostly degraded state. Escapees and invasive exotic species such as arundo donax, acacias, and eucalyptus, are common.

The natural fluvial geomorphology has also been impacted by upstream reservoirs which have trapped sediments and modified tributary flows. Peak discharges have increased while the development of the basin contributed to increasing the river channel depth, bank heights and instability. Channel deepening - in conjunction with the artificial raising of banks with berms and levees - appears to be the primary change in morphology over time.

While the plan form of the river has remained largely intact, a meander cutoff was constructed at Horseshoe Bend (See Exhibit 3) in the 1940s to improve navigation. This has created a depositional environment within the Bend. The tidal sloughs in the project area are filled or cut off from tidal flows with berms and dikes and the wetlands have been drained with ditches and farming. Urban and cattle-based runoff contribute nutrients and silt to the system. In summary, the following factors impact the project area:

- Hydrologic isolation of the flood and marsh plains
- The physical isolation of the flood and marsh plains
- Alteration of fluvial and tidal slough channel forms
- Elimination of slough channels
- Loss of seasonal floodplain wetlands and tidal brackish wetland flora and fauna
- Loss of riparian zones
- Increased nutrient inputs
- Increased water temperatures
- Introduction of exotic plant species
- Land use changes and impacts to river channels, floodplains and tidal wetlands

Priority Species and Habitats Benefitted By Project

This project will make it possible for these target wetlands to be restored to several of CALFED's designated priority habits, including: seasonal wetland habitats within floodplains; instream aquatic habitat of the Napa River; riparian habitat; and saline emergent wetlands habitat in the tidal brackish marsh.

These lands have also been identified by the California Department of Fish and Game as high priority for acquisition because of their regional importance to the species listed among CALFED's priorities. The following species and populations have been located in the proposed project area by Fish and Game biologists:

CALFED Priority Species and Populations:

Fall/Winter/Spring Run Chinook Salmon; Delta Smelt; Sacramento Splittail; Steelhead trout; Sturgeon

Endangered Species:

California Black Rail; Saltmarsh Harvest Mouse; Mason's Lilaepsis; Delta Tule Pea

Other Species:

Stupid Bass; Longfin Smelt; Migratory birds; wildfowl; shore birds; neotropical riparian birds

Additionally, special status and candidate species under the federal Endangered Species Act that potentially occur on this site include:

California freshwater shrimp (endangered);
 American peregrine falcon (endangered);
 California red-legged frog (candidate);
 Contra Costa goldfields (candidate); and

20 other species of special status under the California Endangered Species Act.

The Giovannoni property is known to support a heron/egret rookery within the trees adjacent to the Napa River. Long-term benefits will accrue to these species and populations as a result of the restoration of these populations. These benefits - as well as the costs of this project - will be quantifiable as a result of the Napa River Enhancement Plan currently being prepared by Philip Williams & Associates (see Section on "Status of Project"). We believe due to the commitment of the Department of Fish and Game to hold these lands in perpetuity, these long-term benefits are virtually guaranteed.

Benefits to Other Ecosystem Programs

In the event that the Flood Control Project is implemented, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be responsible for the restoration of these lands. If not, either the Department of Fish and Game or another entity (e.g. Napa County Resource Conservation District) would undertake that role. Although this project is proposed as an independent ecosystem restoration project, both the Flood Control District and the Army Corps agree that the restoration of flood and marsh plains would have quantifiable flood damage reduction benefits for the City of Napa just as well. Therefore, this restoration is planned as a feature of the Corps project. Congress has recently given the Corps expanded authority to add environmental restoration to its mission, via the 1996 Water Resources Development Act. Federal and State resource agencies regard the Napa River Flood Control project as a national model for the use of the Army Corps in less destructive methods or reducing flood damages. Therefore, this project also offers "preventative" benefits on a national scale.

Match with CALFED Ecological Non-Ecosystem Objectives

The Napa River is the second largest fresh water source for San Francisco Bay (behind the contribution of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers) and supplies 14% of the freshwater for the Bay. It is designated by the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Quality Board as a watershed of special significance because of its ecological significance and importance to the Bay. The River is listed by the federal government as an "Impaired Watershed" because of sediment and nutrient overloading. Napa County has established a Watershed Assessment District in collaboration with the Napa Resource Conservation District and California Conservation Corps.

The proposed project is also consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan policies pertaining to fish and wildlife which state that "...the remaining marshes, mudflats, and freshwater flow into the Bay should be maintained to conserve fish and wildlife and to abate air and water pollution; water quality should be sufficiently high to provide suitable habitat for all indigenous and desirable forms of aquatic life; and new marshes should be created, former marshes should be restored, and the quality of existing marshes should be improved by appropriate means whenever possible..." This project would provide for restoration of historic tidal marsh and floodplains which would provide habitat for indigenous special status and other forms of aquatic life, consistent with the Bay Plan.

d) Background and Biological and Technical Justification

The Need for the Project

The degradation of the wetland environment from its historical condition and the significance of the Napa River and its environs to San Francisco Bay and species and populations of concern establish the need for this project. Underlying this situation is the crisis condition of imminent threats to these resources which surfaced as a result of the 1995 floods on the Napa River. This project would make it possible to have these lands restored to several of CALFED's priority habitats, including seasonal wetland habitats within floodplains, instream aquatic habitat in the Napa River, riparian habitat, and saline emergent wetlands habitat in the tidal brackish marsh.

As a result of decades of major flood events on the Napa River, the Army Corps of Engineers, in 1995, developed a plan for a conventional (i.e. river channelization) flood control project which was determined - by State and Federal resource agencies as well as the community at large - to have catastrophic environmental impacts, if completed. The prospect of a flood control project tends to encourage land speculators who wish to convert historic wetlands to "higher economic uses".

Specifically, the resource agencies indicated that such a project would further destabilize the fluvial geomorphology and dynamics of the river and its associated brackish wetlands, alter the river velocities and discharges, sediment transport rate, channel geometry and stream bank conditions. Modification of the river hydrology and hydraulics, in turn, would alter the tidal prism and affect salinity gradients. This project was determined to result in losses to intertidal habitat, mud flats, sloughs and freshwater riparian resources. The cumulative impacts were determined to result in significantly degraded water quality in the river, impacting dissolved oxygen, increasing nutrient and total suspended sediment loadings and water temperatures, with the ultimate loss of the function of the river as an ecosystem of geographic significance.

In response to this proposed Army Corps plan, the community formed its "Coalition", as mentioned above, of more than 100 members representing diverse interests in order to develop the revised plan recently presented to the Corps. The resulting plan has multiple benefits, both environmental and flood reduction in nature.

Restoration Project Objectives

Working groups of professionals representing fluvial geomorphologists, plant ecologists, hydraulic engineers, fisheries and wildlife biologists, landscape architects and other disciplines defined 14 geomorphic objectives to guide the design of a river restoration plan which would create an environment in geomorphological equilibrium and return the structure and functions of historic conditions to the extent possible. These objectives are to maintain the natural slope and width-depth ratio for the river, to restore the connection of the river to its floodplain, to allow the river to meander as much as possible, and to maintain natural features such as mudflats and shallows. This restoration plan is referred to as "The Living River Plan".

A reconstructed river channel and floodplain terrace have been designed based on the best knowledge available on both fluvial and tidal hydraulic geometry. Because the design objective is to return the naturally occurring equilibrium between discharges and sediment transport and deposition, the design maximizes the enhanced ecosystem functions and processes. This is in contrast with the Army Corps project originally proposed which would have required routine sediment removal to maintain the over-widened channels. While fully achieving all of the geomorphic objectives is not possible (due to existing urbanization and navigation dredging), the restored channel and floodplain will bring the system into significantly greater balance. It is expected that the desired wetland vegetation will naturally colonize the restored lands.

The California Fish and Game Department would use a system of adaptive management to help guide the restoration process. The monitoring of sediment transport, deposition, and plant community recolonization will be central to this effort. Consultant reports indicate that a number of wetland habitat restoration alternatives exist for the site including: seasonal wetland using precipitation and local surface runoff; freshwater emergent wetlands; brackish water emergent wetlands, tidal wetlands, riparian woodland bordering the Napa River, and native upland shrub habitats.

Status of Project

Some preliminary steps have been taken towards the implementation of this project, should the funding become available. These steps include the hiring of a qualified appraisal firm to determine the estimated market value of these properties. The results of this appraisal are expected by September 1st. Additionally, utilizing funding from the California Coastal Conservancy, the Napa County Flood Control District has contracted with Philip Williams & Associates of San Francisco for the development of a "Napa River Enhancement Plan", which will focus on a 600-acre area (approximately 2/3 of the proposed project site), identifying flood restoration and habitat improvement alternatives for this area. These recommended enhancement alternatives will be based on an understanding of the key physical processes involved in such an environment, how these processes have been interrupted by human interventions (e.g. levee construction), how these interventions could be eliminated or modified to restore or enhance natural wetland and floodplain functions, and how these proposed measures will impact flooding and benefit fish and wildlife. This Enhancement Plan will be completed in September, 1997, the results of which will provide quantification of both the costs and the benefits of the proposed project.

With regard to the pending flood control project, the final design and environmental impact reports are scheduled for completion in early 1998. At that time - if the project is funded by Congress - the Flood Control District and the Corps of Engineers would enter into negotiation of a "Project Cooperation Agreement", which will provide a greater

level of detail regarding acquisition of property and construction related to the project. It is estimated that the acquisition of lands, which would begin at the southern end of the (flood) project area - which coincides with the project site of this proposal - would not take place until early 1999, under the flood control scenario. Please note that the implementation of the flood control project is also contingent upon a ballot initiative (for a 1/2-cent sales tax increase), to be held in either November, 1997 or February, 1998.

e) Proposed Scope of Work

This proposal calls for the acquisition of 956 acres of historic wetlands over a three year period, as indicated in Exhibit 2. Once acquired, the five private properties would be restored to their wetland function. Restoration activities will include the breaching and/or removal of existing levees and the design and construction of new setback levees along the boundaries between the wetlands and the uplands, thereby allowing natural processes to run their course.

Elements of the scope - which will become more definitive with the completion of the "Enhancement Plan" - may include the buffering of the wetlands from surrounding land uses (e.g. vineyards, grazing) to minimize impacts from the community and the creation a continuous buffer zone along the edge between the uplands and the wetlands. The phases will include appraisal, planning, feasibility analysis, design, and restoration, with some of the projected milestones indicated above, in paragraph g of this section, as well as in Section IV (b).

Specific tasks and deliverables will include the appraisal results and the Enhancement Plan being prepared by PWA, although both of these products are being paid for by the applicant and other parties (no reimbursement is being requested here). Once those milestones have been reached, it will be easier to determine the feasibility of implementing this proposed project. If this is accomplished, design work will proceed - most likely late this year - to develop the specific restoration plans for each piece of property acquired. Furthermore, documentation of the transfer of title for each parcel (with simultaneous double escrow proceedings planned for transfer to DFG) will be provided.

As mentioned earlier, the acquisition of these lands would also constitute one of the initial phases of a 6-year flood control project, which focuses on the widening of the floodplain and tidal marsh plain areas - particularly in the downstream reaches of the City of Napa - while avoiding channelization and minimizing the use of walls and levees. A major component of the flood control project is also the construction of a "dry by-pass" channel in downtown Napa to relieve some of the pressure in the Oxbow of the Napa River at that location. The by-pass is being designed so as to balance the redirection of the flow of water with the need to maintain adequate flow in the River itself (i.e. the Oxbow), thereby maintaining its "living" state.

f) Monitoring and Data Evaluation

The California Department of Fish and Game will manage and monitor the lands purchased under this proposed grant. An adaptive management plan is being prepared by Philip Williams Associates under contract with the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, using funding acquired from the California Coastal Conservancy, called the "Napa River Enhancement Plan". The environmental factors which will require monitoring include: the recolonization of native plant species on the graded flood and marsh plains; the survival of planted and volunteer riparian plant species, the return of tidal flows in restored slough channels; the return of overbank river flows onto the floodplain and the extent and rate of sedimentation of the floodplain.

The Department will also be interested in recording the return of the presence of flora and fauna, including common species, species and populations of concern, and federal and state rare and endangered species and candidates for State and federal listings.

The monitoring will be coordinated with the District in the event that the Army Corps becomes a project partner through the flood control project. Any excessive sedimentation which might impact either the ecological restoration objectives and/or water conveyance in the floodplain will be addressed in the construction phase of the Project.

An adaptive management and performance-based management system will be designed for any sediment removal needs, in marked contrast with the conventional practice of flood control districts and Army Corps projects in which routine maintenance activities are conducted without a system of monitoring actual sedimentation rates

and changes in flood plain elevation.

g) Implementability

The Napa County Land Trust is acting as the lead organization for this project due to its successful experience in similar projects in Napa County, such as the acquisition of the Bull Island this year for the Division of State Lands. The Land Trust has determined that the acquisitions proposed in Phase 1 of this proposal are being offered by sellers who have expressed a willingness to proceed with negotiations. Appraisals and legal review necessary to effect these transactions is already underway. A Request for Proposals has been sent to qualified appraisers with a deadline of August 1. The successful bidder will have a full narrative appraisal on the Phase 1 properties completed by September 1.

Compliance with various regulations, including primarily the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will be required. However, the acquisition of these properties is "categorically exempt" under Class 13 (14CAL, Code of Regulations Section 15313). Any restoration activities, however, are not so exempted and would require a "Negative Declaration". Furthermore, permits would be required from Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for certain activities, including any channel altering activities. Nevertheless, given DFG's participation in this process as the ultimate property owner and the fact that the proposed project itself is essentially "self-mitigating", no problems are foreseen on this front.

The nature of the public outreach and involvement in the Napa River Community Planning process is generally agreed to be virtually unprecedented in California river planning. Early in the process, it was determined that no plan for the Napa River would be feasible without the political support of a broad array of stakeholders. The Napa River Wetland Restoration Project for which this proposal seeks funding is a broadly-supported feature of the Napa River Community Plan. Consensus-building planning sessions were conducted by Moore, Iacafano and Goltsman, a Berkeley consulting firm which specializes in community involvement. Plans have been developed with the participation of ten federal and state agencies and twenty-two community groups.

Because the regulatory agencies have been participants in the planning process, they are more likely to support the resulting plan. The Napa River Wetland Restoration project will be a part of the Army Corps of Engineers' Supplemental General Design Memorandum and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for their flood control project.

The Napa River Community Plan is being coordinated with other Napa County and North Bay plans. The Napa County Resource Conservation District, which has been an active member of the planning process, is coordinating its plans for Napa River riparian restoration, set back levees, flood plain easements, native grasses and plan community restoration and stormwater management on upper watershed tributaries with the lower watershed plans.

This coordination of the upper and lower watershed enhancement and restoration efforts will produce cumulative benefits for stormwater management moderation of the frequent, low-to-moderate flood events, sediment reduction and habitat improvement and water quality benefits. Meetings have been held to coordinate efforts among the Napa County Resource Conservation District, the North Bay Cargill Wetland restoration project, the American Canyon acquisition and wetland restoration project, Cullinan Ranch tidal restoration and Sonoma Creek floodplain and wetlands acquisition and restoration and *this* proposed project.

IV. COSTS AND SCHEDULE TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROJECT

a) Budget Costs

As indicated in Exhibit 2, we have adopted a 3-phase approach to this project. In each of the three phases, we propose to acquire property - simultaneously transferring title to the California Department of Fish and Game - with restoration activities to be performed on these properties once title is conveyed. These activities are summarized in Section III. Project costs are delineated in two ways - first, "Acquisition & Restoration", and second, "Administrative", with the latter category including staff time, overhead, and professional services (e.g. appraisers, attorneys, title and escrow fees). Please note that the acquisition costs have been estimated at two possible levels of appraised value - \$5,000 and \$7,500 per acre.

Including an estimated average total of \$250,000 per phase for restoration planning and implementation, it is estimated that the total cost of the three phases is as follows:

Phase 1:	\$1,390,000/\$1,960,000 (\$5,000/acre vs. \$7,500/acre)
Phase 2:	\$1,425,000/\$2,012,500 (" " ")
Phase 3:	\$2,715,000/\$3,947,500 (" " ")

As mentioned in the Executive summary, the additional costs being requested for administration is approximately \$46,000 for each of the three phases (See Exhibit 2). Please note that the costs of the Phase 1 property appraisals and the Enhancement Plan - both underway - are being absorbed by the applicant and other collaborators, at an approximate cost of \$65,000. While other funding sources - such as California Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board funds through Proposition 204 - may be available, those funds are needed for related activities and for the acquisition of other properties further upstream, which would not qualify under CALFED's habitat eligibility requirements.

b) Scheduled Milestones

As indicated in Exhibit 2, each of these three phases is planned one year apart, beginning with the projected acquisition of four parcels in early 1998, with these appraisals expected to be complete by September of this year, as will the Enhancement Plan. See third page of Exhibit 2 for additional details.

c) Third Party Impacts

No significant detrimental impacts to third parties are anticipated. Important beneficial impacts to the flood control project and the community at large are the most important third party impacts foreseen at this time. Coordination between wetlands acquisitions and the impact of agricultural development on adjacent uplands is an important consideration in the purchase of these wetlands and the final configuration of property lines.

V. APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

The Napa County Land Trust is acting as the lead organization for this project due to its successful experience in similar projects in Napa County, such as the acquisition of the Bull Island wetlands. The Trust has determined that the acquisitions proposed in Phase 1 of this proposal belong to sellers who have expressed a willingness to proceed with negotiations, appraisals and legal review necessary to effect these transactions

The mission of the Napa County Land Trust (NCLT) is to "acquire and preserve natural resources and wildlife areas for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, to preserve and protect historic sites, to educate the public about the wise use of natural resources and to work with other organizations having similar purposes."

In response to growing development pressures, the NCLT was formed in 1976 by a group of residents who cared about the Napa Valley and shared concerns about the protection of agricultural lands, wetlands, woodlands, watersheds, wildlife habitat, and open space lands that together sustain ecological diversity and a rural way of life. The NCLT is a member-supported, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with an annual operating budget of \$250,000 funded primarily by membership dues, charitable contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations, and income from a small endowment fund.

Working primarily in the private sector, with no ongoing support from any taxing authority or government agency, the NCLT has succeeded in permanently protecting over 11,000 acres of open space and agricultural land to date thanks to dedicated volunteer leadership and financial support from loyal members. Operations are carried out by a 15-member Board of Trustees, which serves without compensation, various committees, and a small professional staff.

The individual responsible for the coordination of the CAL-FED proposal will be John Hoffnagle, NCLT Executive Director. His qualifications are as follows: B.S. Biology University of Oregon (1976), MFS Yale School of Forestry (1978); Oregon Land Steward - The Nature Conservancy (1979-1984); Director of Development - Greenbelt Alliance (1987-1989); Administrative Director - Tropical Resources Institute (1984-86), Yale School of Forestry;

board member Strong Foundation for Environmental Values. He also serves on the Bay Area Open Space Council and is a regular speaker at regional and national land trust conferences and workshops. Mr. Hoffnagle has extensive experience in all phases of open space real estate acquisition including fee simple gifts, estate planning, and purchases. Mr. Hoffnagle had an undergraduate emphasis in estuarine ecology and was the recipient of a interdisciplinary National Science Foundation grant in 1976 to study the biological and social aspects of wetland preservation. He is the author of five publications regarding salt marshes and their ecological function including Estimates of Vascular Plant Primary Production in a West-Coast Saltmarsh Estuarine Ecosystem in North American Journal of Science (Vol. 54, 1980). This research was the first to look at the productivity of salt marshes on the Pacific

The NCLT has successfully completed twelve **AGENCY PRE-ACQUISITION** projects to date, as follows:

- ♦ **WHITE SLOUGH MARSH** - 38-acre tidal marsh transferred to Department of Fish and Game (1978).
- ♦ **DALE PETERS CLYDE RESERVE** - 40-acre forest conveyed to Napa College for environmental study.
- ♦ **PALISADES-SWARTZ CANYON** - 120-acres acquired in 1981. To be transferred to RLS State Park in 1994.
- ♦ **ZINFANDEL PARK** - Homeowner's neighborhood park established in 1985 for the City of St. Helena.
- ♦ **QUAIL RIDGE WILDERNESS PRESERVE** - Over 500 acres of rare habitat at Lake Berryessa conveyed to UC Reserve System via Wildlife Conservation Board and Quail Ridge Wilderness Conservancy.
- ♦ **PATTEN MT. ST. HELENA MINE** - Historic 25-acre mine, site of Robert Louis Stevenson's honeymoon and subject of the popular novel Silverado Squatters, transferred to RLS State Park in 1988.
- ♦ **BRUCHMAN CHENEY PRESERVE** - In 1991 NCLT acquired 120-acres of old-growth Douglas fir forest in the St. Helena watershed.
- ♦ **MONTESOL** - In 1994 the NCLT worked with a willing landowner to transfer 300-acres to RLS State Park.
- ♦ **TABLE ROCK** - In 1994 the NCLT transferred a spectacular 150-acre landmark formation to RLS State Park.
- ♦ **N. G. WRIGHT ESTATE** - Residential building site transferred to Bothe Napa Valley State Park in 1994.
- ♦ **BULL ISLAND** - 109-acres wetland and the most recent agency pre-acquisition. In 1997 the NCLT worked closely with Department of Fish and Game to permanently protect this tidal wetland. Funds were secured from the State Lands Commission, Napa Wildlife Commission, and private donations. Property was transferred to State Lands Commission and will be managed by the Department of Fish and Game.
- ♦ **PALISADES TRAIL** - 540-acre addition to RLS State Park in the final stages of completion. A spectacular trail corridor that will connect Mt. St. Helena to the historic Oat Hill Mine Road and eventually allow for the construction of a trail from Calistoga to the summit of Mt. St. Helena. Escrow to close in July of 1994.

The NCLT works with willing landowners in three ways to protect agricultural and open space lands: 1) **ACCEPTING OUTRIGHT DONATIONS** - *owned by the NCLT and slated to remain as such forever*; 2) **CREATING CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS** - *lands that remain in private ownership but are subject to deed restrictions which limit future development*, and 3) **AGENCY PRE-ACQUISITION** - *lands that have been transferred to a governmental agency or another nonprofit organization.*

The NCLT's major focus of activity is within the boundaries of Napa County which encompasses over 560,000 acres of unique and diverse terrain. The NCLT also holds conservation easements on properties in 3 neighboring counties as well. NCLT has also aided the new Lake County Land Trust with its initial organization and will advise them when requested.

With an active Board of Trustees and over 1,200 members, the NCLT now manages 1,500 acres in four preserves and holds conservation agreements on over 10,000 acres donated by private landowners. On five permanent preserves the NCLT is presently implementing restoration ecology programs. A riparian restoration program to improve fish habitat on Redwood Creek is being developed at the 380-acre Archer Taylor Preserve. A native oak planting program is underway at the 730-acre Wantrup Wildlife Sanctuary in Pope Valley. On a preserve within the city limits of Napa the NCLT has established the "Connolly Ranch Agricultural and Environmental Elementary Education Center" which serves as the site for a number of collaborative educational programs with the school district and other community organizations.

A computerized real estate information system - **Metroscan** - was acquired by the NCLT in 1994 to assist in identifying large land owners and provide critical information that would determine their potential for conservation easements. This technical capability has been a great addition to the NCLT's ongoing efforts and will continue

utilized extensively in regard to the South County Wetlands Opportunity Area. With a grant this year from the Conservation Technology Support Program, the Land Trust is working with the GreenInfo Network to establish in-house Geographic Information System capability, especially to create a first-ever map of protected public and private lands in Napa County. This Geographic Information System will be in place and functional in Fall 1997.

VI. COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

As per Table D-1 "Standard Contract Clauses and Related Proposal Submittal Requirements", the Napa County Land Trust, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, hereby submits its "Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement", attached as Exhibit 4. This Statement is consistent with the policies of the Land Trust.

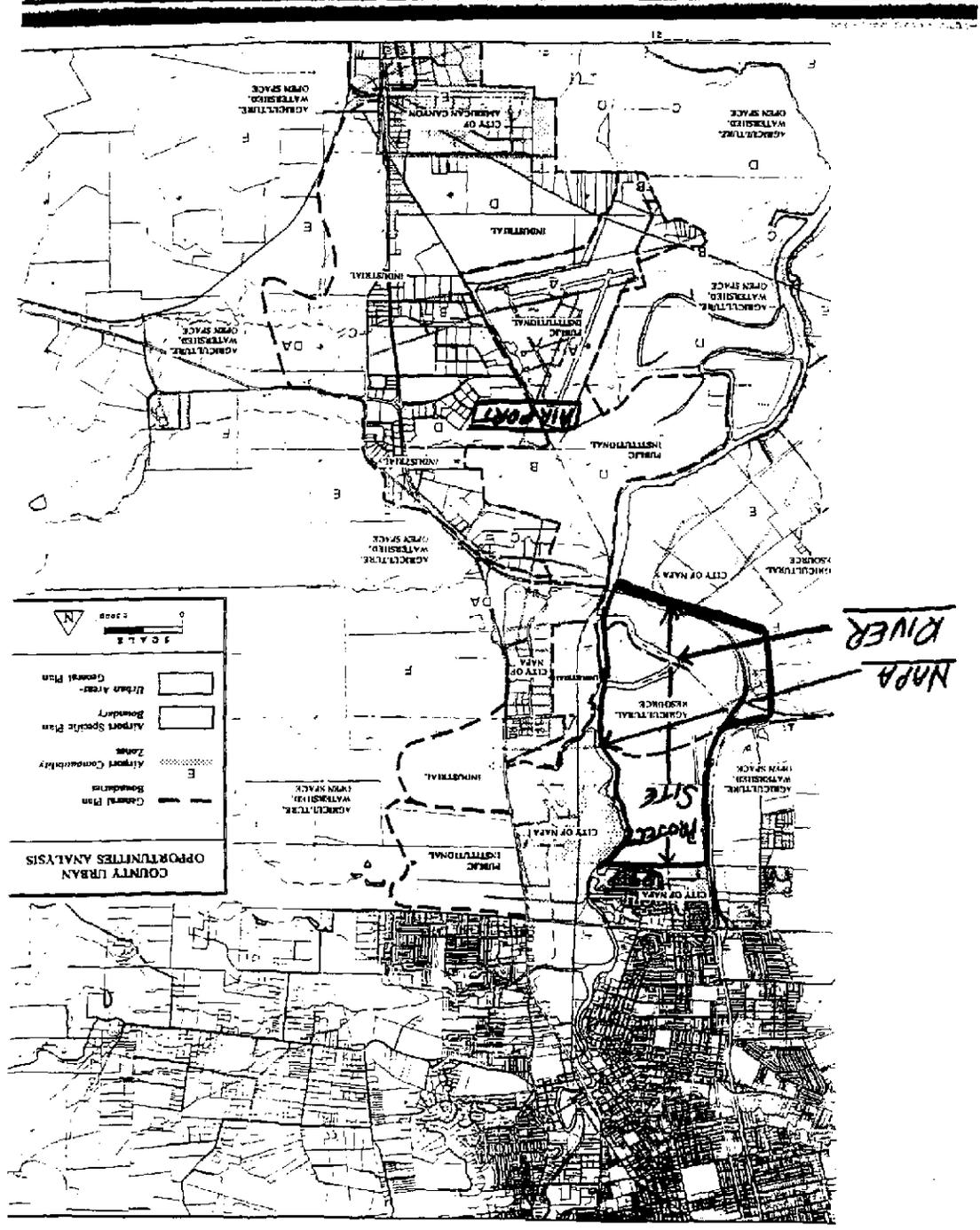


EXHIBIT 1

Project Opportunity Area

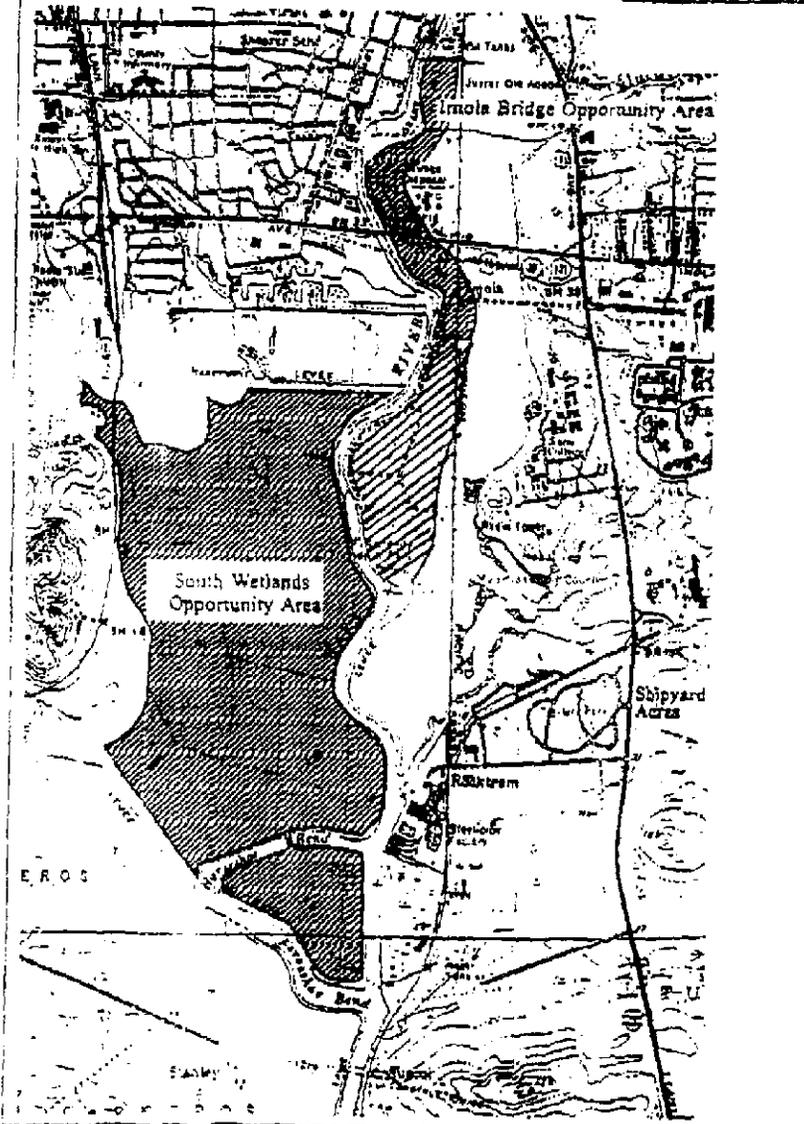


EXHIBIT 2

ACQUISITION/RESTORATION SEQUENCE

	# PARCELS	TOTAL ACRES	WETLAND ACRES	\$5,000 /ACRE	\$7,500 /ACRE
PHASE I (1998)					
Giovannoni	3	78	78	\$ 390,000	\$ 585,000
Stewart (Plass)	1	188	150	<u>750,000</u>	<u>1,125,000</u>
Restoration				\$250,000 including planning, permitting, and restoration activities	
				<u>\$1,390,000</u>	<u>\$1,960,000</u>
PHASE II (1999)					
Yokoi (Calvo)	1	205	165	\$ 825,000	\$1,237,500
Ghisletta	1	193	70	<u>350,000</u>	<u>525,000</u>
Restoration				\$250,000 including planning, permitting, and restoration activities	
				<u>\$1,425,000</u>	<u>\$2,012,500</u>
PHASE III (2000)					
Stanly Ranch N.	1	211	211	\$1,055,000	\$1,582,500
Stanly Ranch S.	3	282	282	<u>1,410,000</u>	<u>2,115,000</u>
Restoration				\$250,000 including planning, permitting, and restoration activities	
				<u>\$2,715,000</u>	<u>\$3,947,500</u>
TOTAL				<u>\$5,530,000</u>	<u>\$7,920,000</u>

ADMINISTRATIVE COST BREAKDOWN

PHASE I (1998)

Salary (10% ED; 25% FldRep; AdSec 10%)			\$20,500	
Benefits @ 20%			4,100	
Overhead @ 25% of salaries			6,150	
Professional services	Appraisal	\$5,000		
	Attorney	4,000		
	Eng/CERCLA	4,500		
	Title/Escrow	<u>1,500</u>		
			15,000	
				\$45,750

PHASE II (1999)

Salary (10% ED; 25% FldRep; AdSec 10%)			\$21,525	
Benefits @ 20%			4,305	
Overhead @ 25% of salaries			6,457	
Professional services	Appraisal	\$5,000		
	Attorney	4,000		
	Eng/CERCLA	4,000		
	Title/Escrow	<u>1,500</u>		
			14,000	
				\$46,787

PHASE III (2000)

Salary (10% ED; 25% FldRep; AdSec 10%)			\$22,601	
Benefits @ 20%			4,520	
Overhead @ 25% of salaries			6,780	
Professional services	Appraisal	\$5,000		
	Attorney	4,000		

EXHIBIT 2 (cont'd)

PROJECT MILESTONES

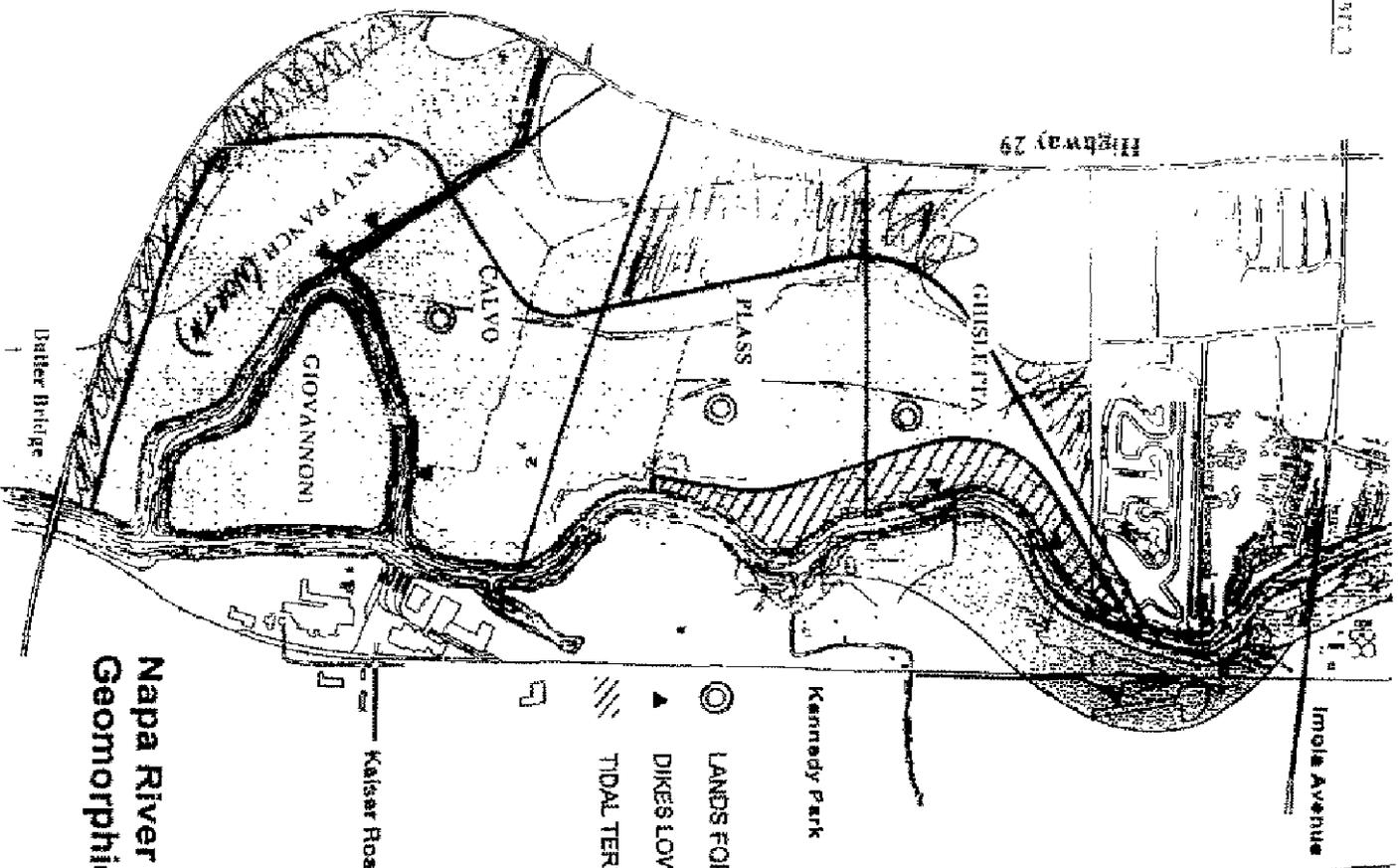
	1997				1998				1999				2000			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
PHASE I																
Landowner Identification			X													
Appraisal			X													
Landowner Negotiation			X													
Legal Review					X											
CERCLA Review					X											
Title/Escrow/Closing						X										
Restoration Activities						X			X	X	X	X				
PHASE II																
Landowner Identification			X													
Appraisal			X													
Landowner Negotiation					X											
Legal Review									X							
CERCLA Review									X							
Title/Escrow/Closing										X						
Restoration Activities										X			X	X	X	X
PHASE III																
Landowner Identification			X													
Appraisal					X											
Landowner Negotiation									X							
Legal Review										X						
CERCLA Review										X						
Title/Escrow/Closing															X	
Restoration Activities															X	X

EXHIBIT 2 (cont'd)

NAPA RIVER WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

SOURCES OF FUNDING

ITEM	CCC	NRCS	CALFED	OTHER
Phase 1 (228 ac.)		\$ 456,000	\$2,000,000 (requested)	To be determined
Phase 2 (235 ac.)		\$ 470,000	\$2,000,000 (estimated)*	To be determined
Phase 3 (493 ac.)		\$ 936,000	\$4,000,000 (estimated)*	To be determined
Notes:	intended for other properties	may be available for restoration activities		Land Trust, County, DFG and/or U.S. Army Corps
TOTAL	\$2,000,000	\$1,862,000	\$8,000,000*	



**Napa River
Geomorphic Plan**

0 0 2 8 2 6

**"LIVING RIVER"
FLOOD CONTROL FOR NAPA**

SINCE 1862, THE CITY OF NAPA and its surrounding valley region have experienced 24 floods. In 1980, a flood caused \$100 million in damages, destroyed 230 homes, and led to three deaths. Congress has repeatedly authorized studies and designs for flood control improvements, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proposed projects, but all attempts to address the problem have foundered in disputes about expense, design, and environmental impacts. In 1985 federal and state resource agencies reviewed the most recent Corps plan, which calls for deepening and channelizing the river and gave notice of significant regulatory hurdles ahead.

In response to this impasse, the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in 1985 organized the Napa River Community Coalition, which has devised a strategy designed to provide flood protection while maintaining a "living river." Below is a plan with the cooperation of the Corps. A key component of the design is to let the river spread into its

floodplain at selected natural sites, instead of speeding its flow by channelizing it. This plan has become a national model for restoration-based flood control project design.

At its March 27 meeting, the Coastal Conservancy moved the Coalition plan forward by approving \$30,000 to Napa County to assist in the preparation of an enhancement plan for 605 acres on both sides of the river and from the Highway 12 crossing to just north of Imola Bridge. The County will use the Conservancy funds together with \$10,000 of its own monies in this project.

Implementation of the Coalition's plan will require the purchase of land, easements, and rights-of-way, reconstruction of the river to its historic floodplain, restoration of a geomorphologically stable river channel, and environmentally sensitive stream bank treatment in the mid-reaches of the City of Napa. Although no acquisition funds are now available, the governor had proposed that \$2 million be allocated to the Conservancy in the state's 1997/98

budget for such purchases and related improvements along the Napa River. Napa River supports a wide array of

terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, and over a dozen unique and sensitive plant species. Twenty-five species of fish are known to inhabit the Napa River, including a remnant steelhead and salmon population and two other species of special concern. Some fishery specialists are confident that the previously recommended Corps channelization project for the Napa River would have destroyed remaining habitat for these and other species. The revised plan will avoid those impacts and will be significant as an example of how to design an environmentally sensitive flood management project.

FITZGERALD RESERVE TO GET HELP

THE COASTAL CONSERVANCY has agreed to grant \$20,000 to San Mateo County toward preparing a plan for environmental and visitor-serving improvements at the James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The plan will be designed to ensure that people can continue to visit and learn about the rich habitats here, without damaging what they come to see.

Each year some 135,000 people, including crowds of schoolchildren, come to observe life in the tidepools, along the rocky shores, and in the wetlands of this 440-acre marine reserve, located just north of Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County. The wetlands are a critical stop-over for migratory ducks, geese, shorebirds, and songbirds, although they have been degraded by adjacent development and by a road cut.

The County's enhancement plan will allow for continued public use and interpretation while protecting and restoring sensitive resources. After the plan is completed, its partners will work together to secure funds to implement it. This project is a priority for the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture.

SAFER RR CROSSING AT SURF BEACH

WITH THE HELP OF \$80,000 from the Conservancy, the County of Santa Barbara will improve a popular

Arrow indicates Napa marshlands to be enhanced for flood control and wildlife.



NOTE: LOOKING SOUTH FROM IMOLA AVE. TO BUTLER BRIDGE (HWY. 29)

EXHIBIT 4

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

COMPANY NAME

NAPA COUNTY LAND TRUST

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

OFFICIAL'S NAME

John Hoffnagle

DATE EXECUTED

July 28, 1997

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF

Napa, California

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

Executive Director

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

Napa County Land Trust

RESOLUTION NO. 97-9(FC)

RESOLUTION OF THE NAPA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPPORTING
GRANT APPLICATION BY NAPA COUNTY LAND TRUST
TO CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM FOR LAND ACQUISITION

WHEREAS, the passage of State Proposition 204 in 1996 provides \$60 million for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program for Ecosystem Restoration; and

WHEREAS, these funds have now been made available to local government agencies and non-profit organizations through the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP); and

WHEREAS, one of the eligible activities of this program is the acquisition of land for the purpose of wetlands restoration; and

WHEREAS, there are several properties along the Napa River which are potential sites for such restoration; and

WHEREAS, acquisition of said properties would also be required to implement the Napa River Flood Control Project, which is the result of a multi-year, community-based planning process that has resulted in an environmentally-sensitive redesign of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project; and

WHEREAS, the future of the Flood Control Project will not be determined until a future tax ballot initiative is brought to the voters no earlier than November, 1997; and

WHEREAS, the response to the CALFED RFP must be submitted no later than October 1, 1997; and

WHEREAS, the Napa County Land Trust, a non-profit organization whose stated purpose is to acquire and preserve natural resources and wildlife areas, has the capability and desire to acquire these particular properties, regardless of the outcome of the Flood Control Project; and

WHEREAS, the Napa County Land Trust is preparing a proposal in response to the CALFED RFP in the amount of \$1.75 million for this purpose, including a commitment from the California Fish and Game Department to own and maintain these lands in perpetuity as

WHEREAS, the Land Trust and the Fish and Game Department will agree to a restoration plan which is consistent with the design of the Flood Control Project and, in the event the Project is implemented, will provide the necessary flood easements on said properties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District as follows:

EXHIBIT 5 (Cont'd)

1. The Board supports the CALFED grant proposal of the Napa County Land Trust to acquire several properties along the Napa River for the purpose of wetlands restoration; and
2. District staff is hereby authorized to assist in the preparation of said proposal.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY AND REGULARY ADOPTED by the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District at a regular meeting of the Board held on the 15th day of July, 1997, by the following vote, with the number following the name of each voting Director indicating the number of votes cast by the Director:

AYES: DIRECTORS

HENDERSON, HOLT, FERRIOLE, VARRELMAN,

WINTER, LUCE, TECHEL, ANDERSON, SLAVEN

and RIPPEY

NOES: DIRECTORS

NONE

ABSENT: DIRECTORS

CALLEGARI

ATTEST: MARY JEAN
MCLAUGHLIN, Secretary of
the Board

By Mary Jean McLaughlin

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ROBERT WESTMEYER, District Legal Counsel

By Margaret Woodbury

March 11, 1996

To: Napa River Flood Management Plan - Design Review and Feasibility Committee
From: The Subcommittee on Water Quality and Fish Habitat
Subject: The following definition of a living river has been prepared for your review

A "living" Napa River and its tributaries is a river system with structure, function, and diversity. It has physical, chemical, and biological components that function together to produce complex, diverse communities of people, plants, and animals. The health of the entire watershed, from the smallest headwater trickle on the slopes of Mt. St. Helena to the broad expanse of the estuary, is the summation of natural and human activities in the basin and how they affect certain undeniable physical processes common to all river systems. A "living" Napa River functions properly when it conveys variable flows and stores water in the floodplain, provides good quality fish and wildlife habitat, balances sediment input with sediment transport, maintains good water quality, provides water supply, recreation and aesthetic values, and generally enhances the human environment.

131



1026 Ninth Street, Suite 1153
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 687-3644
FAX (916) 684-0780

July 10, 1996

The Honorable Mike Thompson
Second Senatorial District
State Capitol, Room 3056
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Thompson:

In your letter of July 8, 1996, you briefly described an innovative and progressive flood control-related project on the Napa River. The innovative components from our particular standpoint include river restoration and enhancement and expansion of wetlands, particularly in the lower region of the Napa River.

Depending on the details of the actual plan, wetlands in the lower reach of the Napa River can have benefits to the Sacramento splittail, the Delta smelt, Salt-marsh harvest mouse and other species indigenous and of critical interest in the Bay-Delta system. As such, I am committed to reviewing this project as we move forward with development of the CALFED ecosystem restoration component for the Bay-Delta system.

An important part of our approach is finding the mechanisms to coordinate our broad ecosystem restoration program with individual innovative projects such as you have described in your letter. I am optimistic that we can find a way to define joint benefits and develop some cost-sharing opportunities. However, at this time, I cannot absolutely commit that Category III or other related funding will specifically be available for this project. I will continue to work with your staff and the project manager to assure integration and a broader cooperative effort.

Please give me a call if I may provide any additional information at this time.

Sincerely,

Hector A. Snow
Executive Director

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

CALFED Agencies
Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service