

Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River: A Meander Belt Implementation Project

I. Executive Summary

a. Project title: Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River:
A Meander Belt Implementation Project

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

b. Project description and primary biological/ecological objectives:

The Conservancy is requesting \$898,700 from CALFED's Category III program to implement a meander belt restoration project. The primary ecological objectives for this project are to:

- Eliminate the last impediments to reconnecting 600 acres of former floodplain back to the river system.
- Eliminate the last impediments to full implementation of a ten-mile-long active meander zone that provides spawning gravel and key habitat for all races of chinook salmon.
- Eliminate fragmentation of riparian and aquatic habitat along an otherwise protected ten-mile stretch of river, providing benefits to the full range of aquatic and terrestrial riparian-obligate species.

All these goals will be achieved in a manner that has no identified adverse third-party impacts, has a positive local economic impact, and creates a model for other willing seller situations elsewhere in the CALFED solution area.

While the proposed project stands alone, it is one of several being submitted to CALFED in this funding cycle for work in the project area. These additional and supportive elements are described in Section III-a, "Project Description and Approach." Each element complements and fortifies the others, so that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

c. Approach/tasks/schedule

The Conservancy proposes to acquire 80 acres of flood-prone agricultural land, then to restore a ten-acre portion adjacent to the Sacramento River to riparian habitat. The acquisition will include an existing 1,200-foot private levee and will also compensate the landowner for extinguishing easement rights to maintain 1,800 linear feet of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service levee. This acquisition will take out the last private in-holding of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge on the west bank of a ten-mile reach of river. The property will be owned and managed as part of the Refuge system.

d. Justification for project

This project demonstrates a solution to the myriad obstacles preventing local landowners from participating in a river-wide initiative to reconnect the river to its natural floodplain and restore natural processes and habitats. Private landowners own 11,800 acres of the land in the Sacramento River's 100-year meander zone between Red Bluff and Colusa. 4,423 of these acres are agricultural lands that are highly flood-prone and subject to erosion. By being compensated for the full value of the existing bank and flood protection (bank full flows) along with the value of the property, landowners are provided with the financial resources to retreat from the river's edge.

e. Budget costs and third party impacts

The Conservancy requests \$898,700 for the acquisition of flood-prone agricultural land and the restoration of riparian habitat along the Sacramento River. The site of this meander belt implementation project is a self-contained hydrologic unit bounded by waterways on three sides and geologic control on the fourth. The property directly south, on the opposite bank of Elder Creek, is owned by a private farmer who does not foresee any negative impacts on his farming operation (see attached letter of support). The Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge is the most affected party in this project due to increased erosion pressure and frequency of flooding on this self-contained site as a result of channel migration. The Fish and Wildlife Service is willing to accept these impacts in order to restore a functioning floodplain by reconnecting 600 acres of Refuge land to the River.

f. Applicant qualifications

The 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. Its strength and reputation are built on the application of the best conservation science available and the building of partnerships with local communities, private organizations, and public agencies to achieve mutual conservation goals.

g. Monitoring and data evaluation

The Conservancy and the Fish and Wildlife Service will combine monitoring efforts for land acquisition and restoration. California State University at Chico GIS will be used to track the total acres and the amount of riparian habitat protected and restored along the Sacramento River. Restoration monitoring, conducted on all restored Refuge sites since 1990, assesses the success of riparian restoration annually.

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

This project is being implemented with a local landowner, Shasta View Farms. It is supported by several local agencies, private property owners, and non-profit organizations (see attached letters of support). The project is the first site-specific implementation of the SB 1086 program. The project also contributes to CALFED non-ecosystem objectives of water quality and flood management.

II. Title Page

a. Title of project:

Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River: A Meander Belt Implementation Project

b. Name of applicant:

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

c. Type of organization and tax status

The Conservancy is a non-profit, 501(c3) organization.

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

The Conservancy's taxpayer identification number is 53-0242652.

e. Technical and financial contact person(s), address, phone/fax/e-mail (if different from above)

Same as above.

f. Participants/collaborators in implementation

Implementation participants include Shasta View Farms and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A host of collaborators are involved in this and other supporting activities along the river; these entities are listed in Section III-a, "Project Description and Approach."

g. RFP project group types:

Acquisition and Other Services

III. Project Description

a. Project description and approach

The Conservancy requests \$898,700 from CALFED's Category III program to acquire 80 acres of flood-prone agricultural land and actively restore ten acres of the acquired property adjacent to the Sacramento River to riparian habitat (see attached map "Project Site and Environs"). This property will be owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and managed as part of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. The acquisition will include an existing 1,200-foot private levee and will also compensate the landowner at fair market value for extinguishing easement rights to maintain 1,800 linear feet of a Fish and Wildlife Service levee. Acquisition of this 80-acre parcel will reconnect 600 acres of floodplain to a ten-river-mile reach of the Sacramento, all protected as part of the Refuge (see map). The landowner may continue to farm 70 acres of the parcel at his own risk under lease-back provisions. As the river meanders, some of this acreage is expected to be taken by the river. The landowner will relinquish all rights to claim future flood damages on this site.

This project is a key step that supports the larger vision of the Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Riparian Management Program (SB 1086) to reconnect the river to its floodplain, allow the river to meander, and restore and protect riparian habitat. This site offers a unique package of characteristics ideal for implementing the SB1086 Riparian Habitat Committee's first priority as identified in the Sacramento River Conservation Handbook, "to protect physical processes of erosion and deposition where they are still intact." Once the easement rights to the levee are transferred to the Service, the existing levee will not be maintained. The entire self-contained floodplain area between Oat Creek and Elder Creek now controlled by rock bank protection will be opened to the natural progression of the meander pattern of the Sacramento River at this location. Any third-party impacts resulting from not maintaining the levee have been thoroughly addressed in Section IV-c, "Third Party Impacts."

While the meander belt implementation project stands alone, it is being submitted to CALFED for funding in concert with several other complementary proposals. This proposal supports a larger vision for ecosystem restoration that engenders the support and participation of the local community, which are crucial to the ultimate success of these regional efforts. Other proposals in this mix include:

- Floodplain Acquisition and Management Project.
- Active Restoration of Riparian Forest (for implementation of active restoration techniques).
- A Quantitative Characterization of Conditions Required for Riparian Forest Establishment (designed to determine appropriate floodplain vegetation).
- A Sacramento River Environmental GIS Center (maps important river attributes useful in restoration efforts).
- Monitoring, conserving, and restoring riparian bird populations and their habitats.
- Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Management Program (SB1086) Implementation: Watershed Management Planning and Coordination.

Entities working to implement these activities in the project area for more than eight years include the California Department of Water Resources, California State University at Chico, the

Point Reyes Bird Observatory, local private landowners, The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game/Wildlife Conservation Board.

b. Location and/ or geographic boundaries

This project is located along the Sacramento River in Tehama County at river mile 233. (See attached map, "Project Location.")

c. Expected benefits

Stressors addressed as identified in CALFED's RFP:

- Physical isolation of the river from its floodplain.
- Prevention of river meander.
- Loss of existing riparian habitat.
- Degraded water quality.
- Reduction of gravel recruitment.
- Water temperature.

1. Biological and Physical Benefits:

- **A self-sustaining system.** With the re-establishment of channel meander and floodplain integrity, processes such as natural recruitment of sediments and riparian succession will be reinstated, resulting in an ultimately self-sustaining system. This is perhaps the greatest benefit because it ensures an enduring and durable solution, generated and maintained by the system itself with minimal human intervention. An ecosystem exhibiting dynamic and healthy processes will be more capable of accommodating climatic or hydrologic changes that may occur over time.
- **Connects the floodplain to the main water channel.** Reconnecting the river to its floodplain offers benefits to the ecosystem, including creating and maintaining various successional stages of riparian habitat, shady vegetated banks, gravel bars, sloughs, and oxbow lakes. Nearly 600 acres of permanently protected Refuge lands are reconnected to the floodplain by this action.
- **Allows for channel meander.** Retiring rights to maintain the levee at a key meander point will allow for gravel recruitment and in-stream complexity. As the channel meanders into revegetated riparian forest and begins to erode the bank, shaded riverine aquatic habitat, critical for juvenile salmon, will develop as riparian trees are undercut, overhang, and fall into the river channel. (See attached map, "Projected Erosion Model.")
- **Creates riparian and shaded riverine aquatic habitat.** Within the first year, the active riparian restoration measures taken by this project will create cover and breeding habitat for numerous bird and wildlife species. With this increased habitat, water temperatures will be moderated and more suitable habitat for juvenile salmon and steelhead will be created. The vegetation of the meander zone will consist mostly of native plant communities that will provide superior habitat and foraging opportunities for young salmon as they ride floodwaters out of the channel and over the floodplain.

- **Natural Regeneration of Key Habitats.** The recovery of natural processes and stream meander will lead to more *natural regeneration of plant communities*, riparian forest, and seasonal wetlands.
- **Reduces fragmentation:** The project will immediately *reconnect ten river miles of habitat*. (See attached map: Proposed Acquisition and Restoration Connects Ten River Miles of Continuous Riparian Habitat.)
- **Benefits key species.** This project will benefit species including winter-run chinook salmon, spring-run chinook salmon, fall-run and late fall-run chinook salmon, splittail, steelhead trout, green sturgeon, striped bass, the waterfowl guild, the neotropical migratory bird guild, western yellow-billed cuckoo, and valley longhorn elderberry beetle.
- **Gravel Recruitment.** A meandering channel will release *spawning gravels* from the banks into the channel for the benefit of chinook salmon and other species.

2. Other Benefits

- **Economic Benefits.** Retirement of flood-prone agricultural lands benefits the local economy by providing farmers the opportunity to reinvest their capital in more productive land.
- **Cost-Effective Flood Control:** Floodplain restoration will result in more cost-effective flood control measures in the long-term. Acquiring flood-prone lands and flood protection structures will eliminate farmers' need to implement bank stabilization and will reduce their costs of production.
- **Indirect Benefits:** This project will be a model for fairly compensating landowners to make way for river meanders. This precedent will facilitate meander belt implementation projects elsewhere on the River.

3. Benefits to CALFED non-ecosystem objectives

Water quality. This project will contribute to improving water quality by reducing agricultural inputs into the river (sustainable farming program/land use changes) and by trapping fine sediments, pesticides, and fertilizers in riparian filter strips.

1. Benefits to other ecosystem restoration programs

This project benefits comprehensive, ecosystem-level restoration and protection programs undertaken in recent years along the Sacramento River. The following list includes programs that will benefit from this project and partners involved directly in the project.

- The **SB1086 Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Habitat Management Program** addresses Sacramento River stakeholders' concerns about the establishment of the meander zone. This state legislation focuses on protection and restoration of aquatic and riparian habitat in the upper Sacramento River, and it involves a host of federal, state, and local entities with jurisdiction in the region. This project will implement guidelines from the SB1086 program's site-specific planning process.
- **Central Valley Project Improvement Act** This program supports the recovery of fish and wildlife values throughout the Central Valley Project (CVP) service area. Restoration pursued as part of the Sacramento River Project supports the goals of this

Act, which include the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitats in the Valley and, specifically, the doubling of natural anadromous fish populations.

- **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 in the Pacific Flyway, directly supports this goal.
- **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 neotropical migratory birds.
- The project proposed here also advances the objectives of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, The Nature Conservancy's river-wide acquisition and restoration program, the California Department of Water Resources, and private landowners.

d. Background and biological justification

The development and implementation of this project has direct ecological benefits and also serves as a working model to develop programs and procedures for future conservation efforts within the meander belt along the Sacramento River. Private landowners own 11,800 acres of the land in the Sacramento River's 100-year meander zonation from the damaging impacts of floods and erosion. The SB1086 Advisory Committee is done between Red Bluff and Colusa. 4,423 of these acres are agricultural lands that warrant developing site-specific plans to address the concerns of landowners about their management options and will build upon the model provided by this project.

Meander Belt Implementation Options:

- **Option I: No action.** Landowner retains the property within the meander belt and continues to maintain the bank. In this option, there is no river meander, no restoration of natural processes, no reduction of stressors, and no increased benefits to species and habitats.
- **Option II: Government-imposed meander belt.** The government imposes a creation of the meander belt, limiting the options for private landowners.
- **Option III: Willing landowners compensated for creation of meander belt.** Willing landowners are compensated for flood-prone lands and existing flood protection.

This project implements Option III. Successful demonstration of meander belt restoration with voluntary participation by compensated landowners is expected to prompt other private landowners to seek this option; thereby overcoming obstacles currently preventing local landowners from contributing to a river-wide initiative to reconnect the river to its natural floodplain and restore natural processes and habitats.

Status of project.

The project is ready to be funded. Funding is requested for acquisition and restoration. The Conservancy has been implementing acquisition and restoration programs along the Sacramento River since 1989, including 130 acres adjacent to this site. To date, the landowner has paid for the appraisal and surveying of the property and the levee

maintenance rights. The landowner, a willing seller, may continue to farm a portion of the existing prune orchard. A ten-acre portion of the property adjacent to the river will be restored to riparian forest. The landowner has paid for levee maintenance to date and the engineering and surveying to determine the cost of constructing a setback levee along his private property. When the acquisition is complete, the landowner will have been adequately compensated at fair market value for his property and his existing level of flood and erosion protection. The farmer may opt to construct a setback levee if he continues to farm the adjacent lands.

Supporting Documentation.

This project has all the necessary supporting documentation to move forward:

1. The Service Refuge Plan that identifies which properties to restore has been completed.
2. DWR's *Sacramento River Bank Erosion Investigation Memorandum Progress Report (1994)* and *Memorandum Report- Sacramento River Meander Belt Future Erosion Investigation (1995)* were used.
3. The farming lease between Shasta View Farms and the Conservancy will be complete after transaction of fee-title.
4. Restoration Unit plan for ten acres will be complete after transaction of fee-title.
5. SB1086's site-specific plan.

Accomplishments.

Funding for this project complements the efforts on the 600-acre Flynn property. The accomplishments include:

- Acquisition of 600 acres from Shasta View Farms in 1991 adding additional acres to the neighboring Refuge sites upstream.
- Restoration of 130 acres of riparian forest implemented by Shasta View Farms and the Conservancy.
- Biological Prune System (sustainable agriculture) implemented by Shasta View Farms on one of the farm's orchards with partners including CSUC, DPR, EPA, farmers, Prune Board, and local agricultural businesses.
- Ongoing monitoring of biological benefits of the restored riparian forest by Point Reyes Bird Observatory since 1993.

This project also complements the Conservancy and Service's accomplishments within the Refuge, which to date consist of 1,125 acres of riparian forest planted and 8,260 acres of land protected. In the past, the Conservancy and the landowner, Bernard Flynn, have worked together to implement these various programs with our multiple partners — specifically, the USFWS, the SB1086 Advisory Council and Riparian Habitat Committee, CSUC, private landowners, DWR, CDFG/WCB, and the Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

e. Proposed scope of work

Elements of this proposal can be funded separately or in phases. The acquisition can occur separately from the restoration component; however, the restoration is dependent upon the transfer of fee title. Monitoring and assessments will be implemented after the restoration phase is complete. Monitoring and data evaluations are explained in Section III-f. The specific tasks and deliverables identified to implement the actions for the project phases are outlined below:

Phase I: Acquisition

Conduct appraisal (Complete)
Conduct survey (Complete)
Purchase option
Conduct environmental
Assessment
Title search
Exercise option

Phase II: Restoration

Propagate plant material
Sign restoration contract* (submitted prior to restoration)
Conduct site evaluations* (submitted prior to restoration)
Complete restoration unit plan
Implement restoration unit plan
Maintain restoration site (over 2 years)
Assess restoration success (over 2 years)
Transfer management of restoration site to Refuge

f. Monitoring and data evaluation

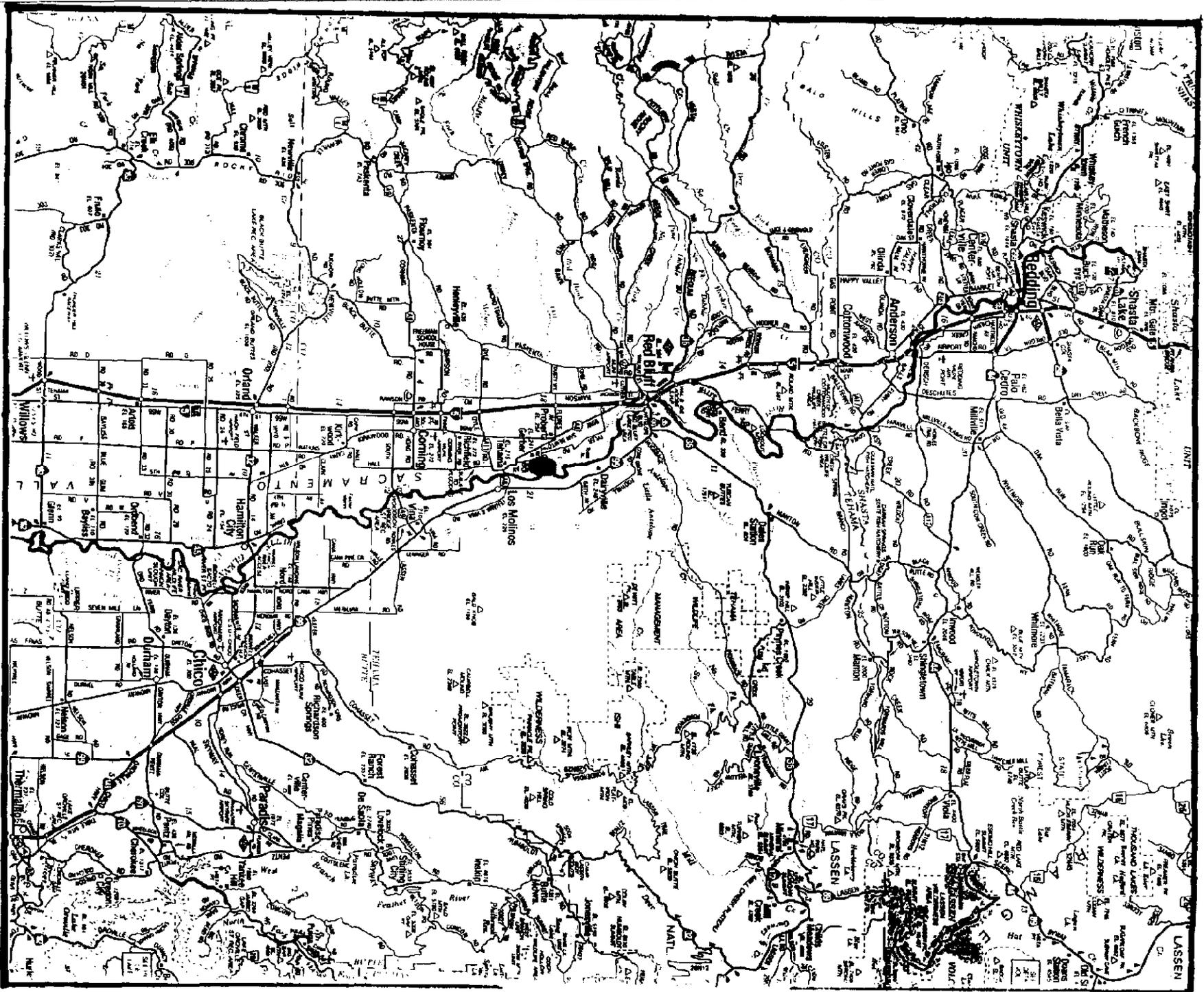
The monitoring program will collect, analyze and evaluate data to assess the project's performance and determine its success.

- **Acquisition.** Acquisition of lands for conservation purposes is tracked by the Conservancy and the USFWS to track the number of acres, the price paid, the holding agency, and the additional acres of riparian habitat protected in fee title or conservation easement. All acquisition monitoring data are provided to California State University at Chico to produce GIS maps.
- **Riparian Restoration.** Monitoring will be conducted on restoration sites to oversee maintenance during the growing season and annually sample the density, frequency, and growth of plants to determine the success of the restoration. This site, along with other restoration sites within the Refuge, will be monitored in the fall by Conservancy staff. The Conservancy and the USFWS will evaluate the data after two years to determine the success of the restoration. They will utilize any pertinent information to adapt management practices. Point Reyes Bird Observatory monitors songbird response to the revegetation efforts on the Refuge.

g. Implementability

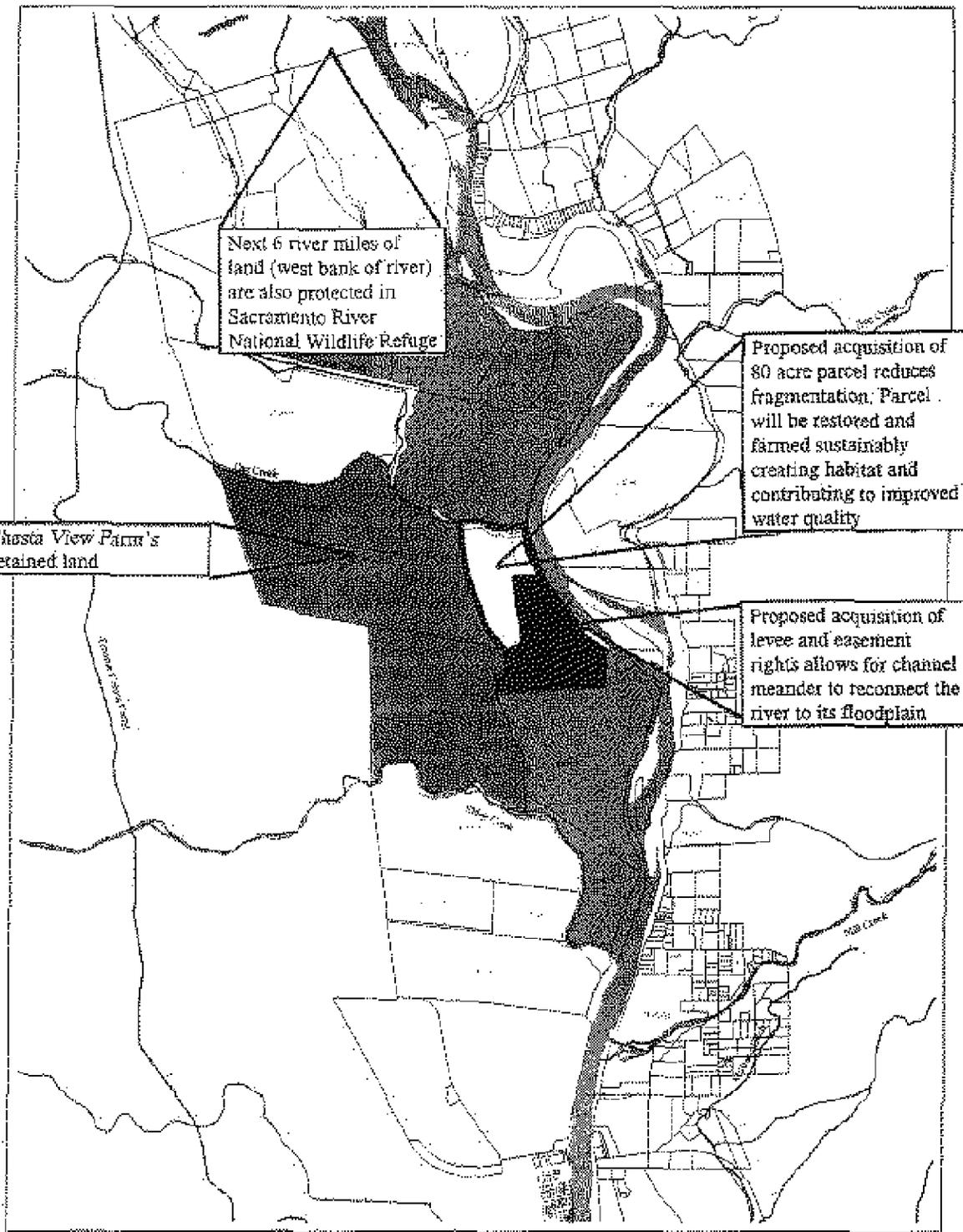
The Conservancy will implement the details outlined in the project proposal following all local laws and regulations. All stages of the project require coordination among the landowner, the Conservancy, and the USFWS. We will secure all required permits before implementing this project. Restoration implementation and maintenance could be delayed by extreme climatic and hydrologic conditions. This project is being implemented with a local landowner, Shasta View Farms, and is also supported by several local agencies, private property owners, and non-profit organizations. (See attached letters of support.) The landowner has agreed to sell the property. Ten acres of acquired prune orchard will be converted to riparian habitat. The farming lease on 70 acres of prune orchard will require sustainable agriculture practices. River meander is projected to continue eroding the levee and the floodplain. No identified cultural impacts.

SITE LOCATION MAP



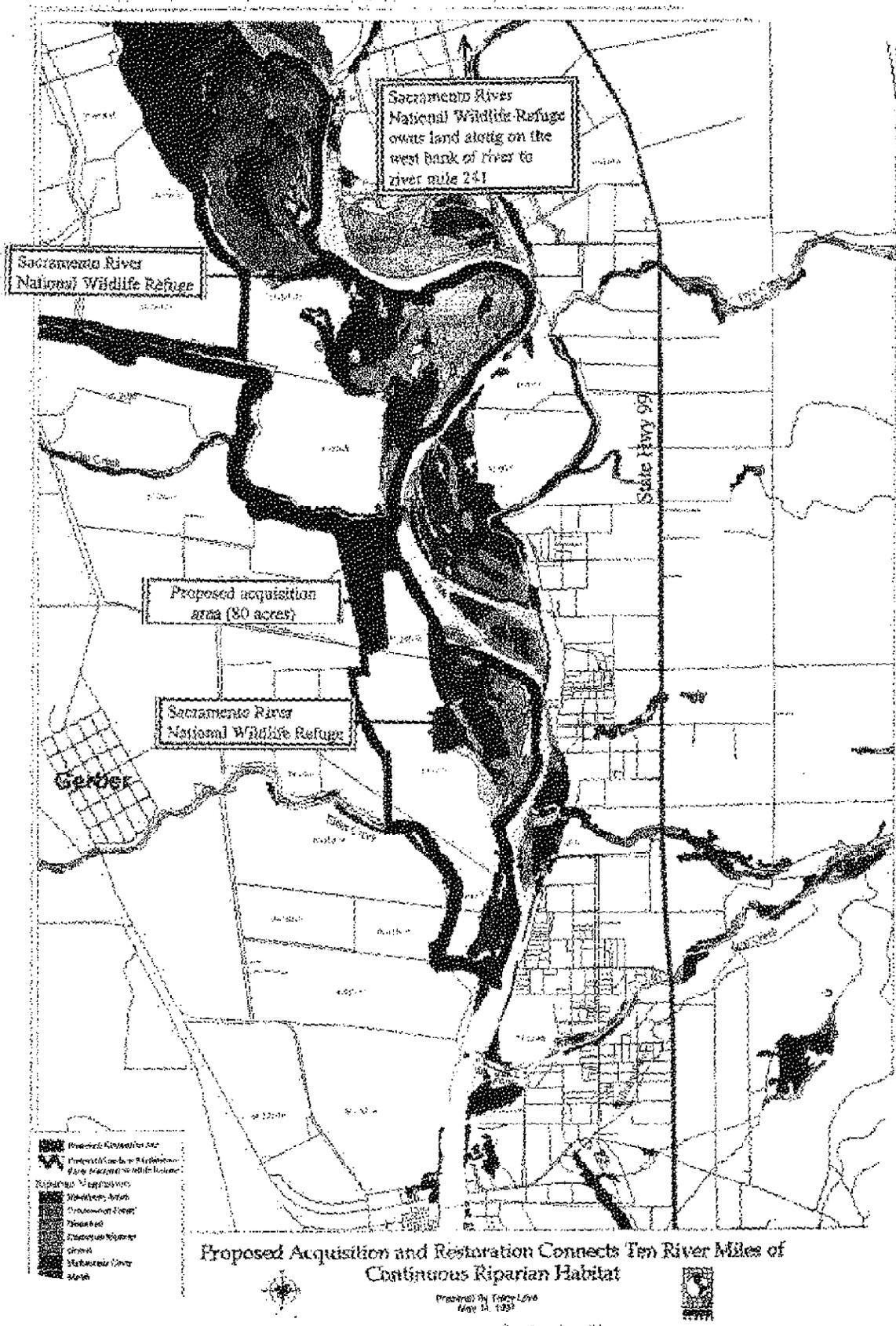
1-006344

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Project Sites and Environs

- | | |
|--|--|
| Proposed Acquisition Area (80 Acres Total) | Existing Levee |
| Proposed 10 Acres of Riparian Restoration | Lands Protected in Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge |
| Proposed 70 Acres of Sustainable Agricultural Area | 125 Acres of Restored Riparian Habitat |
| | Shasta View Farms |



IV. Costs and Schedules to Implement Proposed Project

a. Budget costs

The total request for this grant is \$898,700.00.

Project Phase and Task	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary and Benefits	Overhead Labor (General, admin and fee)	Service Contracts	Material and Acquisition Contracts	Miscellaneous and other Direct Costs	Total Cost
Land Acquisition	419	18,600	3,600	15,500	801,000		838,700
Riparian Restoration		11,000	2,000	42,000	5,000		60,000
TOTAL		29,600	5,600	57,500	806,000		898,700

b. Schedule milestones

The milestones for this project are scheduled as follows:

- Close escrow on the property.
- Complete restoration unit plan (prior to restoration).
- Complete implementation of restoration.
- Analysis of monitoring data (end of year 1, end of year 2).

c. Third party impacts

The fact that the site of this meander belt implementation project is a self-contained hydrologic unit minimizes any third-party impacts. The site has Oat Creek on the north, Elder Creek on the south, the Sacramento River on the east, and geologic control to the west. All of the property that will be affected by this project is owned by sponsors of the proposal, Shasta View Farms and the USFWS. In addition, the Service owns seven contiguous miles of river property upstream from the project. The property directly south, on the opposite bank of Elder Creek, is owned by a private farmer who does not foresee any negative impacts on his farming operation (see attached letter of support). We have studied DWR's GIS data on this location, including channel migration, projected rates of erosion, geology, soils, vegetation, and floodlines. We have also conducted site inspections with neighbors and the local county flood control district engineer, who have added their support to the project. The Refuge is the most affected party in this project due to increase erosion pressure and frequency of flooding on this self-contained site as a result of channel migration. The USFWS is willing to accept these impacts in order to reconnect 600 acres of Refuge land to the floodplain.

V. Applicant Qualifications:

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 U.S. Its strength and reputation are built on the application of the best conservation science available and the building of 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 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 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 7,000 acres for conservation in the Refuge. Since then, the Conservancy has initiated the Sacramento River Project and is dedicating significant resources to do the following: 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 agricultural program. The Conservancy hopes that successes here will provide a sustainable land use model for 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.

The Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement form is attached, 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

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF

San Francisco

Regional Director, Vice President

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

The Nature Conservancy

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME



#10 E. Chard Avenue 916.385-1126
P.O. Box 960 FAX 916.385-1637
Gerber, California 96035

MIRIAM R. FLYNN
PROPERTIES

LETTER OF INTENT
TO SELL LAND TO THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

RE: The Nature Conservancy 1997 CalFed Category III
Application: Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the
Sacramento River: Meanderbelt Implementation Project.

This letter represents the intentions of Shasta View Farms
to sell certain property to The Nature Conservancy which
property consists of more or less 80 acres as described in
the above referenced application.

Shasta View Farms agrees to sell the above referenced 80
acres for \$801,000 provided that: 1. Such sale can be
completed on or before December 31, 1997 (which date can be
extended by agreement) 2. The terms of the sale are
satisfactory to Shasta View Farms (especially such terms as
relate to the tax treatment of the sale).

Bernard F. Flynn, Jr.
General Manager
Shasta View Farms

July 27 1997
Date

For
Miriam R. Flynn, Proprietor

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: A Meanderbelt Implementation Project
(1997 Category III CalFed Application)

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing to support the above Nature Conservancy application covering the meanderbelt expansion in Tehama County at river mile 233.

I have a long time involvement in the issues involved in preservation management of the Sacramento River. I am a founding member of the SB1086 River Policy Committee. I have served on the Upper Sacramento River Salmon and Steelhead Advisory Committee, currently Vice-Chairman of CalTip of the Calif. Dept of Fish and Game and former Mayor of Redding.

I believe it is essential that public policy support the expansion of the meanderbelt zone along the Sacramento River. The above project presents a practical opportunity to put into action a meanderbelt through acquisition that will serve as a model that will help the man versus river confrontations that I have seen in my involvement in river issues.

I hope the CalFed process can support this grant program because it is an important step in a practical management solution of river ecology, meeting the needs of the stream bank agriculture. More particularly, this project presents unique opportunities for a model of meanderbelt management because of prior acquisition of Fish & Wildlife of adjacent properties and it presents an opportunity which should be seriously evaluated by the CalFed process.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Moss
960 Sierra Vista Dr.
Redding, CA 96001

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

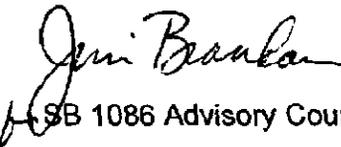
Dear Mr. Snow:

The SB1086 Upper Sacramento River Advisory Council supports the Category III proposal for *Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River: A Meanderbelt Implementation Project* submitted by The Nature Conservancy. 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. This plan calls for preserving and restoring a continuous riparian forest ecosystem along the Sacramento River and encompasses the ecosystem goals of CalFed.

This project is an on-the-ground 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 ecosystem restoration with voluntary participants in a manner that is consistent with flood control and is responsive to the local community.

We urge you to support this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


SB 1086 Advisory Council

cc: The Nature Conservancy



TEHAMA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Roads & Bridges, County Surveyor, Transportation Commission
Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Sanitary Landfill Agency, Sanitation District
Subdivision & Land Development

July 22, 1997

Z-12

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

Re: 1997 Category III
Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs

Earlier today, the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board of Directors took formal action endorsing the application for Category III funds developed by The Nature Conservancy and Shasta View Farms. This project will seek to acquire existing farmland and portions of a rock-armored levee along the Sacramento River east of Gerber for the purposes of providing future riparian habitat enhancement. The specific site in question is bordered by other properties owned by Shasta View Farms and existing habitat property owned by U.S. Fish and Wildlife. It is unique, in that, preliminarily, this project does not appear to present a significant threat of "third party" impacts to neighboring developed properties. As such, this project presents an excellent opportunity to realistically test the complexities associated with acquiring land for the purposes of habitat enhancement along the Sacramento River.

Please accept our formal endorsement for this project application. If you have any questions relating to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (916)-527-4655.

Sincerely,

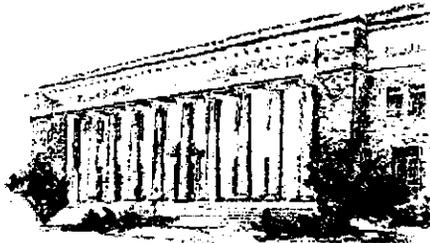
Charles Willard
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

BY:

Dan Keppen
Water Resources Engineer

Board of Supervisors COUNTY OF TEHAMA

District 1 - Barbara McIver
District 2 - George Russell
District 3 - Charles Willard
District 4 - Ross Turner
District 5 - Bill Borrer



Tehama County Courthouse

*Richard Robinson
Administrative Assistant
to the Board of Supervisors*

July 23, 1997

Mr. Lester Snow
CALFED BAY DELTA PROGRAM
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River: A Meanderbelt Implementation Project (1997 Category III CalFed Application)

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing to support the Nature Conservancy application covering the meanderbelt expansion in Tehama County at River Mile 233 as referenced above.

As a member of the Tehama County Board of Supervisors, the SB 1086 Advisory Council, and as an owner of farmland downstream from the proposed project, I am acutely aware of the dilemma facing Shasta View Farms and the governmental agencies' concerns on this stretch of river. It is evident to me that this project dovetails quite remarkably with the criteria for site-specific action as identified in the SB 1086 process. It also seems logical that the project fits the intent of CalFed's Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration Program.

I support the Meanderbelt Implementation Project because I think it is an environmentally sound and economical solution to the problem of riverbank erosion and a solution that accommodates both agriculture and river preservation. From my perspective, the proposed meanderbelt acquisition points the way to a positive resolution to problems created by the conflicting interests of river management and river preservation.

I appreciate your consideration of my support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Borrer
Supervisor, District 5

BB:dc

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

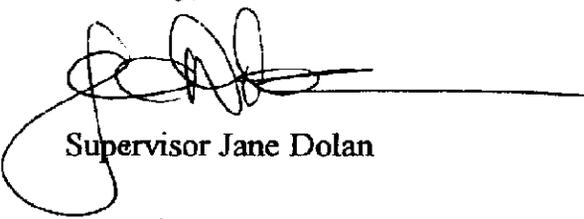
Dear Mr. Snow,

The Nature Conservancy has submitted a Category III proposal for Ecosystem and Natural Process Restoration on the Sacramento River: A Meanderbelt Implementation Project. I support this project and encourage you to support it, too.

The project supports the goals of the SB1086 Advisory Council and would implement the riparian habitat portion of the 1989 Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Management Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Jane Dolan

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 Nature Conservancy's meanderbelt implementation project proposal for River Mile 233 on the Sacramento River.

This project allows for river movement which is documented in the *Sacramento River Bank Erosion Investigation Memorandum Progress Report (1994)* and *Memorandum Report - Sacramento River Meanderbelt Future Erosion Investigation (1995)*. Most importantly, the project is consistent with the efforts of the SB1086 program to restore and protect the riparian ecosystem along the Sacramento River in a manner consistent with flood control and responsive to the local community. Namely, the project connects a continuous corridor of 10 miles of protected habitat; it offers a solution for a local landowner who wishes to continue to farm within the conservation area along the river; and, it provides for monitoring any effect on the local tax base.

The California Department of Water Resources understands the difficulties involved in balancing environmental restoration with the needs of local communities. This project balances these values in a creative and reasonable manner. We appreciate your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "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**

VIC FAZIO
THIRD DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS—CHAIRMAN
DEMOCRATIC STEERING
COMMITTEE
HOUSE OVERSIGHT
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
LEGISLATIVE



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0503

July 24, 1997

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

- 2113 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0503
(202) 225-8718
- 7228 MAIN STREET
WOODLAND, CA 95695-3407
(916) 866-5521
- 332 PINE STREET, #F
RED BLUFF, CA 96080-3312
(916) 529-5629

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

Dear Mr. Snow:

I kindly urge you to give careful consideration to the Category III proposal submitted by The Nature Conservancy and Shasta View Farms for property acquisition along the Sacramento River for the purpose of habitat restoration.

This project will implement two key components of the implementation management handbook set forth by SB1086-Upper Sacramento Riparian Habitat Committee. The project requests funding for land acquisition for the purpose of habitat restoration in lands bordered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. This will begin the process of creating a meanderbelt, that will in effect add to flood plain capacity and eliminate rock work channelization while restoring the necessary habitat for wildlife.

This plan offers a unique opportunity to reduce the costs associated with maintaining rock sites as well as demonstrate the benefits of moving back from the river and allowing natural progression to occur. This project is not only economical for restoration purposes, but will also reduce cost associated with bank protection and ultimately flood protection for the upper Sacramento River.

The Nature Conservancy and Shasta Farms have embarked on a unique opportunity to model the ideologies set forth by the Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook. I urge you to support this implementation project.

Sincerely,

VIC FAZIO

Member of Congress

VF/fvh



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 959988

July 25, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing on behalf of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge in support of the Nature Conservancy's 1997 CALFED application *ECOSYSTEM AND NATURAL PROCESS RESTORATION ON THE SACRAMENTO RIVER: A MEANDER BELT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT*.

Congress authorized the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge in 1989. The project area encompasses over 100 river miles between the cities of Red Bluff and Colusa with a target of 18,000 fee title acres. The purposes for which the Refuge was established are: 1) To protect and provide habitat for threatened and endangered species; 2) To protect and provide habitat for migratory birds; 3) To restore riparian vegetation and habitat; 4) To provide opportunities for management oriented research and monitoring; and, 5) To provide the public with opportunities for conservation oriented activities. To date the U.S. Fish and Wildlife has acquired 8,000 acres of land for the refuge including 4,000 acres of agricultural lands, targeted for restoration, under a cooperative land management agreement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

The Refuge supports TNC's proposal for several reasons important to accomplishing our conservation and stewardship objectives. The land and levee acquisition at the Flynn Unit of the Refuge would not only add important habitat to the Refuge, but also result in greatly enhanced floodwater management necessary for natural ecosystem processes, aquifer recharge, and soil/ nutrient deposition and recycling. This would set the stage for enhanced natural regeneration in the Sacramento River riparian ecosystem with the possibility of saving time and money on Refuge restoration projects. The beneficial results include increased quantity and quality of habitat for threatened and endangered species, and migratory birds. Providing the adjacent landowner the opportunity to move back away from the River will also increase Shaded Riverine Habitat necessary for native anadromous fish such as the threatened winter-run

Chinook salmon. Finally, flood prone orchards are subjected to damaging floodwaters, which result in costly cleanup and tree replanting. This proposal offers a solution for the riverine habitat, flood control, and the adjacent landowner.

Land acquisitions have important implications for landscape and ecosystem management, which integrates natural resources and farmland conservation. It could serve as a model alternative to continually levee and revetment maintenance, ultimately accomplishing wildlife and habitat objectives of the Refuge while reducing flood related burdens to the agricultural community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Kramer', written over a horizontal line.

Gary W. Kramer
Refuge Manager



F1-291

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

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

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DWR WAREHOUSE