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II-087

Inquiry Proposal to CALFED Program

Project Title and Applicant Name

- **MITIGATION OF FECAL POLLUTION SOURCES TO SHELLFISH GROWING WATERS WITHIN SAN FRANCISCO BAY**
- **STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

Commercial shellfish growing areas along the California coast are currently regulated by the Department of Health Services. The State Water Resources Control Board's Ocean Plan contains shellfish harvesting standards that apply to all areas where shellfish may be harvested for human consumption. Shellfish growing waters have received increased attention in the past several years. In 1993, Governor Wilson signed the Shellfish Protection Act, which acknowledges shellfish harvesting as a beneficial use of the State's waters and notes that pollution from point and nonpoint sources is currently threatening many of the State's commercial shellfish growing areas. Whenever a shellfish growing area is identified as threatened under the terms of the Act, the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board is directed to form a technical advisory committee to investigate the problem and to suggest remedial action. A current Assembly Bill (AB 459, introduced by Assemblyman Firestone) would require naturally occurring populations of shellfish to be regulated similarly to commercial growing areas.

Following the format set up by the Shellfish Protection Act of 1993, this project would convene a technical advisory committee for the San Francisco Bay, determine sources of fecal contamination to naturally occurring populations of shellfish in the Bay, and recommend methods to reduce or eliminate fecal contamination to the Bay.

Approach/Task/Schedule

The proposed project would convene a technical advisory committee made up of representatives from businesses, recreational water users, environmental interest groups, government agencies, and the public together to accomplish the following:

- determine the location of naturally occurring populations of shellfish in San Francisco Bay;
- identify sources of fecal contamination (both within the Bay, and from relevant watersheds) to these naturally occurring populations of shellfish. The first step would be to review existing data to see if a determination could be made as to the sources of fecal pollution. If not, the committee would design and oversee any additional studies needed to identify fecal pollution sources; and
- suggest methods to control the fecal contamination.

Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

The June 5, 1997 CALFED Summary of Technical Team Reports Stressors and Example Restoration Actions identified two stressor categories that are addressed in this proposal:

- Water quality, increased contaminants subcategory - acute or chronic toxicity caused by urban runoff, agricultural runoff...and other point and non-point pollution sources;
- Land use, urbanization subcategory.

Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

The total project budget is \$500,000. This includes \$50,000 for travel expenses for technical advisory committee members, \$100,000 to determine the location of naturally occurring populations, and \$250,000 for sampling supplies and laboratory analysis during the study to identify fecal contamination. Also included is 0.5 PY (\$50,000) for State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff, and 0.5 PY (\$50,000) for Regional Water Quality Control Board staff. No third party impacts are anticipated.

Applicant Qualification

The proposed project will be managed by State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff. The SWRCB has considerable experience managing technical contracts. This experience will be necessary to ensure that a high quality product will be delivered on schedule. In addition, SWRCB has been involved with a shellfish technical advisory committee in Tomales Bay since its onset in 1994, and actively participated in designing and conducting a fecal contamination monitoring study for that region.

Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Monitoring would be done after the technical advisory committee reviewed existing data and determined that there was insufficient information to determine sources of fecal contamination. Sampling and data evaluation would be done by scientific staff from the SWRCB and other involved agencies, and would be complete one year after the onset of monitoring.

Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives

TAC members would consist of representative of local businesses, recreation water users, environmental groups, governmental agencies, and the interested public. From past experience with shellfish technical advisory committees, we anticipate support from the Department of Health Services, the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Department of Fish and Game, U.C. Sea Grant, the local Resource Conservation District, the University of California (Irvine and Berkeley), and California State University, Hayward.