



COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

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July 24, 1997

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

Subject: CALFED Inquiry Submittal

Dear Ms. Hansel:

Enclosed are ten copies of an Inquiry Submittal for a project entitled the Sacramento River Temperature Control Program. The project would be conducted as the temperature element of the Sacramento River Watershed Program, an existing consensus-driven program that already involves the agencies and organizations interested in temperature issues.

Please advise us on the general appropriateness of the project concept for Category III funding and provide any constructive comments for inclusion in a future submittal.

Should the Inquiry Submittal receive encouragement from CALFED, the District would proceed to formalize the support of key interest groups, including the Sacramento River Watershed Program stakeholders, and submit a formal proposal for Category III funding in the next funding cycle.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Shanks
District Engineer

Enclosures (10)

DWR WAREHOUSE

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CALFED INQUIRY SUBMITTAL
July 28, 1997

a. Project Title and Applicant Name

Sacramento River Temperature Control Program
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Factors

The project would: (i) review and update the current temperature objectives for the Sacramento River and its tributaries based on the latest scientific information; (ii) conduct and review temperature monitoring to determine existing temperature on a spatial and temporal basis; (iii) evaluate alternative temperature control strategies and projects; and (iv) develop a technically feasible, cost-effective, and locally supported program to achieve temperature objectives and protect priority species. It is proposed that this project be conducted as the "temperature element" of the Sacramento River Watershed Program, an existing, consensus-driven program that already involves the relevant stakeholder agencies and organizations.

High water temperature is an important stressor which can affect multiple life stages of priority species, particularly salmonids.

c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule

Temperature objectives will be reviewed and refined in Years 1 and 2.
Temperature will be monitored and data analyzed in Years 1, 2 and 3.
Alternative control strategies and projects will be evaluated in Years 1, 2 and 3.
A coordinated temperature control program will be developed in Years 2 and 3.

d. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

Sacramento River temperatures are known to exceed temperature objectives contained in the SWRCB's Thermal Plan and the RWQCB's Basin Plan. Current Federal and State programs that are addressing temperature issues appear to be fragmented, underfunded, and based on the traditional approach. The Sacramento River Watershed Program, with its existing stakeholder organization, provides a logical vehicle for developing a coordinated temperature control program under the new watershed approach. Current funding for the watershed program, however, is directed toward control of toxic pollutants. CALFED funding would allow temperature issues to be addressed as a part of this established watershed management program.

e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

The budget is estimated to be on the order of \$1,000,000, expended over a three-year period.

Third party impacts are not foreseen. Third party impacts will be addressed through the stakeholder process that will be used to guide the project. All potentially interested parties will be involved in the stakeholder process, thereby protecting against unforeseen impacts on third parties.

f. Applicant Qualifications

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (“District”) would be the official applicant on behalf of the Sacramento River Watershed Program. The District has obtained the Federal funds that support the Sacramento River Watershed Program. The District, together with the RWQCB and EPA Region 9, initiated the watershed program in 1995, and remains an active program participant. The District has been studying temperature issues associated with its wastewater treatment plant discharge on a localized basis since 1991, and has a strong interest in seeing the issue addressed on a broader, watershed basis. The District has received and successfully executed many grants, including two grants for the Sacramento River Watershed Program, a section 205(j) water quality planning grant which addressed mercury in the watershed, and a section 319 grant which addressed storm water runoff.

g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Monitoring and data evaluation will be an integral part of the project. Temperature monitoring is currently being conducted by a number of Federal and State agencies. Additional monitoring will be conducted as a part of this project to fill in the gaps. All temperature monitoring data collected as a part of this project, and other programs, will be evaluated and presented in annual reports.

h. Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED objectives

The District believes the project would have widespread support by those agencies and organizations interested in temperature issues within the Sacramento River watershed. In recent discussions with State agencies regarding the District’s localized temperature issue and studies, Department of Fish and Game representatives indicated that temperature should be addressed on a broader, regional basis and expressed hope that CALFED would be doing that. Coordination with other programs will be addressed through the stakeholder processes that are an integral part of the Sacramento River Watershed Program. Again, most of the interested parties are already active participants in that program.

The proposed project is compatible with CALFED objectives in that it addresses an important stressor for priority species using an already established stakeholder-driven program. The product will be a technically feasible, cost-effective, and locally supported program to achieve temperature objectives in the Sacramento River and its tributaries.