

I. Executive Summary

97 JUL 28 PM 3:44

a. Project title: Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River: Floodplain Acquisition and Management Project

Co-applicants: Wildlife Conservation Board (California Department of Fish and Game), US Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy.

b. Project description and primary biological/ecological objectives

The co-applicants request \$9,879,800 for the acquisition of fee title or permanent conservation easement on lands within the Conservation Area (as defined by SB 1086) of the Sacramento River between Keswick and Verona; funds will also be dedicated to their management. These acquisitions are a means to facilitate the recovery of ecological processes within the floodplain, including the regeneration of native riparian habitat. The primary ecological objectives of the project are to:

- Protect and increase quality and quantity of an essential spawning, rearing, and migratory pathway for a host of aquatic and terrestrial species.
- Protect large continuous blocks of existing and restorable aquatic and riparian habitat for the benefit of these species.
- Protect and allow for the restoration of ecological processes in the 150-year meander belt.

There are twelve CALFED *stressors* described in the Request for Proposals that are reduced through this project including *physical isolation of the floodplain, loss of riparian vegetation, and elimination of fine sediment replenishment*, to name three. Others are described in the Section III-c. While the proposed project stands alone, it is one of several complementary proposals being submitted to CALFED.

c. Approach/tasks/schedule

The co-applicants will negotiate the acquisition of fee title or easements on lands in the project area with willing sellers. These lands will come into public ownership and be managed as part of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, the Sacramento River Wildlife Area, or some other appropriate public reserve system consistent with Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and Service policy and procedures. Assuming full funding for this project, we anticipate acquiring an estimated 500 acres in each of the three years following the award of funds. Actual acres acquired will depend upon the price of purchased properties.

d. Justification for project

The loss and degradation of aquatic and riparian habitat on the Sacramento River have reached critical levels. Shaded riverine aquatic, floodplain, and riparian woodland habitats have declined as human demands on the river's resources have intensified, with associated declines in aquatic and terrestrial species. Anadromous fish, including four genetic races of chinook salmon and steelhead trout, depend on the river as a migration corridor. Winter-run salmon are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, and spring-run salmon and Sacramento splittail (resident) have also declined radically. Migratory birds such as the

western yellow-billed cuckoo (state listed threatened) have also suffered, as have myriad terrestrial species.

e. *Budget costs and third party impacts*

Proposal applicants are requesting \$9,879,800 to protect and manage floodplain lands through fee title or permanent easement acquisition. Budget costs include funds for these task categories: fee title and easement acquisition, start-up stewardship, and operations and management. Potential third party impacts, such as displacement of local agriculture, flood impacts, and decrease in the local tax base, are addressed in section IV-c.

f. *Applicant qualifications*

The Nature Conservancy began acquiring land along the Sacramento River in 1988 and assisted the US Fish and Wildlife Service in acquiring 8,000 acres for conservation in the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. Since then, the Conservancy, in partnership with the Service, has dedicated significant resources to do the following: acquire additional Refuge lands; purchase and hold a 2,900-acre conservation easement; implement large-scale riparian forest restoration; and engage the local community in a wildlife-compatible agriculture program. The WCB has acquired interest in more than 4,000 acres, which are managed by several state and local partners. The proposed project will continue to build on these acquisition and restoration successes.

g. *Monitoring and data evaluation*

Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in two ways. First, applicants will maintain a chronological record of the amount and types of acreage acquired and will submit quarterly programmatic and financial reports. Second, in areas where passive floodplain restoration is planned, applicants will monitor the recovery of the meander zone and the re-establishment of riparian vegetation through GIS mapping provided by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), based on data gathered during aerial surveys of the river after flood events. Mapping and surveys will be funded by DWR.

h. *Local support/coordination with other programs/compatibility with CALFED objectives*

Acquisition lands will be selected according to existing agency guidelines and procedures set forth in applicant management plans, as well as in regional initiatives focused in the project area (e.g., SB 1086). This project is supported by a host of local public and private entities (see attached letters of support). The Project does not conflict with any CALFED objectives, and directly supports those objectives pertaining to ecosystem health and water quality. Its goals are also consonant with existing agency objectives and programs, some of which have provided project funding in the past: the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Riparian Habitat Joint Venture (Partners in Flight), Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

II. Title Page

a. Title of project

Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River: Floodplain Acquisition and Management Project

b. Name of applicant/principal investigators; address; phone/fax/e-mail; organizational, institutional or corporate affiliations of applicant/principal investigators.

John Carlon, Project Manager
The Sacramento River Project
The Nature Conservancy
261 E. 3rd Street
Chico, CA 95928
916/342-0396; 342-0257 (fax)
jcarlon@tnc.org

Gary W. Kramer, Refuge Manager
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Route 1, Box 311
Willows, CA 95988
916/934-2801; 934-7814 (fax)

Scott Clemons, Riparian Habitat Program Manager
Wildlife Conservation Board (CA Department of Fish and Game)
801 K Street, Suite 806
Sacramento, CA 95814
916/445-1072; 323-0282 (fax); sclemons@hq.dfg.ca.gov

c. Type of organization and tax status

The Nature Conservancy is a non-profit 501(c3) organization.
The US Fish and Wildlife Service is an agency of the United States Department of Interior.
The Wildlife Conservation Board (California Department of Fish and Game) is an agency of the State of California Resources Agency.

d. Tax identification number and/or contractor license, as applicable

The Nature Conservancy's taxpayer identification number: 53-0242652

e. Technical and financial contact people, address, phone/fax/e-mail (Same as above)

f. Participants/collaborators in implementation

Participants in implementation include the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Conservation Board (CA Department of Fish and Game (DFG)), and The Nature Conservancy. A list of collaborators is provided in Section III-a.

g. RFP project group type(s) (Construction; Acquisition; Other Services)

Group 2: Acquisition

III. Project Description

a. Project description and approach

The co-applicants request \$9,879,800 for the acquisition of fee title or permanent conservation easement on lands within the Conservation Area (as defined by SB 1086) of the Sacramento River, between Keswick and Verona; funds will also be dedicated to their management. Permanent protection and adaptive management of these lands are critical steps toward the restoration of natural ecological processes in this system. The acquisitions, easements, and adaptive management program is designed to:

- Allow natural restorative processes of erosion, sedimentation, and flooding to occur.
- Prevent further degradation of riverine and riparian habitats.
- Reduce land use conflicts.
- Provide for adaptive management and ecological monitoring of key habitats.
- Where needed, provide sites for active restoration programs (tree planting).

This project builds upon existing efforts of applicants: acquire additional Refuge and other public lands (more than 12,000 acres acquired to date), purchase and hold conservation easements, and implement large-scale riparian forest restoration (approximately 1,300 acres restored to date).

A parcel being considered for acquisition will be evaluated based on criteria including its biological and physical integrity, proximity to other intact floodplain lands, value to anadromous and resident fish species, the biological and economic feasibility of restoration, and consistency of acquisition with the goals of agency management plans and initiatives in the project area. These criteria are drawn from the SB 1086 management plan and designation of the Sacramento River Conservation Area and 150-year meander belt, from the Refuge's and DFG's procedures for evaluating land acquisitions, from the existing management plan for the State's Sacramento River Wildlife Area, and from the Conservancy's site selection criteria. Highest priority will be given to acquiring lands within the 150-year meander belt; other lands within the Conservation Area will be included if their restoration has potential value to fisheries.

Lands will be purchased by the three applicants; those purchased by WCB will require review and approval by the Department of Fish and Game. Lands will be managed in public ownership as part of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge system or some other program consistent with WCB and Service policy and procedures. Management costs will be covered through a combination of Category III funds, income from revenue generating operations, and existing agency operations budgets.

The values of the targeted lands vary widely, from as little as \$500 per acre for gravel bar, to as much as \$10,000 per acre for orchard. Assuming an average cost of \$5,000 per acre, applicants anticipate acquiring approximately 500 acres in each of the three years following award of funds, for a total of roughly 1,500 acres at the end of three years. However, the number of acres acquired will depend on the actual price of the properties purchased.

Land management practices will include a combination of passive management to allow natural regeneration of meander zone and ecological processes, and--where necessary and subject to available funding--direct planting of native riparian species in the floodplain. On lands farthest

from the river, farmers may conduct wildlife-compatible farming of orchards and other crops; on Refuge lands, a portion of crop income will be directed to riparian forest restoration. These activities will become part of existing management programs. Lands will be managed in farming until market trends or flood events make these farms economically unfeasible or they become priorities for reforestation.

While this project stands alone, it is being submitted for Category III funding in concert with several other proposals that support a vision for ecosystem protection and restoration. The complementary proposals are:

- Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River: **Active Restoration of Riparian Forest** (for direct planting of 300 flood-prone acres)
- Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River: **An Analysis of Conditions Required for Riparian Forest Establishment;**
- **Sacramento River Environmental GIS and Mapping Support;**
- Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River: **The Use of Bird Populations to Monitor, Conserve, and Restore Riverine Habitats;** and
- Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River: **A Meander Belt Implementation Project.**

Entities working to implement these activities include the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), California State University at Chico (CSUC), Point Reyes Bird Observatory, local private landowners, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wildlife Conservation Board/CA Department of Fish and Game. These entities have been working in the project area on these and other activities for more than fifteen years.

b. *Location and/or geographic boundaries of project*

Acquisitions will be targeted on properties within the Conservation Area of the Sacramento River (as defined by SB 1086) between the towns of Keswick and Verona. Counties in the project area include Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Sutter, and Yolo. (See Figures 2, 2(a), and 3 for project and ownership maps, following Section III.)

c. *Expected benefits*

From an ecosystem process standpoint, this project will ensure the integrity of a large portion of the Sacramento River's *stream meander corridor* (between Red Bluff and Chico Landing). This corridor, through erosive processes, contributes significantly to *natural sediment supplies*. (See Figure 1: Example of Sacramento River Stream Meander, following Section III.) The protection of existing riparian forests and the natural establishment of new forest due to this project will improve Central Valley *stream temperatures* on the stretch of river between Keswick to Verona.

Stressors

Ecosystem stressors that will be reduced by this program include:

The suite of stressors reduced by ensuring a *healthy meander corridor* between Red Bluff and Chico Landing, such as: *Alteration of channel form, physical isolation of the floodplain, reduction of gravel recruitment, lack of riparian vegetation regeneration potential, elimination of fine sediment replenishment, and elevated predation and competition losses.*

The suite of stressors that are reduced by *removing incompatible land uses* from the River's edge, and allowing riparian vegetation to establish, such as: *Water temperatures* that are too high, *loss of riparian vegetation*, *channel aggradation* due to fine sediments captured by the riparian vegetation, *contaminants*, and *incompatible agricultural practices*.

Habitats

Priority habitats improved by this project include shaded riverine aquatic, instream aquatic, riparian and riverine aquatic, and compatibly managed agricultural lands.

Species

The reduction of the stressors noted above and the creation of and improvements in key habitats provide significant benefits for the following priority species during key portions of their life histories: winter-run (federally and state listed endangered), spring-run, late-fall-run and fall-run chinook salmon; splittail; steelhead trout; and green sturgeon.

Other CALFED priority species directly benefiting from this project include fall-run chinook salmon, resident fish, American shad, Swainson's hawk (state listed threatened), western yellow-billed cuckoo (state listed threatened), bank swallow (state listed threatened), shorebird and wading bird guilds, neo-tropical migratory bird guild, upland game, valley elderberry longhorn beetle (federally listed threatened), and bald eagle. (See Figure 4 for species list, following Section III.)

The ecosystem benefits derived from this program use natural processes as the primary agent of restoration. Since the acquisitions and easements afford permanent legal protection, the ecosystem benefits of this project can be expected not only to endure, but also to increase with time as the natural restoration process creates an ever more complex and resilient ecosystem.

Third party benefits--economic

- Retirement of flood-prone agricultural lands provide farmers the opportunity to *reinvest their capital* in more productive land. Additionally, retirement of specific croplands like prune orchards will help reduce downward price pressures and crop surpluses.
- Planned floodplain restoration will result in more *cost-effective flood control* measures in the long-term.
- Acquisition of private levees and flood-prone lands will *eliminate the need for farmers to implement bank stabilization* and reduce their costs of production.
- *Insurance claims for flood related damages should decrease* as agricultural production shifts to higher ground and a greater number of acres are committed to floodplain habitat.
- The area will provide more *local recreational benefits*, attracting tourism income to the area.

Benefits to CALFED non-ecosystem objectives

Water quality Acquisition of properties inside the Sacramento River Conservation Area is an important first step toward improving water quality by reducing agricultural inputs into the river (sustainable farming program/land use changes) and by using riparian filter strips to trap run-off containing sediment and pesticides or fertilizers.

Flood control The root and soil system provides a natural filter not only for water, but also for debris and sediments carried by floodwaters that may damage bridges and irrigation structures, as well as orchards and other croplands. Riparian vegetation binds the soil, minimizing the scouring of soils during flood events. Riparian vegetation also increases the river's capacity to slow down and hold floodwaters, minimizing the negative impacts of floods. Finally, retirement of flood-prone lands will lead to a decrease in flood-related losses.

Benefits to other ecosystem restoration programs:

Floodplain acquisition and restoration efforts support the goals of the following programs: ***SB 1086*** This state legislation focuses on protection and restoration of aquatic and riparian habitat within the project area. It involves a host of federal, state, and local entities with jurisdiction in the region. The goal of the legislation is the protection of sensitive fish and wildlife species associated with these habitats.

Central Valley Project Improvement Act This program supports the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitats in the Central Valley and, specifically, the doubling of natural anadromous fish populations within CVP streams.

Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture The Joint Venture focuses on restoration of Valley wetlands primarily for waterfowl and migratory bird purposes. Floodplain restoration on the Sacramento River, a major route on the Pacific Flyway, directly supports this goal.

Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge Managed by the Service, Refuge activities consist of preserving and restoring riparian habitat for sensitive fish and wildlife species along the River.

California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program This program is administered by the WCB, in coordination with DFG, to facilitate statewide efforts to protect, restore, and enhance riparian habitat.

Riparian Habitat Joint Venture (Partners in Flight) This is a multi-partner effort focused on protecting and enhancing riparian habitat for the benefit of native resident and neo-tropical migratory birds.

d. *Background and biological/technical justification*

The loss and degradation of aquatic and riparian habitats on the Sacramento River have reached critical levels. Shaded riverine aquatic, floodplain, and riparian woodland habitats have declined as human demands on the river's resources have intensified, with associated declines in aquatic and terrestrial species. Anadromous fish, including four genetic races of chinook salmon and steelhead trout, depend on the river as a migration corridor. Historically, winter-run chinook salmon runs numbered 200,000 annually, spring-run numbered approximately 600,000, and fall-run numbered between 200,000 and 500,000 (Ward, 1997). Presently, winter-run salmon are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, and spring-run salmon and Sacramento splittail (resident) have also declined radically. Migratory birds such as the western yellow-billed cuckoo (state listed threatened) have also suffered, as have myriad terrestrial species.

The mainstem of the Sacramento River is important for anadromous fish in the following ways:

- Fall, late-fall, winter, and spring-run chinook salmon use the mainstem to migrate to their respective tributaries.
- Winter run salmon spawn in the section between Keswick and Red Bluff.
- Fall and late-fall run salmon will also spawn in the mainstem.

- All races of salmon use the mainstem as rearing and foraging habitat.
- The river provides a migratory corridor for all races of chinook salmon and steelhead.

Given the river's critical importance as a migratory corridor for anadromous fish and migratory birds, the protection and restoration of appropriate habitat is necessary. Several approaches are possible towards this end:

Acquisition of a narrow riparian strip of land: While acquisition of streamside strips would be beneficial to aquatic and riparian species, it would not allow for full-scale meander belt and floodplain restoration. It does not provide the magnitude and sustainability of benefit of the proposed project. In addition, as the river meanders, this strip would be lost.

Voluntary restoration activity by local landowners: This approach would have limited benefit. It depends entirely on the willingness of an individual landowner. While it is a strategy occasionally employed in the project area, it does not hold the potential for larger-scale restoration over time, and landowners have little continuing incentive to participate.

The proposed acquisition project: The proposed project holds the most promise in terms of larger scale ecosystem restoration, and will yield multiple benefits over time. We expect habitat improvements to be self-sustaining and durable.

Project status

This is a continuing project. Since 1988, the Service and the Conservancy have acquired and are managing 8,260 acres of riparian habitat and flood-prone agricultural lands as part of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. Together, the Service and the Conservancy have restored 1,225 acres at eight different sites. Since 1958 the WCB has acquired interest (fee title or easement) in more than 4,000 acres of land along the Sacramento River. Depending upon the designated use or the purpose of acquisition, these lands are managed by local governments, private landowners, or the Department of Fish and Game.

At this point, one identified property is under option (426 acres with an asking price of \$1.3 million); this property will be acquired with either Category III or CVPIA funds. Eighteen other landowners in the area either have expressed interest in selling or are in the process of negotiation. The ultimate mix of properties acquired through this program will be determined through negotiations with willing sellers.

e. *Proposed scope of work*

Acquisition goal: An estimated 1,500 acres over the three-year project, or 500 acres per year.

Steps in the acquisition process:

1. Identify willing sellers of properties located in the Sacramento River Conservation Area.
2. Prioritize properties based on selection criteria.
3. Agree on ownership and management objectives for target properties; address third party impacts.
4. Appraise high-priority properties to determine fair market values.
5. Secure purchase options.
6. Conduct due diligence.
7. Submit required documentation for approval of funding.
8. Open escrow.
9. Request funds from agency administering Category III funds.

10. Close escrow.
11. Submit invoice to administering agency for non-acquisition-related costs.
12. Assume management and restoration responsibilities of acquired property.
13. Monitor acquired lands.

All applicants are involved in Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, and 13. Which applicants are involved in the other steps depends on the specific acquisition.

On a quarterly basis, the applicants will submit a program report detailing the lands acquired, their characteristics and value, who will manage them and management practices envisioned, and financial and other necessary information.

f. *Monitoring and data evaluation*

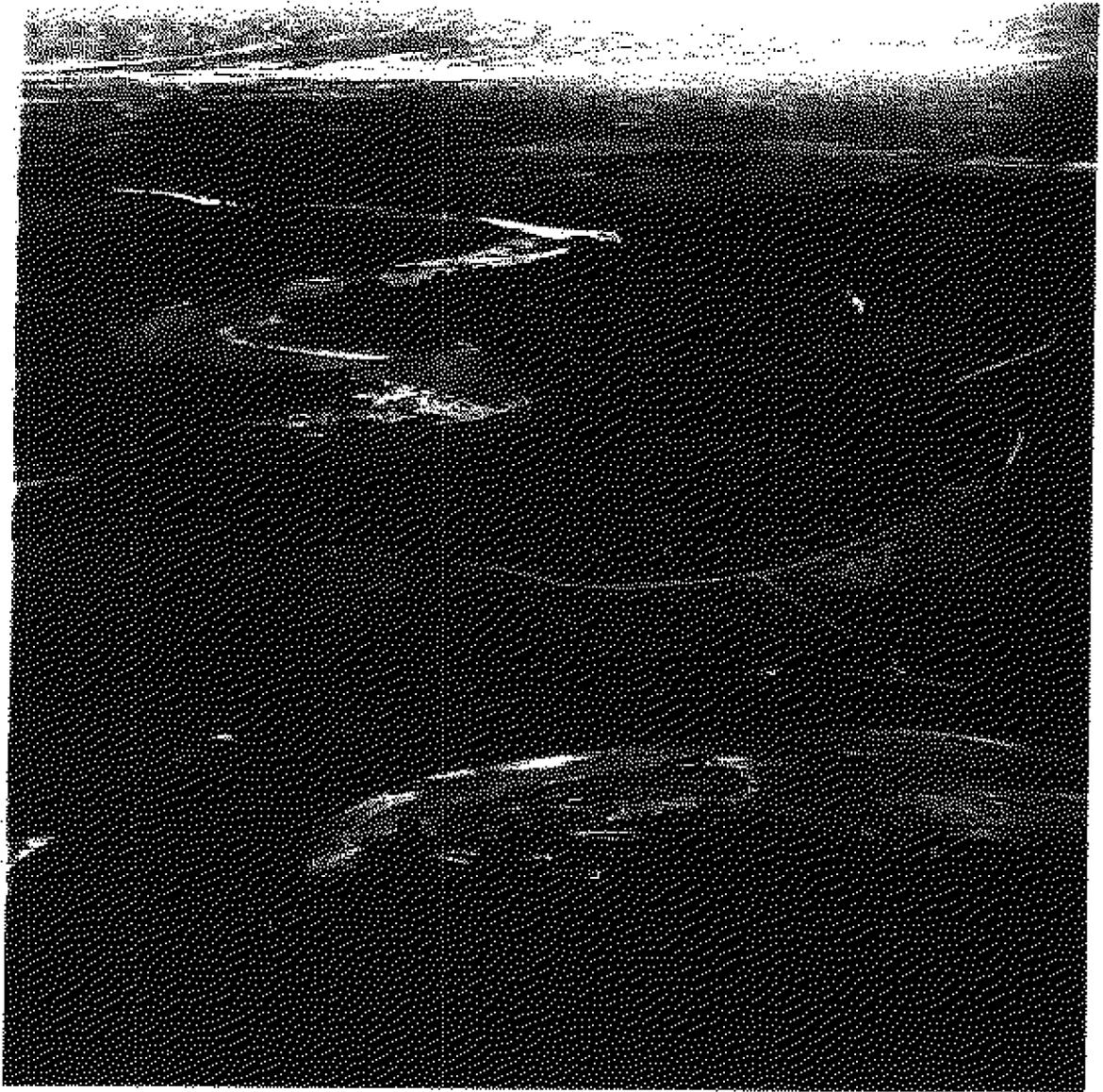
Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in two ways. First, applicants will maintain a record of the amount and types of acreage acquired and will submit a quarterly program report. Second, in areas where passive floodplain restoration is anticipated, applicants will monitor meander zone recovery, as measured by quantity of meanders, and re-establishment of riparian forest, as measured by the extent of vegetation as seen from the air. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping provided by DWR will be used for these purposes, based on data gathered during aerial surveys of the river after floods. WCB acquisitions will be monitored by WCB program staff in cooperation with the other applicants, where appropriate, and with DFG personnel, following the guidelines presented above.

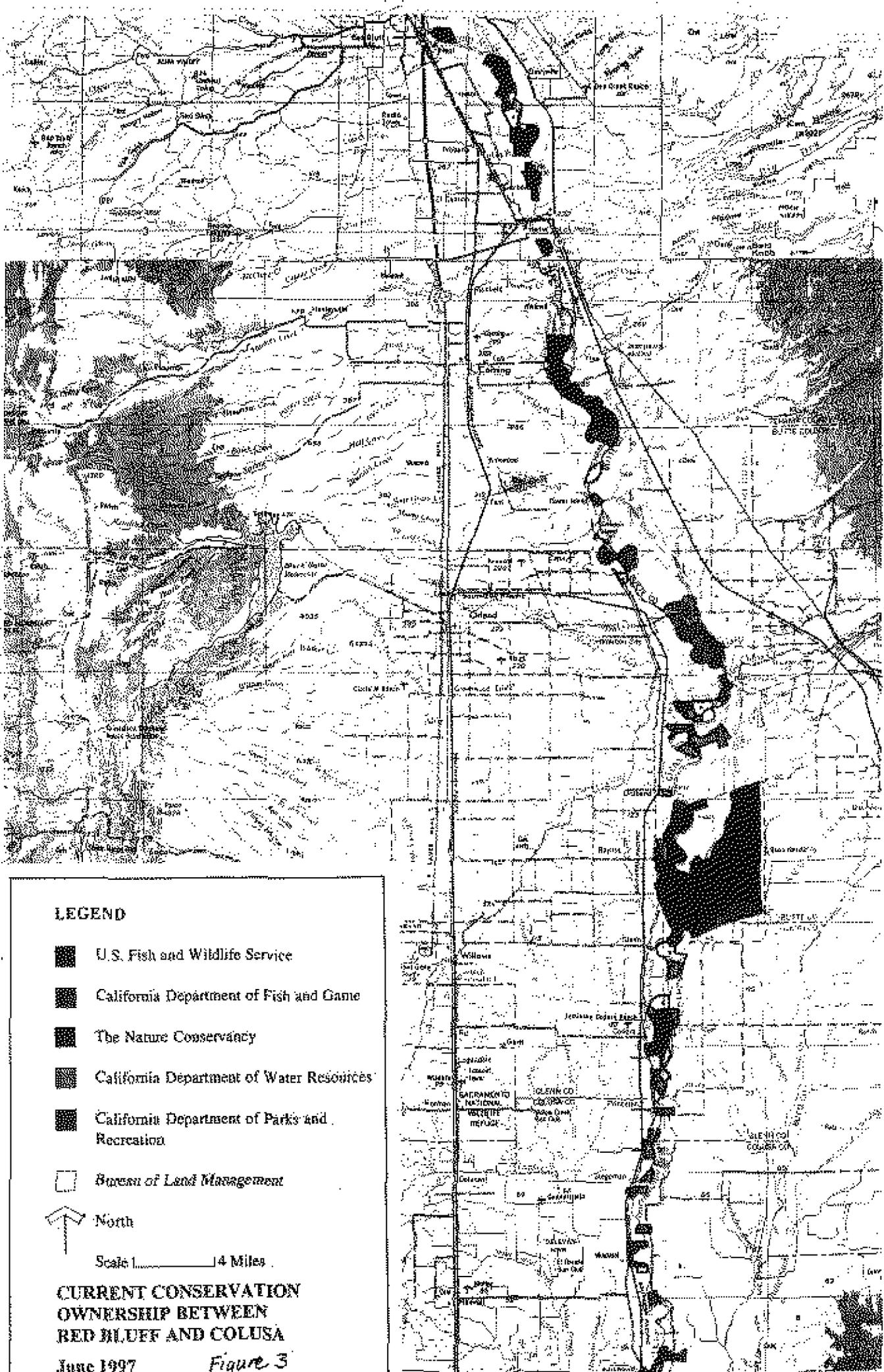
Applicants are investigating other monitoring programs that would support this project, such as erosion studies and measurements of the extent of aquatic habitat. We intend to participate in and benefit from existing monitoring programs that support our efforts.

g. *Implementability*

- All land acquisitions will be consistent with the principles of the SB 1086 Handbook and management principles of the Sacramento River Conservation Area, the goals and objectives outlined by CALFED for the Sacramento River, and other agency management plans and initiatives in the project area.
- All acquisitions will comply with existing laws and regulations.
- Applicants have identified willing sellers and are in negotiation with them. Local support for the project comes from farmers, neighbors of Refuge lands, a local environmentalist, SB 1086 Advisory Council, and a member of the Butte County Board of Supervisors (see letters of support at end of proposal).
- Other funds are being sought (and have previously been awarded) from: CVPIA, NFWF, WCB, Land and Water Conservation Fund, US Army Corps of Engineers, and DWR.

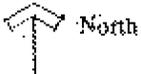
FIGURE 1: EXAMPLE OF SACRAMENTO RIVER MEANDER BELT





LEGEND

-  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
-  California Department of Fish and Game
-  The Nature Conservancy
-  California Department of Water Resources
-  California Department of Parks and Recreation
-  Bureau of Land Management



Scale 1 _____ 4 Miles

CURRENT CONSERVATION OWNERSHIP BETWEEN RED BLUFF AND COLUSA

June 1997 *Figure 3*

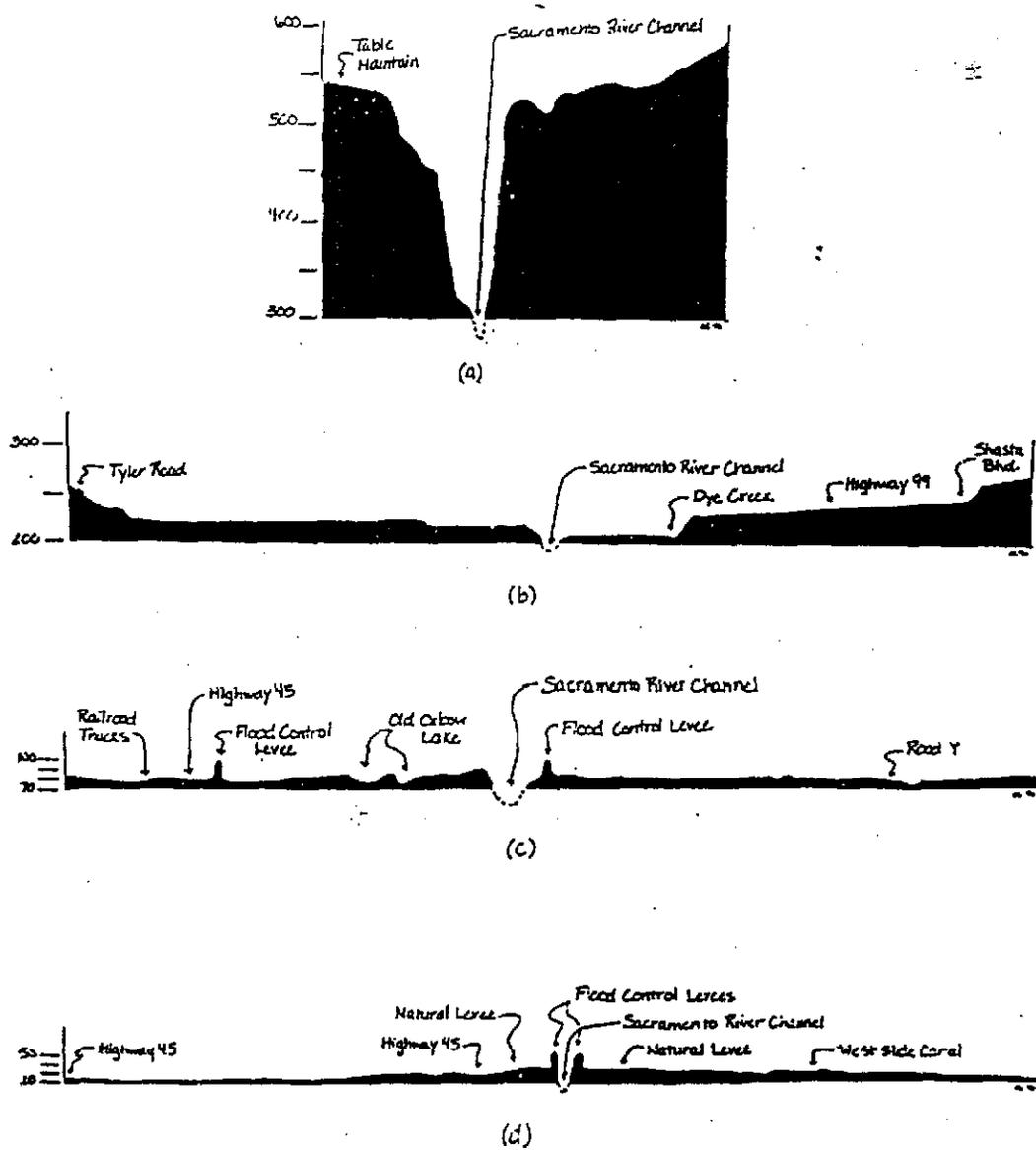


Figure 2(a) Typical cross-sections of the four reaches.

(From Draft Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook; June 10, 1997)

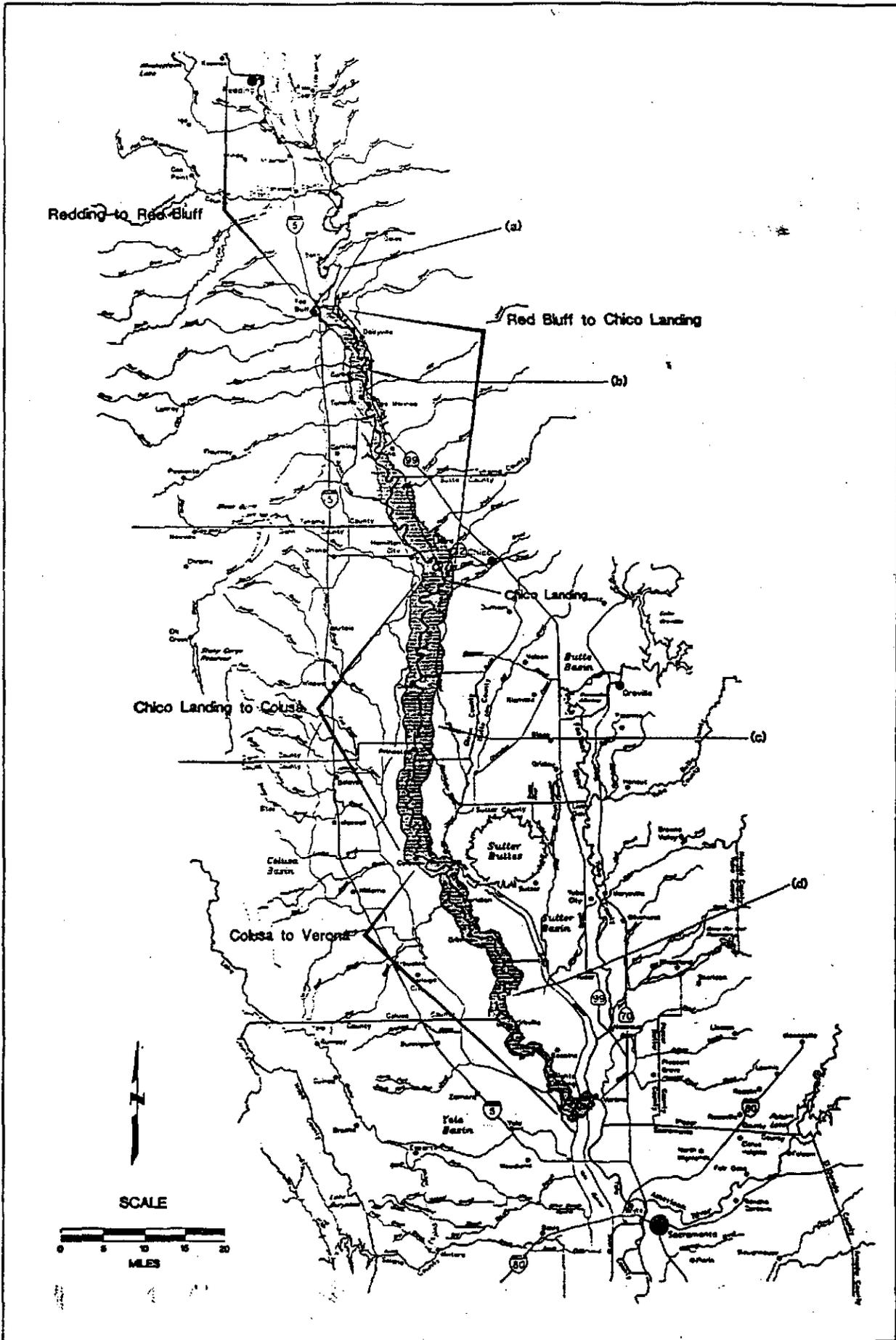


Figure 2: The Four Reaches of the Sacramento River Conservation Area. Letters refer to cross sections shown in Figure 2(a)

(From Draft Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook; June 10, 1997)

SPECIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM PROJECT

The following list represents species of particular interest or concern that are found within the Sacramento River Conservation Area and will benefit from land acquisition and habitat restoration.

Species and Species Groups

- White and green sturgeon
- Winter-run chinook salmon (*federally and state listed endangered*)
- Spring-run chinook salmon
- Fall-run chinook salmon
- Late-Fall run chinook salmon
- Steelhead trout
- Resident fish guild including Sacramento perch,
Sacramento blackfish and Sacramento splittail
- Giant garter snake (*federally and state listed threatened*)
- Red-legged frog (*federally listed threatened*)
- Western pond turtle
- Long-eared owl
- Sharp-shinned hawk
- Cooper's hawk
- Swainson's hawk (*state listed threatened*)
- White-tailed kite
- Clapper rail
- Western yellow-billed cuckoo (*state listed threatened*)
- bank swallow (*state listed threatened*)
- neo-tropical migratory bird guild including
riparian obligates like the Blue grossbeak,
willow fly catcher, cuckoos
- shore bird guild
- wading bird guild
- water fowl guild such as mallard, teal and wood ducks
- Valley elderberry long-horned beetle (*federally listed threatened*)



Salmon



Yellow-billed cuckoo

Many of the above species are designated as California Species of Concern.

IV. Costs and Schedules to Implement Proposed Project

a. Budget costs

The total request for Category III funds is \$9,879,800 (see Table 1: Budget, following Section IV).

The column "Material and Acquisition Contracts" includes capital costs for land acquisitions. "Service Contracts" includes the costs of appraisals, toxics studies, easement documentation reports (for easement only) and surveys and mapping for the planned acquisitions. "Start-up Stewardship" costs include preparing a management plan, fencing, and removing buildings. Operations and Management funding is calculated at 20% of the capital cost (on non-cultivated lands, which we estimate to be approximately half the lands acquired). The applicants intend to hold longterm management funds in an endowment, using interest to supplement existing agency operations budgets and revenue streams. Annual income will be used for ongoing management costs, including compliance and biological monitoring on all acquired lands.

In an effort to reduce overhead costs, the budgets allocate overhead and direct costs to each party based on the anticipated acquisition and management costs each party will bear. However, in the event it becomes more cost-effective for one party to implement a greater share of the restoration efforts, we request the flexibility to reallocate a proportionately larger amount of direct costs and/or overhead to that partner.

Funds committed or anticipated for other restoration efforts along the river, and not part of this request:

<i>Funding partnerships:</i>	<i>Committed:</i>	<i>Anticipated:</i>
CVPIA	\$1,925,000	\$1,332,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund		\$2,000,000

Overall project cost (including committed and anticipated funds listed above): \$15,136,800

To date, approximately \$40,000,000 have been spent through Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations and other sources on the acquisition of lands in the project area. With these funds, 24,000 acres have been brought into public ownership. Project proponents estimate that it will cost an additional \$100,000,000 to complete proposed acquisitions in the 150-year meander zone.

If Category III and its allied funding sources are unable to fulfill our entire funding needs on this project, we will raise additional funds from other sources and, if necessary, scale down the project to match the available funds.

b. *Schedule milestones*

Over the life of this three-year project, the milestones include acquisition of approximately 500 acres for each 12-month period following the award of funds, for a total of roughly 1,500 acres after three years. The exact number of acres acquired depends on the actual price of the purchased properties.

c. *Third party impacts*

There are several potential third party impacts which have been addressed, providing additional strength to the project:

Displacement of local agriculture: The applicants' goal is to have a gradual transition from farming to wildlands and to involve local farmers in this process as much as possible. Following acquisition, we will lease back the most productive lands to farmers, waiting for market trends or flood events to make these farms no longer economically viable. When this happens, we will transition these farmlands into wildlands through restoration contracts with the local community.

In some instances, we may transition land based on potential biological value. We have developed riparian restoration into a new agricultural enterprise for farmers along the northern Sacramento River. In addition, retirement of flood-prone agricultural lands will help reduce downward price pressures caused by overproduction of certain crops (e.g., prunes).

Reduced pesticide use enabling introduction of pest species problematic to adjacent farm lands:

The Service and the Conservancy currently manage 3,150 acres of farmland using sustainable farming practices. Most of these farms are surrounded by large tracts of riparian forest. Notwithstanding very restrictive lease requirements on pesticide use and farming practices, for the last four years the program has had a waiting list of farmers interested in leasing these properties. It is also important to note that we have not received a pest-related complaint from other landowners during this period. The CSUC School of Agriculture is actively engaged in working with TNC, the Service and DFG in this area.

Decrease in local tax base: The Service pays *in lieu* taxes on Refuge lands and, in some counties, possessory tax on the farming leases. The state also pays *in lieu* taxes on the lands it acquires. Another factor affecting local taxes is the overall increase in the tax base that occurs when farmers sell flood-prone properties and reinvest their money in more profitable farming enterprises.

Flood management impacts: Our observations of previously restored acres in the project area suggest that this acquisition program will slow down the flow of floodwaters which will increase the river's capacity to hold water. It is hoped that acquisition and management practices will result in more cost-effective flood control measures in the long run. Widening the floodplain will allow waters to flow over a greater surface area, reducing pressure on existing levee systems. A floodplain forest will filter floating debris and sediments from floodwaters. Flood-borne debris now causes problems to bridges and irrigation structures as well as to orchards and other croplands. As a result of these benefits, we hope that the costs of flood insurance will eventually decline.

Impacts on downstream uses, diversion points, and bridges: Evaluation of potential impacts on downstream uses will be conducted on a site-by-site basis. Local landowners will be contacted before any active restoration is initiated.

TABLE 1: PROJECT BUDGET

Budget - The Nature Conservancy

Project Phase and Task	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary and Benefits ¹	Overhead Labor (General, admin and fee)	Service Contracts	Material and Acquisition Contracts	Miscellaneous and other Direct Costs	Total Cost
Land Acquisition	6,300	279,300	54,200	240,000			579,800
O&M Funds						800,000	800,000
TOTAL	6,300	279,300	54,200	240,000		800,000	1,379,800

Budget - Wildlife Conservation Board

Land Acquisition			100,000		4,000,000		4,100,000
Start-up Stewardship						200,000	200,000
TOTAL			100,000		4,000,000	200,000	4,300,000

Budget - Fish and Wildlife Service

Land Acquisition					4,000,000		4,000,000
Start-up Stewardship						200,000	200,000
TOTAL					4,000,000	200,000	4,200,000

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$9,879,800

¹ For a field representative, legal staff and senior conservation management team

V. Applicant Qualifications

The *US Fish and Wildlife Service* manages the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), a system of floodplain properties along the river between Red Bluff and Colusa. The agency's ultimate goal is the protection of 18,000 acres for rare species (8,260 acres have been acquired to date). These efforts include acquisition and restoration of native riparian habitat, and monitoring habitat use by wildlife.

The Nature Conservancy is an international, private, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Conservancy has more than 45 years of experience in identifying, protecting, and managing significant natural areas. The operator of the largest private system of nature sanctuaries in the world, the Conservancy owns and manages more than 1,500 preserves throughout the US. Its strength and reputation are built on the application of the best conservation science available and building partnerships with local communities, private organizations, and public agencies to achieve mutual conservation goals.

The Nature Conservancy of California uses a wide variety of tools to help forge solutions to conservation issues. We employ the following four methods most frequently: land acquisition; land management and restoration; land-use planning and conflict resolution; and community education and outreach.

Several of The Nature Conservancy's landmark conservation projects--in the Cosumnes River, Santa Margarita River, and Sacramento River watersheds--have focused on protection and restoration of riparian ecosystems. Conservation efforts for these complex natural communities must include maintaining and restoring the natural processes that are essential to the long-term health of the hydrological system. In addition, The Nature Conservancy strives to balance the protection and restoration of natural communities with compatible human uses.

The Conservancy began acquiring land along the Sacramento River in 1988 and assisted the Service in acquiring 8,000 acres for conservation in the Refuge. Since then, the Conservancy has increased its efforts on the river, dedicating significant resources to: assist in the acquisition of additional Refuge lands, purchase and hold conservation easements, implement large scale riparian forest restoration; and engage the local community in a wildlife-compatible agriculture program. The Conservancy hopes that successes here will provide a sustainable land use model for the region.

The California Department of Fish and Game's *Wildlife Conservation Board* has been working to acquire and protect environmentally sensitive lands on the Sacramento River since 1958. Using acquisition of fee title and conservation easements, the WCB has protected more than 4,000 acres of riparian land along the river. These acquisitions are managed for a variety of uses, including public fishing access (managed by local governments under long-term cooperative agreements with WCB), protection of riparian and agricultural land (managed by private landowners in coordination with DFG), and protection and management of riparian habitat (the Sacramento River Wildlife Area is the largest example, with 3,615 acres under management by CDFG). The CDFG also manages agricultural lands within the Wildlife Area in cooperation with the demonstration farm of California State University at Chico (CSUC).

As mentioned earlier, the acquisition efforts described above are part of a comprehensive floodplain restoration effort which involves the following elements: acquisition and management, riparian forest restoration, bird population monitoring, GIS mapping, development of a riparian forest succession model, and direct support of the SB 1986 process. Proposals for these elements are being submitted to CALFED under separate cover.

Efforts to restore the Sacramento River ecosystem have been going on for many years and have been supported by a broad array of public and private partners. In addition to the applicants for this project, partners include the US Bureau of Land Management, DWR, CSUC, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and local landowners and farmers. Critical to the success of the project has been the diversity of partner support, and the inclusion of local landowners and other entities having a strong investment in the health of the region.

VI. Compliance with standard terms and conditions

The applicants acknowledge the requirement of the Standard Clauses for service and consultant service contracts for \$5,000 and over with nonpublic entities (Item 2), as described in the Terms and Conditions of the 1997 Category III Request for Proposal.

Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement forms are attached for The Nature Conservancy and CA Department of Fish and Game/Wildlife Conservation Board, as required under the Terms and Conditions of the 1997 Category III Request for Proposal.

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, 201 Mission St., 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105

COMPANY NAME

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.

Steve McCormick

OFFICIAL'S NAME

7/24/97

DATE EXECUTED

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF

San Francisco

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

Regional Director, Vice President

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

The Nature Conservancy

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

COMPANY NAME

Wildlife Conservation Board

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

W. John Schmidt

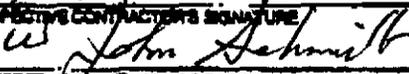
DATE EXECUTED

July 21, 1997

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF

Sacramento

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE



PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

Executive Director

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

Wildlife Conservation Board (Department of Fish and Game)

**TABLE 2: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PROJECT-RELATED REPORTS,
DOCUMENTS, AND PUBLICATIONS**

Academic

Hubbell, J. 1997. Competitive effects of alfalfa on survival, growth, and water relations of *Quercus lobata* seedlings. Master of Arts Degree, California State University, Chico.

*McAlexander, L.B. 1994 Species-area relations of breeding birds on the Sacramento River, California. Master of Science degree, California State University, Chico.

*Souza, J.S. 1995. Species richness of medium-sized carnivores in response to riparian patch size on the middle Sacramento River. Master of Science Degree in Agriculture, Calif State Univ., Chico.

**Funded by The Nature Conservancy*

Inventory and Monitoring

Buer, Kohl. 1994. Sacramento River Bank Erosion Investigation Memorandum Progress Report. CA Dept. of Water Resources, Red Bluff.

Buer, Kohl. 1994. Sacramento River Future Erosion Investigation Red Bluff to Chico Landing Memorandum Progress Report. CA Dept. of Water Resources, Red Bluff.

Geupel, G.R. and G. Ballard. 1995. Status and distribution of the landbird avifauna along riparian corridors of the Sacramento River national wildlife refuge: results of the 1994 field season.

Geupel, G.R. 1995. Population status and habitat associations of songbirds along riparian corridors of the lower Sacramento River: Results from the 1995 season and summary of results 1993 to 1995. A report of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Stinson Beach, CA.

Kiener, A. and G.R. Geupel. 1997. Songbird response to revegetation efforts at Stony Creek and other Nature Conservancy sites along the Sacramento River: Results from the 1996 field season. A report of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Stinson Beach, CA.

Publications

- Griggs, T. 1990. Valley oaks: Can they be saved? *Fremontia* 18(3):48-51.
- Griggs, F.T. 1993. Protecting biological diversity through partnerships: The Sacramento river Project. in *Interface between ecology and land development in California*, edited by J.E. Keeley. Pub. by Southern California Academy of Sciences, Los Angeles.
- Griggs, F.T., V. Morris, E. Denny. 1993. Five years of valley oak riparian forest restoration. *Fremontia* 22(2):13-17.
- Griggs, F.T. 1993. Restoration returns moments of wildness to the banks of the Sacramento River. *Pacific Discovery* 46(1):12-20.
- Griggs, F.T. 1994. Adaptive management strategy helps assure cost-effective, large-scale riparian forest restoration (California). *Restoration and Management notes* 12:1 pg. 80.
- Griggs, F.T. and D.R. Peterson. 1997. Evaluation and Costs for Valley oak riparian forest restoration on the Sacramento River. Proc. of a Symp. on Oak Woodlands: Ecology, Management, and Urban interface issues. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report PSW-GTR-160.
- Hujik, P. and F.T. Griggs. 1995. Cutting size, horticultural treatments affects survival and growth of riparian species (California). *Restoration and Management Notes* 13:2, pp. 219-220.
- Hujik, P. and F. T. Griggs. 1995. Field-seeded riparian trees and shrubs thrive in non-irrigated plots (California). *Restoration and Management Notes* 13:2, pp. 220-221.
- Sheehan, R. and T. Griggs. 1994. Adaptive management strategy used to determine duration of irrigation in riparian forest restoration (California). *Restoration and Management Notes* 12:1, pg.81.

Internal Reports and Plans

- Hubbell, J.G. 1994. First and second year results of riparian restoration experiments and suggestions for future experiments at Parrott Ranch, Sacramento River, CA.

Unit Implementation Plans, for each restoration planting.

1992 - Sam Slough, Kopta Slough I

1993 - Princeton Ferry, River Vista I, Kopta Slough II

1994 - Lohman, River Vista II, Kopta Slough III

1995 - River Vista III, Kopta Slough IV

1996 - River Vista IV, Shaw, Flynn I

1997 - River Vista V, Flynn II, Ryan, Kopta Slough V



SHASTA VIEW
FARMS

#10 E. Chard Avenue 916 385-1126
P.O. Box 960 FAX 916 385-1637
Gerber, California 96035

MIRIAM R FLYNN
PROPERTIES

July 22, 1997

Lester Snow
CalFed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: ECOSYSTEM AND NATURAL PROCESS RESTORATION ON THE
SACRAMENTO RIVER: FLOODPLAIN ACQUISITION

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing to support the above Nature Conservancy grant application for acquisition of approximately 1500 acres of flood plane land along the Sacramento River.

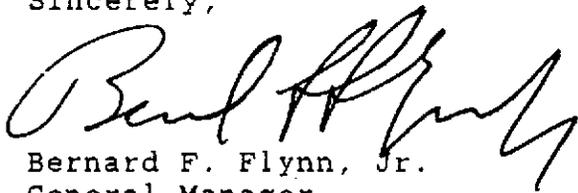
We believe we are experts in the beneficial effects of reforestation on farm operations. We farm 600 acres of prunes and almonds along the Sacramento River. We previously sold 400 acres to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife for riparian habitat. I am enumerating below the benefits of this program from the farm perspective.

- 1) The program increases farm capital by converting non-farm habitat land to farm cash capital which can (as in our case, where we planted 300 acres of orchard) be used to support development of crop intensive farm land.
- 2) The program generally increases county tax revenue by valorizing habitat land at the cost of acquisition which can be ten times greater than local appraised value. Thus the acquisition can increase county tax revenues by raising the basis for offset forest sale revenue reimbursement.
- 3) The acquired lands establish a buffer between remaining farm lands and the direct effects of river flooding, i.e. bank erosion, debris deposition.
- 4) The acquisition program is a valuable farm tool to allow farmers to get on with farming while backing off expensive confrontations with the river.

I am speaking from personal experience with habitat acquisition. I have not touched on the benefits of the acquisition program for expansion of riverine habitat. If you don't know what the habitat benefits are, then perhaps you shouldn't be reading this letter.

For the above mentioned reasons you should seriously consider the ECOSYSTEM AND NATURAL PROCESS RESTORATION ON THE SACRAMENTO RIVER FLOODPLAIN ACQUISITION proposal as one of the most direct routes to achieving one of the goals of the CalFed process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bernard F. Flynn, Jr.", written in black ink.

Bernard F. Flynn, Jr.
General Manager

July 24, 1997

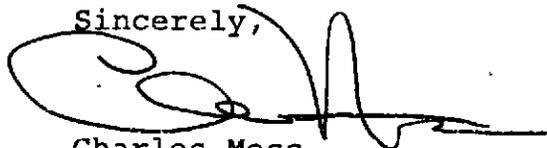
Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of my strong support for the proposal being submitted by US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board for Category III funding to implement ecosystem and natural process restoration on the Sacramento River. The proposed program will provide funding to acquire and manage an estimated 1,500 acres of floodplain land along the Sacramento River. These acquisitions will facilitate the recovery of natural processes within the floodplain, including the regeneration of native riparian habitat.

All acquisitions will be made from willing sellers and be consistent with the principles of the SB 1086 Handbook and management principles of the Sacramento River Conservation Area, the goals and objectives outlined by CALFED for the Sacramento River, and other agency management plans and initiatives in the project area. In addition, acquisitions will comply with existing laws and regulations.

Sincerely,



Charles Moss
1086 Committee Member
Vice Chair CDF&G Cal-Tip
Former Mayor - City of Redding

JANE DOLAN

■ **Supervisor, District 2, Butte County**

Office: County Building ■ 196 Memorial Way ■ Chico, California
Mail: P.O. Box 3700 ■ Chico, California 95927 ■ (916)891-2830

July 24, 1997

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

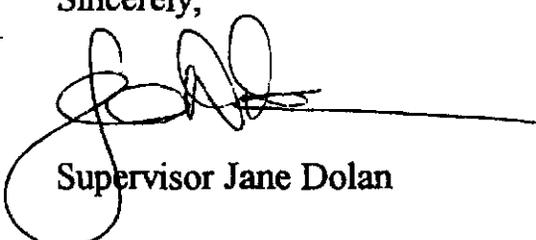
Dear Mr. Snow,

This is a letter in support of a proposal submitted by US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board for Category III funding to acquire and manage an estimated 1,500 acres of floodplain land along the Sacramento River. The project will support the regeneration of native riparian habitat.

The acquisitions will be made from willing sellers and will be consistent with the principles of the SB1086 Handbook and other applicable guidelines.

I urge your support of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Jane Dolan

James Paiva
13193 Carmen Lane
Chico, California 95926
(916) 345-8491

Almond Hulling
Almond Shelling
Orchard Management

July 24, 1997

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

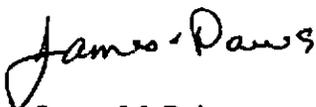
Dear Mr. Snow:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our strong support for the proposal being submitted by US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board for Category III funding to implement ecosystem and natural process restoration on the Sacramento River. The proposed program will provide funding to acquire and manage an estimated 1,500 acres of floodplain land along the Sacramento River. These acquisitions will facilitate the recovery of natural process within the floodplain, including the regeneration of native riparian habitat.

As a farmer in the Northern Sacramento Valley I have direct experience selling property to both the Nature Conservancy and the USFWS. Last year I completed the sale of the Pine Creek Orchard which had historically been difficult property to farm because of frequent and extensive flood damage. Selling this property to USFWS and the Nature Conservancy was an economic decision on my part and has benefited my farming operations.

In addition, I believe that the best use of flood-prone agricultural properties like Pine Creek Orchards is to convert them back to riparian forest and to let the river take it's course. For these reasons I strongly urge you to support this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James M. Paiva
Paiva Farms

UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER ADVISORY COUNCIL
2440 MAIN STREET
RED BLUFF, CALIFORNIA 96080-2398

July 22, 1997

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

The SB1086 Upper Sacramento River Advisory Council supports the Category III proposal for ecosystem and natural process restoration on the Sacramento River submitted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Wildlife Conservation Board. The proposed program will provide funding to acquire and manage an estimated 1,500 acres of floodplain land along the Sacramento River. These acquisitions will facilitate the recovery of natural processes within the floodplain, including the regeneration of native riparian habitat.

This project is consistent with the goal of the SB1086 program to implement the riparian habitat portion of the 1989 Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Management Plan, preserving and restoring a continuous riparian forest ecosystem along the Sacramento River. This riparian plan encompasses the ecosystem goals of CALFED.

Additionally, this project is an example of the type of work that is critical to the implementation of the goals and principles of the SB1086 Advisory Council as outlined in the draft Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook. It provides for acquisition with willing sellers in a manner that is consistent with flood control and is responsive to the local community.

We urge you to support this proposal.

Sincerely,


SB 1086 Advisory Council

cc: US Fish and Wildlife Service
The Nature Conservancy
Wildlife Conservation Board

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NORTHERN DISTRICT
2440 MAIN STREET
RED BLUFF CA 96080-2398
(916) 529-7300



July 24, 1997

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

The California Department of Water Resources, Northern District, supports the proposal being submitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board for Category III funding to acquire riparian habitat along the Sacramento River. The proposed program will provide funding to acquire and manage an estimated 1,500 acres of floodplain land along the Sacramento River. These acquisitions will facilitate the recovery of natural processes within the floodplain, including the regeneration of native riparian habitat.

This proposal is an important step toward achieving the SB1086 goal of preserving and restoring a continuous riparian forest ecosystem along the Sacramento River. All acquisitions will be made from willing sellers and will be consistent with the principles of the SB 1086 Handbook and management principles of the Sacramento River Conservation Area, the goals and objectives outlined by CALFED for the Sacramento River, and other agency management plans and initiatives in the project area. In addition, acquisitions will comply with existing laws and regulations.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naser Bateni".

Naser J. Bateni, Chief
Northern District

cc: Mr. John Carlon
The Nature Conservancy
Stony Creek Preserve
261 E 3rd Street
Chico, California 95928

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - RESOURCES AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Northern Buttes District
400 Glen Drive
Oroville, California 95966-9222
(916) 538-2200



July 25, 1997

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, Northern Buttes District, supports the project proposal being jointly submitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board for funding to acquire riparian habitat along the Sacramento River. The proposed project program will provide funding to acquire and manage some 1,500 acres of floodplain land along the Sacramento River. These acquisitions will enhance the recovery of natural processes within the floodplain, especially the regeneration of native riparian habitat.

This project proposal is a critical element toward achieving the SB1086 goal of preserving and restoring a continuous riparian forest ecosystem along the Sacramento River. All acquisitions will be made from willing sellers and will be consistent with the principles of the SB 1086 Handbook and management principles of the Sacramento River Conservation Area, the goals and objectives outlined by CALFED for the Sacramento River, and Department of Parks and Recreation management plans in the project area. In addition, acquisitions will comply with existing laws and regulations.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of our support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David E. Bartlett'.

David E. Bartlett
District Superintendent

cc: Mr. John Carlon
The Nature Conservancy
Stony Creek Preserve
261 E 3rd Street
Chico, California 95928



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex
752 County Road 99W, Willows, California 95988

July 24, 1997

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED-Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) strong support for the proposals being submitted by The Nature Conservancy in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Complex) for Category III funding. The proposal is for the continued implementation of ecosystem and natural processes restoration on the Sacramento River. The proposals which include land fee title and conservation easement acquisitions, riparian forest restoration, and wildlife monitoring are consistent with Service's goals and objective for the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The activities outlined in the proposals are consistent with the principles of the SB 1086 Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Management Plan and management principles of the Sacramento River Conservation Area, and the Complex's management plans and Refuge initiatives.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you and the CALFED-Bay Delta Program to implement this joint venture. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or Ramon Vega at (916) 934-2801.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Kramer
Refuge Manager



Northern California Area Office
1330 21st Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, California 95814
TEL 916 449-2850
FAX 916 448-3469

F1-261

California Regional Office
201 Mission Street
San Francisco, California 94105
TEL 415 777-0487
FAX 415 777-0244

DWR WAREHOUSE

97 JUL 28 PM 3:44