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TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

July 28, 1997

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

FROM: Mark E. Fortner
Murray, Burns and Kienlen

**SUBJECT: Transmittal of 1997 Category III Inquiry Submittal --
North Delta Conservancy**

In accordance with specifications described in the "Request for Proposals, 1997 Category III, Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs", transmitted on behalf of the North Delta Conservancy, are the enclosed ten (10) copies of their Inquiry Submittal regarding the "North Delta Land Acquisition".

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please call me at (916)456-4400.

Sincerely,
MURRAY, BURNS & KIENLEN

BY: 
Mark E. Fortner

cc:
North Delta Conservancy
c/o Mr. Carel von Loben Sels

7/28/97
2:00 PM

INQUIRY SUBMITTAL

North Delta Land Acquisition

Applicant

North Delta Conservancy
% Mr. Carel van Löben Sels
P. O. Box 534
Courtland, CA 95615
(916) 775-1264

Project Description & Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives:

The project proposed for this inquiry submittal consists of the purchase of an easement (or in fee title) of two parcels of land located in the southerly portion of the American River Basin, see attached exhibit. The parcels of land are respectively, 20 and 30 acres in area. The 30-acre parcel is participating in a 10-year program for the conversion of ag. land to wildlife habitat. The 10-year life span will sunset in five years. Consequently, the owners are likely to put the land back into agriculture. The 20-acre parcel was enrolled in the Federal Wetlands Reserve Program. The N.D.C. would like to retain the land in waterfowl and upland habitat by purchasing an easement on the land or by fee title. The N.D.C. also plans on improving the habitat diversity to create a mosaic of habitats.

North Delta agricultural wetlands and perennial grasslands will be addressed by this project. Much of the North Delta is converting land formerly farmed as row crops to vineyards. The conversion to vineyards will preclude land restoration in the future. The proposed project will reserve land for priority migratory birds and local wildlife.

Water quality will also be improved by this type of project. If the land is not farmed, contaminant loads caused by urban runoff or agricultural runoff will be reduced, thereby improving water quality.

Land use and population management of migratory birds are stressors that will also be addressed by this type of project.

Habitat and species that will benefit are mainly associated with migratory birds such as Swainson's Hawk, and waterfowl.

While this particular project is for specific parcels of land, the North Delta Conservancy would also be interested in pursuing a block grant.

Approach/Tasks/Schedule:

The project approach will address community concerns and meet CALFED objectives. The phasing will consist of Acquisition of Property, and Management of Wildlife. The tasks for each Phase and schedule is presented below:

Tasks	Time Frame
Phase I - Coordinate with landowners - Acquisition of property - Environmental assessment	1998
Phase II - Monitoring and evaluation for 3 years - Management of habitat - by NDC	1999 in perpetuity

Justification:

The project will have several features to enhance the environmental value of habitat for wildlife in the project vicinity. It will insure that the land proposed for acquisition will be managed for maximum wildlife benefit and co-existence with local farm land. The project will address priority habitat and species and reduce stress for the need of agriculture wetlands and grass lands.

Budget Costs:

The estimated budget costs for each phase are as follows:

Phase I	(acquisition of land)	— \$100,000 to 175,000
Phase II	(monitor habitat)	— \$ <u>40,000 to 60,000</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST		— \$140,000 to 235,000

Third Party Impacts:

There are no anticipated third party impacts associated with this project. The land is already converted to wildlife habitat. As a result, adjacent owners should not be impacted.

Applicant Qualifications:

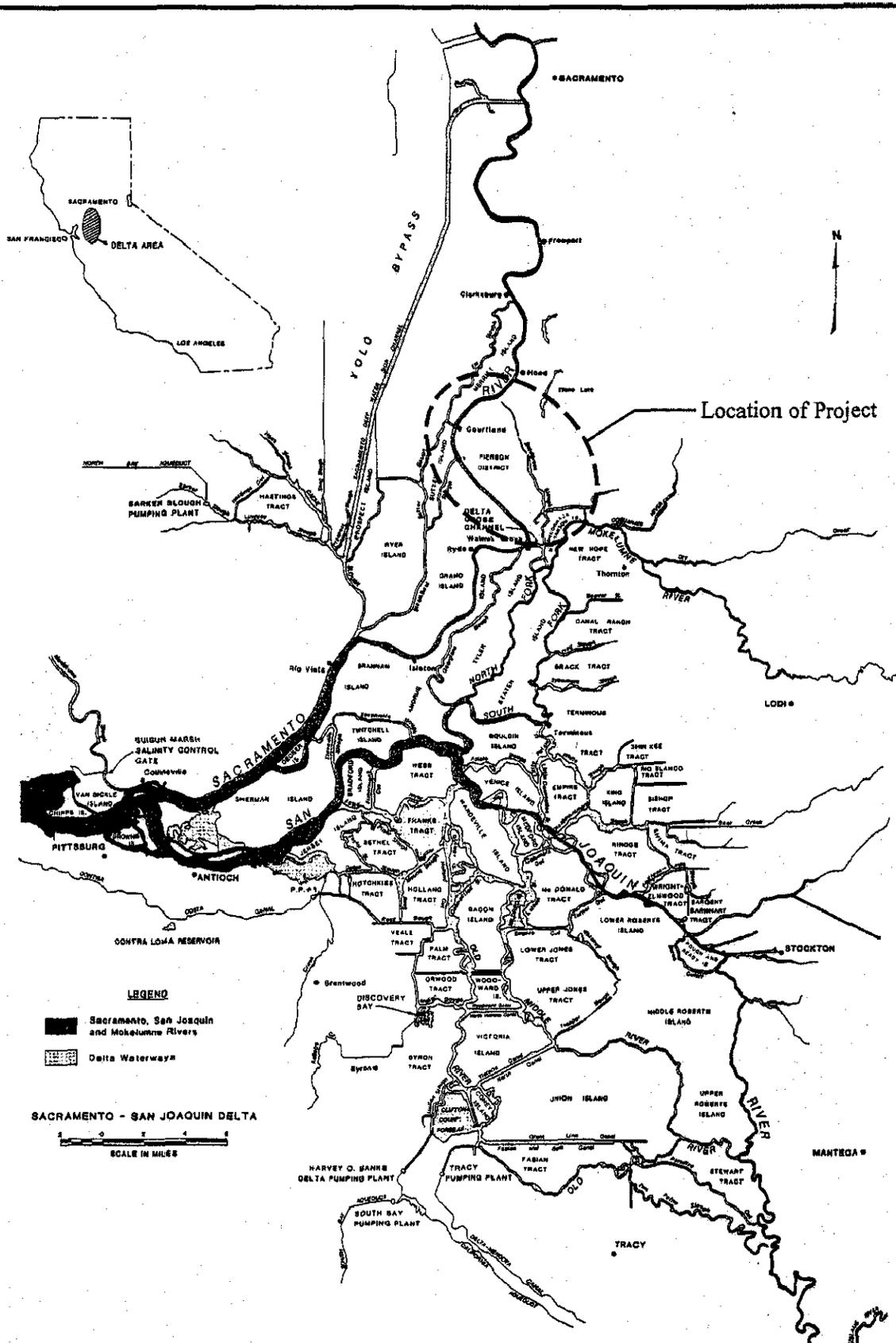
The North Delta Conservancy (NDC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting wildlife habitats in conjunction with farm land. NDC has been active in the Sacramento River Delta region for many years and has a long track record of success. Advisory committee members include individuals with Sacramento County Public Works, State Department of Health Services, Sacramento County Agricultural Commission and California Waterfowl Association.

Monitoring & Data Evaluation:

The project will be monitored for success of biological improvements to the ecosystem. Habitat changes will be documented by completing an as-built survey and evaluating how well the final configuration matches the initial design. Biological monitoring will include documentation of botanical and wildlife resources before and after project construction.

Local Support/Coordination With Other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED

The design of the projects will incorporate advice from key State and federal resource management agencies. The project design will minimize adverse impacts to the land and water habitats, and respect key habitats of rare and endangered species in the North Delta area. Initial discussion with landowners has been favorable. The project is compatible with CALFED objective of migratory pathway and connection with other habitat areas (Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge).



Location Map

**North Delta Conservancy
Inquiry Submittal**

 **MURRAY BURNS AND KIENLEN - Consulting Civil Engineers**
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