



Indicate the type of applicant (check only one box):

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| <input type="checkbox"/> State agency                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Non-profit joint venture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local government/district       | <input type="checkbox"/> Private party         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____          |

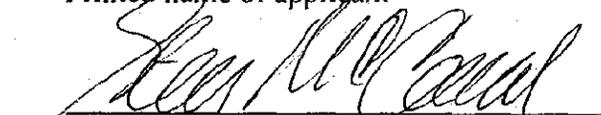
Indicate the type of project (check only one box):

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research   |  |

By signing below, the applicant declares the following:

- 1.) The truthfulness of all representations in their proposal;
- 2.) The individual signing the form is entitled to submit the application on behalf of the applicant (if the applicant is an entity or organization); and
- 3.) The person submitting the application has read and understood the conflict of interest and confidentiality discussion in the PSP (Section 2.4) and waives any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the proposal on behalf of the applicant, to the extent as provided in the Section.

Steve McCormick  
Printed name of applicant

  
Signature of applicant

## **Title Page**

***Project Title: Cosumnes River Floodplain Acquisition, Management, and Monitoring***

***Applicant:***

**The Nature Conservancy**  
201 Mission Street, 4th floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
phone (415) 777-0487; fax (415) 777-0244  
Contact: Mike Eaton  
phone (916) 683-1699; fax (916) 683-1702  
e-mail: <meaton@cosumnes.org>

***Participants/collaborators in implementation:***

U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the other Cosumnes River Preserve partners, including: California Department of Fish and Game, Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento County, American Farmland Trust, and U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

***Type of organization and tax status:***

The Nature Conservancy is a District of Columbia non-profit corporation with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

***Tax identification number and/or contractor license, as applicable:***

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

## **Executive Summary**

### ***Project Title: Cosumnes River Floodplain Acquisition, Management, and Monitoring***

#### ***Project description***

The Nature Conservancy requests **\$7,317,200** to acquire in fee, manage, and monitor three specific parcels (Denier, Johnson, and Lopes) in the lower Cosumnes River floodplain and to acquire, manage, and monitor conservation easements on additional parcels, to be identified, serving as buffer to floodplain habitat lands. Together, these properties make up more than 2,500 acres of floodplain and upland communities within the Cosumnes River Watershed. Properties acquired in fee will be added to the 14,000-acre Cosumnes River Preserve.

Future plans to expand the river's floodway, upstream and downstream from the existing Preserve, may include setting back levees or otherwise manipulating acquired lands. These activities, though not part of this project, are contingent on its successful completion. The Army Corps of Engineers' Cosumnes Feasibility Study will provide a vehicle for future analysis, design, and funding of specific ecosystem restoration and flood damage reduction activities on these parcels, where applicable.

The requested funds build upon floodplain protection efforts previously funded by CALFED and directly support the goals of the Cosumnes River Project, a 12-year-old, multi-partner effort that has successfully protected and restored riparian forest, seasonal wetland, and tidal habitats along the lower Cosumnes. More than \$40 million has been invested in the Project to date.

The project elements regarding the acquisition of fee titles and of conservation easements are separable. Funding for one does not require funding for the other. However, if funding is provided only for fee acquisition, start-up stewardship funds (described below) will be necessary to accompany acquisition costs.

Only willing sellers will be involved, and payments will not exceed the fair market value established by an appraisal. The Conservancy anticipates that fee or easement interests of the properties acquired, as well as management responsibilities, may be transferred in the future to a qualified agency or organization.

We expect to complete the proposed project within three years. The Conservancy will submit quarterly financial and programmatic reports to CALFED, and a final report at the completion of the project.

The properties proposed for acquisition and management are all located in southern Sacramento County, within the floodplain of the Cosumnes River. They lie within CALFED's Eastside Delta Tributaries Ecological Management Zone. (See Maps 1 and 2.)

#### ***Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives***

The primary ecological/biological benefits of the project are to

- Protect and facilitate re-establishment of riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats.
- Facilitate expansion and provide greater connectivity of floodplain habitat in order to help restore natural ecological processes for native fish and terrestrial species.
- Create conditions for population increases of species associated with the Cosumnes River watershed, particularly eastside tributary fall-run chinook salmon, giant garter snake, splittail, sandhill cranes, neo-tropical migrant bird species, and waterfowl.
- Maintain integrity of floodplain habitat and processes through creation of wildlife-friendly agriculture buffer adjacent to floodplain.

### ***Stressors***

*Primary stressors that will be reduced or prevented by this project include altered instream flows, altered water temperature regimes, separation of rivers from their floodplains, interruption of gravel recruitment and cleansing processes, poor land use and livestock grazing practices, and riparian vegetation removal. (ERPP, Vol. II, p. 358)*

### ***Habitats***

Primary benefits to habitat include protection of:

- 675 acres of seasonal wetlands and aquatic habitats
- 2.5 miles of freshwater and essential fish habitat along the Cosumnes River
- 2.5 miles of riparian and riverine aquatic habitat
- 500 acres of agricultural wetlands acquired in fee
- 1,500 acres of agricultural wetlands held in easements
- Completion of a 10-mile habitat corridor in the lower Cosumnes River floodplain

The land acquisitions and conservation management activities proposed here will protect and expand tidal wetlands, seasonally flooded wetlands, riparian corridor, and farmland of high habitat value. This proposal addresses at least six priority stressors and benefits numerous species of concern to CALFED. These activities will also improve water quality and will have broad ecosystem benefits.

### ***Third-party impacts***

There are no known negative third-party impacts from the activities for which we are requesting funding. Third-party impacts associated with modification or construction of levees will be evaluated as part of restoration plans developed with these funds, however no modification or construction of levees will be done with these funds.

### ***Applicant qualifications***

The Nature Conservancy has more than 45 years of experience in property acquisition, habitat restoration, and land management. The Conservancy has successfully implemented the activities described in this proposal at the project area and elsewhere.

### ***Monitoring and data evaluation***

An initial resource assessment will be conducted on all acquisitions to determine conditions at time of purchase and provide a starting datum point on which initial stewardship and monitoring programs are based. In addition, the Conservancy plans to participate in existing monitoring programs and create a large-scale monitoring program with a region-wide focus.

### ***Local support/coordination with other programs/compatibility with CALFED objectives***

The Cosumnes River Preserve was dedicated in 1987. Preserve staff and volunteers have developed extensive community support in a decade of working with local and regional schools, community groups, and public agencies. The Sacramento County General Plan supports expansion of the Preserve, and the expansion proposed here will in turn help the county achieve some of the plan's objectives.

This project provides benefits for other CALFED programs, the nine agencies and partners of the Cosumnes project, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Wetland Reserve Program, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program.

## **Project Description**

### ***Proposed scope of work***

The Nature Conservancy requests **\$7,317,200** to acquire in fee, manage, and monitor three specific parcels (Denier, Johnson and Lopes) in the lower Cosumnes River floodplain and to acquire and monitor conservation easements on additional parcels, to be identified, serving as buffer to floodplain habitat lands. Together, these properties make up more than 2,500 acres of floodplain and upland communities within the Cosumnes River Watershed. Each of the three parcels to be acquired in fee straddles the Cosumnes River; together, they will provide floodplain connectivity along 2.5 river miles.

The buffer lands are managed primarily for agriculture. Conservation easements on these lands will allow for wildlife-friendly farming practices, protecting important biological values while safeguarding economic activity. The requested funds will build upon floodplain protection efforts previously funded by CALFED and directly support the goals of the Cosumnes River Project, a 12-year-old, multi-partner effort that has successfully protected and restored riparian forest, seasonal wetland, and tidal habitats along the lower Cosumnes.

The primary objectives of the project are to:

- Protect key riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats within the Cosumnes River corridor.
- Facilitate expansion and provide greater connectivity of floodplain habitat in order to help restore natural ecological processes for native fish and terrestrial species.
- Create a buffer of agricultural lands to ensure ecologically compatible land uses along the river in perpetuity.

For the **fee acquisition** element of the proposal, we request funding of **\$4,750,000** in capital costs for the purchase of three properties we intend to acquire to expand the existing 14,000-acre Cosumnes River Preserve. Negotiations are under way with all three landowners. Terms have not yet been agreed upon, but we expect options to be signed within 12 to 18 months.

Future plans to expand the river's floodway upstream and downstream from the existing Preserve may include setting back levees or otherwise manipulating acquired lands. These activities are not part of this proposal; however, successful completion of this project is a requirement for these restoration actions to take place. The Army Corps of Engineers' Cosumnes Feasibility Study will provide a vehicle for analysis, design, and funding of specific ecosystem restoration and flood damage reduction activities on these parcels, where applicable, in the future.

For the **conservation easement** element of the proposal, we request a block grant of **\$2,250,000** in capital costs to purchase such easements on at least 1,500 acres of farmland properties immediately surrounding the existing Preserve lands. These properties are generally outside the floodplain, but they provide essential habitat and physical separation from developed land. The exact acreage acquired will depend on appraised values. The easements will be patterned after four such easements we have already purchased in the project area. The perpetual legal restrictions in these easements prohibit conversion of the land to non-agricultural uses, bar practices that would degrade the agricultural capability of the land, and forbid growing vines, orchards and other permanent crops that have little or no value as habitat. These easements serve the dual purpose of protecting important biological attributes while safeguarding economic activity. Due to landowners' growing interest in conservation easements, we expect to obtain options and close on all easements financed by the requested funds in no more than two years.

The project elements regarding the acquisition of fee titles and of conservation easements are separable. Funding for one does not require funding for the other. However, if funding is provided only for fee acquisition, management funds (described below) will be necessary to accompany acquisition costs.

Only willing sellers will be involved, and payments will not exceed the fair market value established by an appraisal. The Conservancy anticipates that fee or easement interests of the properties acquired, as well as management responsibilities, may be transferred in the future to a qualified agency or organization.

We expect to complete the proposed project within three years. The Conservancy will submit quarterly financial and programmatic reports to CALFED, and a final report at the completion of the project.

**Management activities** on properties acquired in fee include biological and cultural surveys, the development and writing of management and monitoring plans, fencing, signage, repair of infrastructure (including roads), and removal of dangerous or conflicting structures. We will also assess habitat restoration needs and develop habitat restoration plans. We anticipate that such plans will recommend removal of levees, setting back levees, and in some cases, re-grading leveled farm fields. Actual construction expenses for levee and land work are not part of this grant proposal; Conservancy staff are developing a number of other funding sources for this purpose. Start-up stewardship activities will require an additional year after closing escrow on individual properties.

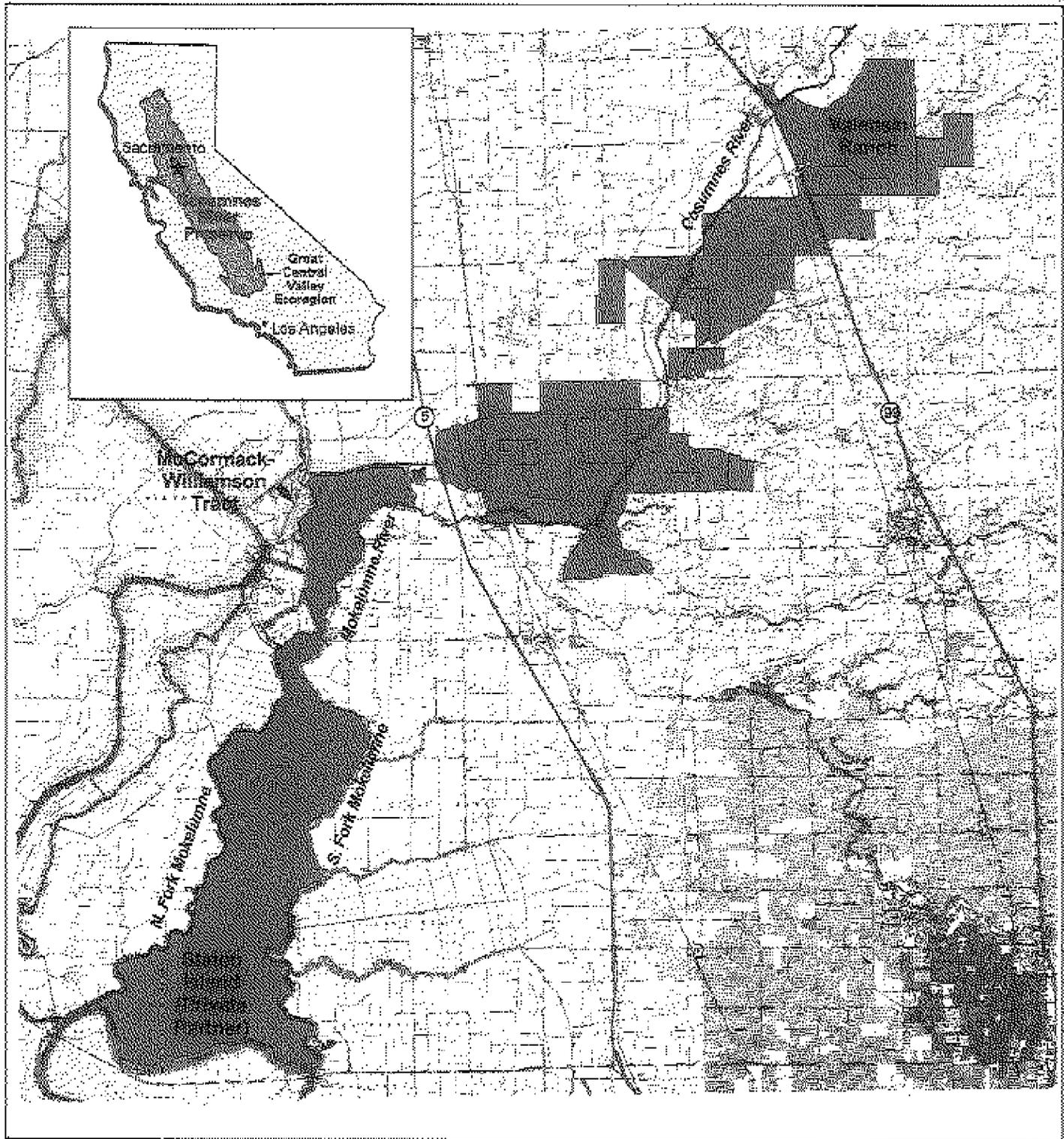
**Monitoring activities** will include conducting an initial resource assessment on all acquisitions and easements to determine the condition of the properties at time of purchase and to provide baseline data on which stewardship and monitoring programs can be based.

Our ability to achieve the goals of this project depends on successful **project management**, including management of subcontractors and providers of professional services, coordination with Cosumnes River Preserve partners and other stakeholders, and provision of timely reports on project progress.

We expect to complete the proposed project within three years. The Conservancy will submit quarterly financial and programmatic reports to CALFED, and a final report at the completion of the project.

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

The properties proposed for acquisition and management are all located in southern Sacramento County, within the floodplain of the Cosumnes River. They lie within CALFED's Eastside Delta Tributaries Ecological Management Zone. See Maps 1 and 2.

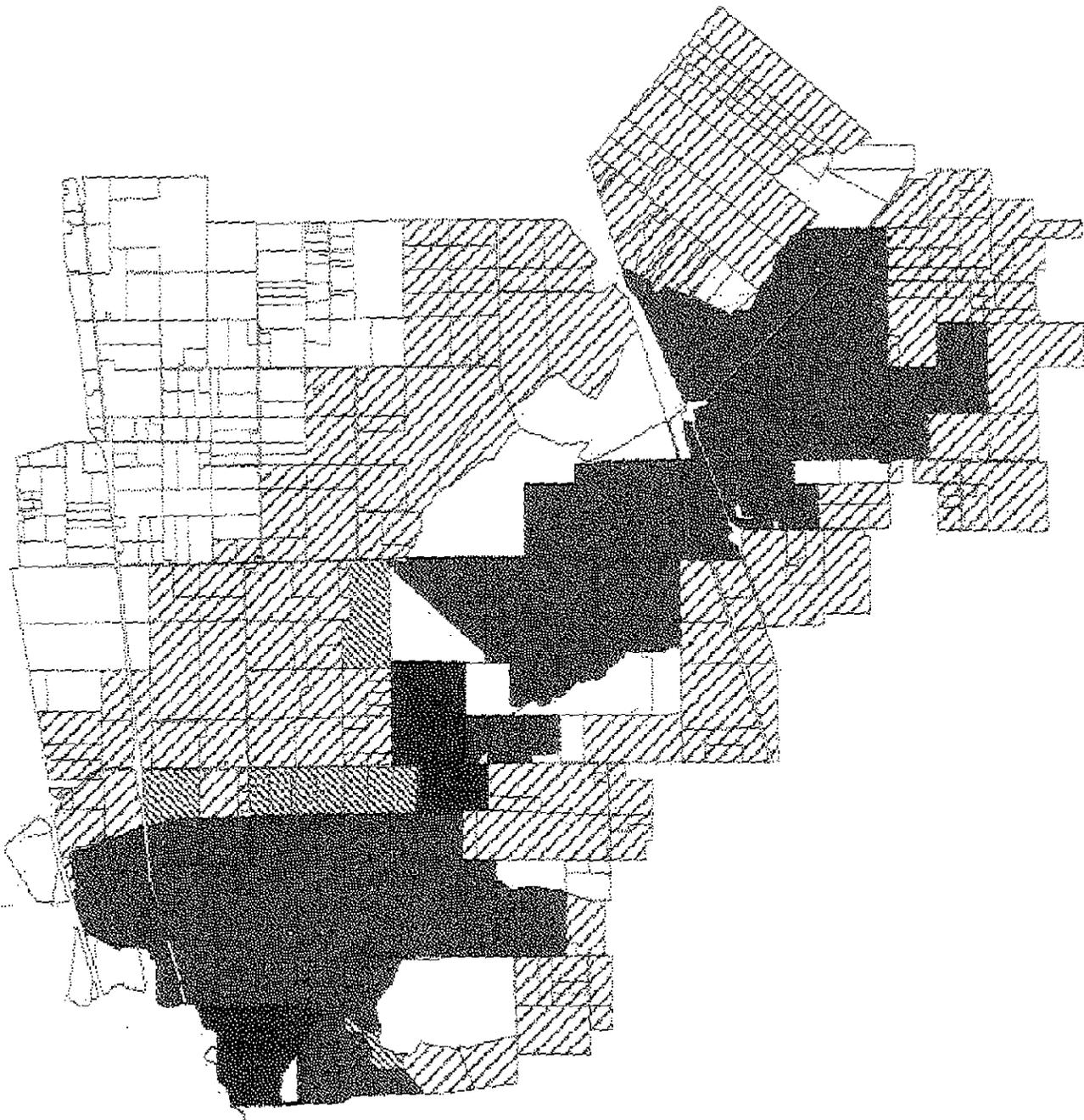


Map 1. Cosumnes River Preserve



Based on 1:24,000 USGS quad maps, Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties.  
 Cartography by The Nature Conservancy, April 1999.

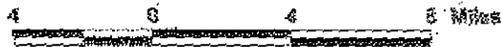




Map 2. COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE:  
PROPOSED ACQUISITIONS AND EASEMENTS



-  PROPOSED FEE ACQUISITION
-  POTENTIAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT
-  CURRENT EASEMENT
-  PRESERVE



## Ecological/Biological Benefits

The primary ecological/biological benefits of the project are to:

- Protect and facilitate re-establishment of riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats.
- Facilitate expansion and provide greater connectivity of floodplain habitat in order to help restore natural ecological processes for native fish and terrestrial species.
- Create conditions for population increases of species associated with the Cosumnes River watershed, particularly eastside tributary fall-run chinook salmon, giant garter snake, splittail, sandhill cranes, neo-tropical migrant bird species, and waterfowl.
- Maintain integrity of floodplain habitat and processes through creation of wildlife-friendly agriculture buffer adjacent to floodplain.

Obtaining the requested funding will allow the conservation partners of the Cosumnes River Project to substantially complete the project's goal of protecting lands within the Cosumnes floodplain. Long-term benefits from these acquisitions will be significant. Controlling these properties will enable us to expand the river's floodway and undertake natural process restoration on a larger scale than has been possible so far. These benefits will be self-sustaining in the long term. Acquiring the targeted properties will ensure protection of a 10-mile habitat corridor from the Valensin Ranch to the confluence of the Mokelumne and Cosumnes Rivers. The mix of fee and easement acquisitions helps assure both local acceptance and the lowest practicable cost of implementing the program. There are no practical alternatives to land acquisition that will achieve similar and enduring results. Extensive supporting documentation is available on the habitats, species, and hydrology of the Cosumnes River Preserve.

**Primary stressors** to be reduced or prevented by this project include *altered instream flows, altered water temperature regimes, separation of rivers from their floodplains, interruption of gravel recruitment and cleansing processes, poor land use and livestock grazing practices, and removal of riparian vegetation* (ERPP, Vol. II, p. 358).

**Primary Species** addressed through this project include (a) the following CALFED high-priority fish species: *eastside tributary fall-run chinook salmon* (and possibly other chinook races), *splittail*, and other *native resident fishes*; and (b) these wetland- and riparian-dependent native species: *giant garter snakes, Swainson's hawks, greater sandhill cranes, and waterfowl*. (PSP, p. 13)

**Primary benefits to habitat** include protection of:

- 675 acres of seasonal wetlands and aquatic habitats
- 2.5 miles of freshwater and essential fish habitat along the Cosumnes River
- 2.5 miles of riparian and riverine aquatic habitat
- 500 acres of agricultural wetlands acquired in fee
- 1,500 acres of agricultural wetlands held in easements
- Completion of a 10-mile habitat corridor in the lower Cosumnes River floodplain

The **hypothesis** we are testing is that *the proposed acquisitions and easements will protect and set the stage for restoring riverine and Delta natural habitats and CALFED target species in the Cosumnes/Mokelumne floodplain*. Results we have observed at the Preserve through previous floodplain acquisition and restoration efforts suggest that priority species listed above will be benefited.

The Cosumnes River Project constitutes an enduring opportunity to effect positive change on the lower Cosumnes floodplain and for the priority species associated with this ecosystem. The public and private

partner organizations that own and adaptively manage land at the Preserve are dedicated to the permanent conservation of these lands; there are no better guarantees available.

### **Linkages**

This project will expand the existing Cosumnes River Preserve. Current holdings of the Preserve total nearly 14,000 acres and represent a cumulative investment in excess of \$40 million. Of this funding, approximately one fourth is from private sources; the balance represents a mix of federal, state, local, and mitigation funding. Previous CALFED grants to the Cosumnes River Project have assisted in the acquisition of four properties totaling more than 6,500 acres. Two other acquisitions are presently in progress. Acquisition support has come from CVPIA, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and other sources. Preserve management partners include U.S. Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Game, Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento County, American Farmland Trust, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and The Nature Conservancy.

Acquisition and restoration activities on the Cosumnes River Preserve over the past five years have added 100 acres to the river floodway and expanded the floodplain by 1,600 acres. Previous levee breaches on the lower Cosumnes have created new opportunities for research and demonstrated the seasonal fishery habitat and flood management benefits of this type of activity. Rates of utilization of these newly flooded areas by salmon and splittail have been high, creating compelling research opportunities that have attracted U.C. Davis, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (AFRP Program) and others. A comprehensive partnership agreement between the Conservancy and U.C. Davis (California Rivers Institute) has established the Cosumnes Consortium to conduct long-term monitoring and research. The East Bay Municipal Utilities District and the Army Corps of Engineers are likely future participants.

The project addresses the following CALFED *strategic goals, objectives, and targets*:

#### **Goal 1: Endangered Species**

Targets addressed by this project (ERPP, Vol. II, pp. 20-42) include

- Restoring/enhancing populations of *fall-run chinook salmon, Sacramento splittail, Swainson's hawk, giant garter snake, and neo-tropical migrant birds.*
- Increasing populations of *greater sandhill crane and waterfowl.*
- Reversing decline of native resident species.

#### **Goal 2: Ecosystem Processes and Biotic Communities**

- *Create flow and temperature regimes...that favor native aquatic species....*  
Central Valley Streamflows, Target 1: Maintain or restore natural summer and fall base flows (ERPP, Vol. II, pg. 371). Central Valley Stream Temperatures; Target 1: Maintain mean daily water temperatures at or below levels suitable for salmon and steelhead (ERPP, Vol. II, pg. 376).
- *Reestablish frequent inundation of floodplains....*  
Natural Floodplain and Flood Processes; Target I: Restore and improve opportunities for river to seasonally inundate floodplain (ERPP, Vol. II, pg. 375).
- *Restore coarse sediment supplies....*  
Coarse Sediment Supply; Target 3: Restore gravel cleaning processes (ERPP, Vol. II, pg. 374).

#### Goal 4: Habitats

- *Restore large expanses of all aquatic, wetlands, and riparian habitats....*  
Seasonal Wetlands; Target 1: Protect existing wetlands through fee acquisition (ERPP, Vol. II, pg. 378). Riparian and Riverine Aquatic Habitats; Target 3: Restore a minimum of 1,240 acres and protect existing riparian habitat (ERPP, Vol. II, pg. 379). Freshwater Fish Habitat and Essential Fish Habitat, Target 1: Maintain and improve existing freshwater and essential fish habitat (ERPP, Vol. II, pg. 379).
- *Halt as much as possible the conversion of agricultural lands....*

#### *Benefits to other ecosystem restoration programs include:*

- Anadromous fish restoration efforts called for in the **Central Valley Project Improvement Act**
- Expanded winter habitat for waterfowl sought by the **North American Waterfowl Management Plan** and the **Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture**
- Conversion of marginal lands back to wetlands — an objective of the **U.S.D.A Wetland Reserve Program**
- Farmland protection promoted by the **U.S.DA 1995 Farm Bill** and the state **Agricultural Stewardship** programs
- Protection of wetland values supported by the goals of the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program** for the San Francisco Bay/Delta Estuary

#### *System-wide Ecosystem Benefits*

The acquisition of the proposed properties will enhance the conservation benefits of the Preserve. Moreover, the floodplain expansions permitted are hydrologically linked to existing floodplain projects. The easement acquisitions benefit the Preserve by ensuring that disruptive activities do not occur near habitat lands, thus protecting the ecological integrity of the floodplain, and that agriculture conducted on the easement lands provides supplemental habitat for many target species.

#### *Compatibility with Non-Ecosystem Objectives*

This project provides benefits for other CALFED objectives by improving **water quality** (shaded riverine habitat), and we anticipate that it will facilitate **increased water supply** (flood water recharge and expansion of river floodplain) and **reduction of pressure on downstream Delta levees**.

*Third-party benefits* of this proposal, both immediate and future, include

- **Levee setback projects** (not part of, but facilitated by, the proposed project) will provide more **aquifer recharge** and greater, longer-term **flood protection** than the current levee system.
- Agricultural easements will permanently **protect farming by limiting urban sprawl**.
- **Expansion of the Preserve** will provide additional **recreational opportunities** such as birdwatching, hunting, hiking, and fishing. Direct production and enhanced survival of juvenile chinook salmon will benefit the **commercial fishing industry**.

## **Technical Feasibility and Timing**

Other potential approaches to achieving our objectives include obtaining voluntary agreements with landowners, or providing financial or other incentives, for them to manage their properties to protect habitat and species. These approaches do not provide permanent protection, and they rely on the ability of conservationists to convince landowners to engage in activities that are sometimes contrary to their economic self-interest. Therefore, neither is practical or equitable.

The proposed program complies with existing laws and regulations. Immediate activities do not trigger permit requirements. Some longer-term benefits from future projects (such as levee setbacks or removal) will result from activities that will require permits and additional site-specific analysis. In addition, there are no known encumbrances or environmental compliance problems associated with the properties under option.

Activities of the Cosumnes River Project are supported by Sacramento County's General Plan, and the program proposed here will assist the County in implementing that plan.

The major issues associated with the implementation of the project are (a) our ability to arrive at mutually agreeable terms of purchase in the case of the specific fee acquisition properties and (b) identifying and coming to terms with potential sellers of conservation easements. In the case of fee acquisitions, the Conservancy has been in negotiation with each of the landowners, all of whom are willing sellers. We expect to reach agreement with these landowners, just as we have with other landowners in the area. Exactly when that will occur is difficult to predict. Our experience has revealed that the purchase of conservation easements in the agricultural buffer area should be comparatively easy.

## **Monitoring and Data Collection Methodology**

### ***Biological/Ecological Objectives***

Hypothesis: *The proposed acquisitions and easements will protect and set the stage for restoring riverine and Delta natural habitats and CALFED target species in the Cosumnes/ Mokelumne rivers floodplain.*

The Nature Conservancy's approach to testing this hypothesis is conducted on two levels, described below.

### ***Monitoring Parameters and Data Collection Approach***

#### **1) Initial Resource Assessment**

An initial resource assessment will be conducted on all acquisitions and easements purchased by The Nature Conservancy. This "baseline monitoring" describes the condition of the property at the time of purchase and provides a starting datum point on which management and monitoring programs are based. In addition, these data are used in the following ways:

- to provide information for restoration planning
- in the case of easement purchases, the initial assessment or "Easement Documentation Report" provides a description of the property at the time of purchase and is necessary for subsequent legal compliance monitoring
- to provide a starting point from which future trends can be determined
- the data generate some of the information needed for larger-scale planning and monitoring

The parameters to be described and measured in the initial assessment include, but are not limited to, endangered species surveys, terrestrial and aquatic habitat type and condition mapping, land uses and infrastructure, levees and bank protection, water uses and distribution, vegetation and animal species monitoring transects, archeological surveys, and exotic species assessments. We will conduct these initial assessments once during the three-year grant cycle.

#### **2) Monitoring Ecosystem Recovery by Initiating Cooperative Scientific Ventures**

As large-scale projects such as the Cosumnes River mature, it becomes necessary to move beyond simply monitoring the recovery of habitats on specific parcels. More region-wide assessments are needed to measure progress towards CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program goals. It is The Nature Conservancy's strategy to help create, and join with others to implement, large-scale monitoring programs. The Cosumnes Science Consortium was formed with the signing of a memorandum of understanding with U.C. Davis. Its function is to develop monitoring strategies aimed at evaluating the conservation benefits of habitat protection and restoration projects in the eastern Delta. **The Science Consortium will present its needs to CALFED in a separate proposal.**

### ***Data Evaluation Approach***

See Table 1 for monitoring and data collection and evaluation information.

**Table 1. Monitoring and Data Collection Information** (A summary of the questions being investigated by the Cosumnes Science Consortium)

<b>Question to be evaluated?</b>	<b>Monitoring Parameters and Data collection Approach</b>	<b>Data Evaluation Approach</b>	<b>Comments / Data Priority</b>
What aquatic species colonize restored seasonal floodplain in the eastern Delta?	There is an ongoing monitoring program of fish and zoo-plankton being conducted by Dr. Peter Moyle and staff.	Capture data is being correlated with water temperature and habitat characteristics.	This project has been ongoing for 3 years.
What are the current vegetation patterns in restored seasonal floodplain?	We are continuing to monitor vegetation re-colonization in restored floodplain. A Ph.D. dissertation will be completed in the spring under Dr. Marcel Rejmanek and staff.	Statistical ordination is being used to characterize the re-colonizing plant communities.	This project has been ongoing for 4 years.
What effect does groundwater withdrawal have on late fall flows for salmon?	A team of hydrologists at U.C.Davis is constructing a flow and ground water model of the lower Cosumnes River.	"What if?" runs of this model will be used to test conservation strategies pertaining to CALFED acquired lands along the river.	The first iteration of this model will be complete in fall 2000.
What is the pre farming natural history of McCormick Williamson Tract?	Ground penetrating radar and coring are being used to understand past vegetation and sediment regimes. Dr. Jeff Mount at UCD is lead.	Data is being entered in a GIS and will eventually produce a map showing sediment patterns. The data will be used for restoration planning.	Information will be assembled in the summer of 1999.
Are levee breaches sufficient to restore natural meander to the Cosumnes River?	Dr Jeff Mount and staff are mapping sediment deposition and erosion around levee breaches.	The data is being assembled to evaluate if leaving portions of the "old" levee system intact is effecting the natural tendency of the river to meander.	We have 4 winters of information of one levee breach and 2 on a second.
Are bird diversity and abundance increasing due to restoration efforts at the Cosumnes Preserve?	There is a long term monitoring program where volunteers record bird species and abundance in both riparian zones and wetland habitats.	Data is assembled on spreadsheets, housed at the Preserve, and displayed on our website.	This program has been conducted for over 10 years.

**Table 1. Monitoring and Data Collection Information** (A summary of the questions being investigated by the Cosumnes Science Consortium)

<b>Question to be evaluated?</b>	<b>Monitoring Parameters and Data collection Approach</b>	<b>Data Evaluation Approach</b>	<b>Comments / Data Priority</b>
Are restored riparian forests in the east Delta providing positive habitat benefits for neotropical birds?	This is a long term study by PRBO to assess the reproductive success of birds in a restored forest. Dr. Geoff Geupel is lead.	Data is being assembled on nesting success, parasitism, and habitat use.	We are in the 4 <sup>th</sup> year of this privately funded study.
Are requirements of the conservation easements being met by the landowner? (Compliance monitoring)	Site visits are made, condition recorded, and property owner is notified of infractions. Parameters measured will vary with the individual easement. They would likely include restrictions on development and crop type.	Standard monitoring forms, reports made available to Calfed if requested.	Funding is requested for the initial 3 years of compliance monitoring
Do lands protected by easements and acquisitions contribute to the recovery of species of concern to Calfed?	TNC will work cooperatively with Calfed agencies and nonprofits such as PRBO to asses the region-wide health of salmon, neotropical birds and other species.	TNC will encourage the placement of monitoring stations for aquatic and riparian species on acquired sites. On easements, TNC will encourage landowners to participate in monitoring programs.	Funding is not requested in this proposal Moderate

## **Local Involvement**

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Executive Officer, Planning Director, and Water Resources Director have received notice of this proposal (letter attached). In the past, these individuals have been highly supportive of acquisitions such as those proposed, as well as the activities those acquisitions would enable. (Letter of support from Supervisor Nottoli is also attached.) Because of the potential benefit to San Joaquin County of activities enabled by the proposed activities, we have also notified the San Joaquin County counterparts of these officials (letter attached).

The Cosumnes River Task Force (CRTF), a coordinating body chaired by Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli, was consulted in the development of this proposal and informed of its submission. The CRTF comprises the Resource Conservation Districts and Reclamation Districts from the North Delta to Rancho Murieta, the Farm Bureau, and major landowners including The Nature Conservancy. Its goal is to coordinate watershed planning for the Cosumnes, and it will serve as one of the key stakeholder forums for development of the Cosumnes River Feasibility Study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Through the CRTF's regular monthly meetings (and more frequent meetings of work groups organized by reaches of the river), we will assure close coordination of this program with CRTF plans and objectives.

The Corps of Engineers' Feasibility Study will provide another vehicle for assuring local and interagency involvement in the development and implementation of acquisitions pursuant to this grant. The Corps' Project Study Plan should be complete by June 1999. The Corps' process presents the opportunity for leveraging additional federal dollars for acquisition in the corridor, and it is the vehicle for engineering and environmental review of specific projects to be implemented on the targeted properties.

In addition, the Cosumnes Preserve carries out a regular program of outreach to decision-makers and community groups in the greater Sacramento region. Activities in this program include periodic presentations to the Galt Chamber of Commerce, the North Delta Conservancy, the Delta Protection Commission, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, service clubs, historical societies, and other groups. These presentations serve to keep key constituencies informed of Preserve activities and to provide a vehicle for further involvement by those who seek it.

Finally, the Preserve has a web site ([www.cosumnes.org](http://www.cosumnes.org)) with background information, maps, and descriptions of current programs.

There are no known negative third-party impacts from the activities for which we are requesting funding. Third-party impacts associated with modification or construction of levees will be evaluated as part of the habitat restoration plans developed with these funds, though no actual levee modification or construction will be performed with these funds.



Cosumnes River Preserve  
13501 Franklin Boulevard  
Galt, California 95632

International Headquarters  
Arlington, Virginia

TEL 916 683-2142  
FAX 916 683-1702

April 9, 1999

Mr. Don Nottoli  
Member, Board of Supervisors  
Sacramento County  
700 H Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Don:

As you know, over the past few years, The Nature Conservancy has received significant funding from the CALFED Bay-Delta Program for land acquisitions and related activities that protect farmland, improve floodwater conveyance, and improve habitat conditions for fish and other species in the lower floodplain of the Cosumnes River. The activities supported by these grants have resulted in significant improvements in floodplain management and significantly improved habitat conditions. In addition, our activities to date (funded by CALFED, other public, and private sources) have protected over 10,000 acres of agricultural land – land that is now free from development pressure; but remains in farming (and on the property tax rolls). Pending property acquisitions and our partnership with Staten Island will soon increase that number to approximately 35,000 acres.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support for these activities, and we are particularly grateful to you for your establishing and chairing the Cosumnes River Task Force. We look forward to participation on the Task Force and believe that it will play an important coordinating role and help assure that the various planning activities now underway in the Cosumnes-Mokelumne corridor will in fact provide significant benefits for Sacramento County.

As you know, another CALFED competitive funding round is upon us, with proposals due to CALFED in mid-April. The Nature Conservancy will be submitting two proposals to CALFED in this round for activities in or potentially benefiting Sacramento County. The proposals are:

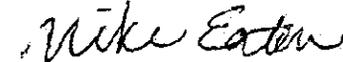
1. A proposal for easement acquisitions to protect farmland on Staten Island and enable a setback levee to be constructed on Staten Island. While this property is in San Joaquin County, the improved conveyance in the Mokelumne corridor will be of potential major benefit to Sacramento County.
2. A proposal for acquisition of easements and fee interests in additional land along the lower Cosumnes River. The object here is to develop funding for projects that will assist in reducing flood stages or accommodating floodwater along the lower Cosumnes. This

funding would provide a local match for federal funding made available through the Corps' Feasibility Study process now underway. We do not have transactions ready to go for this funding, but a funding commitment from CALFED would enable us to move ahead, working with the Corps and the Task Force, to develop those deals. We envision coordinating with the Task Force and stakeholder groups represented on the Task Force to identify priority parcels and activities. As always, we will only seek acquisitions from willing sellers.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and other stakeholders to achieve the flood management, farmland protection, and habitat improvement objectives of the CALFED program, the Cosumnes River Task Force, and the Army Corps Feasibility Studies.

Please contact me if you would like additional information related to the foregoing.

Sincerely,



Mike Eaton  
Project Director

Cc: Supervisors Collin, Dickinson, M. Johnson, and Niello  
Robert Ryan  
Keith Devore  
Tom Hutchings



Cosumnes River Preserve  
13501 Franklin Boulevard  
Galt, California 95632

International Headquarters  
Arlington, Virginia

TEL 916 683-2142  
FAX 916 683-1702

April 9, 1999

Mr. Jack Sieglock  
Member, Board of Supervisors  
San Joaquin County  
222 East Weber Avenue, Room 701  
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Mr. Sieglock:

Over the past few years, The Nature Conservancy has received significant funding from the CALFED Bay-Delta Program for land acquisitions and related activities in Sacramento County that protect farmland, improve floodwater conveyance, and improve habitat conditions for fish and other species in the lower floodplain of the Cosumnes River. The activities supported by these grants have resulted in significant improvements in floodplain management and significantly improved habitat conditions. In addition, our activities to date (funded by CALFED, other public, and private sources) have protected over 10,000 acres of agricultural land – land that is now free from development pressure, but remains in farming (and on the property tax rolls). Pending property acquisitions and our partnership with Staten Island will soon increase that number to approximately 35,000 acres. While these activities (except for Staten Island) have been focussed within Sacramento County, our floodwater management projects have benefited both Sacramento and San Joaquin.

As you probably know, another CALFED competitive funding round is upon us, with proposals due to CALFED in mid-April. The Nature Conservancy will be submitting two proposals to CALFED in this round for activities in or potentially benefiting San Joaquin County. The proposals are:

1. A proposal for easement acquisitions to protect farmland on Staten Island and enable a setback levee to be constructed on Staten Island. Our hope is to play a facilitating role in improving conveyance in the Mokelumne corridor, if the various agencies (CALFED, Corps of Engineers, SAFCA, San Joaquin and Sacramento Counties, the Resource Conservation Districts, and others) currently addressing this problem decide that expanded channel cross-sections through levee setbacks are a part of the solution.
2. A proposal for acquisition of easements and fee interests in additional land along the lower Cosumnes River, in Sacramento County. The object here is to develop funding for projects that will assist in reducing flood stages or accommodating floodwater along the lower Cosumnes. This funding would provide a local match for federal funding made

revised paper

available through the Corps' Feasibility Study process now underway. We do not have transactions ready to go for this funding, but a funding commitment from CALFED would enable us to move ahead, working with the Corps and the two groups organizing to address issues on the two rivers. The acquisitions and activities anticipated would increase floodplain storage and reduce flood stages on the Cosumnes and lower Mokelumne, benefiting both Counties. As always, we will only seek acquisitions from willing sellers.

We look forward to working with you and other stakeholders to achieve the flood management, farmland protection, and habitat improvement objectives of the CALFED program, the Lower Mokelumne Task Force, the Cosumnes River Task Force, and the Army Corps Feasibility Studies.

Please contact me if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Mike Eaton  
Project Director

Cc: ✓Members, Board of Supervisors  
✓David L. Baker, County Administrator  
✓Ben Hulse, Community Development Director  
✓John Pulver, Water Resources Director  
✓Don Nottoli, Sacramento County Supervisor and Chair, Cosumnes River Task Force  
✓Mr. Jim Shanks, Staten Island



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

700 H STREET, SUITE 2450 • SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

April 15, 1999

**DON NOTTOLI**  
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT  
(916) 874-5488  
FAX (916) 874-7593

Mr. Lester Snow, Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, 11th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lester:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the grant proposals to be submitted by The Nature Conservancy. The Cosumnes River Preserve and the Staten Island Consortium, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy are seeking funding from CALFED to accomplish several projects involving flood control and flood plain management improvements in the area of the lower Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers. It is my understanding these projects and initiatives are designed to improve flood security for existing agricultural lands and habitat areas and that these projects would involve a number of public agencies, private organizations and property owners.

I am appreciative of the Cosumnes River Preserve's approach which is directed toward maintaining a substantial amount of land in private ownership, toward improving flood protection for agricultural operations in the two river corridors and demonstrating that farming and wildlife habitat can be compatible objectives.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these proposals.

Sincerely,

Don Nottoli, Supervisor  
Fifth District

DN:sv



## Cost

**Total Request: \$7,317,200**

### *Budget costs:*

**Direct salary and benefits** of \$149,000 are calculated for all tasks described in the Scope of Work. Benefits are calculated at 35.7% of salary paid for hours worked in accordance with our Negotiated Indirect Costs Rate Agreement (NICRA) fringe benefit rate.

**Service Contracts** of \$77,000 for fee and conservation easement acquisition include the costs of appraisals, hazardous materials surveys, and easement documentation reports which will be obtained from a group of vendors used on a regular basis which are paid from invoice rather than through a written contract. For other services including surveys, site cleanup, fencing, initial assessment, and monitoring that are obtained through subcontract, competitive bids will be solicited.

**Material costs** of \$7,000,000 are estimated capital costs for purchase of fee title or conservation easements. Other costs incurred in acquisition of fee title or conservation easements is included in Service Contracts

**Overhead and indirect costs** of \$36,200 included in this proposal are 24.3% of direct salaries and benefits, which is less than our approved rate. Our NICRA indirect cost rate is 20% of total direct project costs, excluding the purchase price of any land interests. The indirect portion includes costs associated with general office requirements and general staff as well as legal and grants administration staff.

### *Schedule/milestones*

- 1. Complete negotiations and close escrow on fee acquisition properties.** Negotiations will continue to be pursued on the three target properties. As funding becomes available, and as agreement is reached on terms, the three properties presently under consideration will be optioned and closed in no more than two years.
- 2. Contact landowners, conclude negotiations, and sign options on conservation easement properties.** This process is under way and should be completed within the next two years.
- 3. Initiate surveys, management and monitoring plans and start-up stewardship activities on fee acquisition properties.** Each of these activities will be initiated immediately upon close of escrow on each property acquired and will be completed within one year of closing.
- 4. Conduct initial resource assessment** on all acquisitions and easements within one year of close of escrow on each property or easement acquired.
- 5. Monitor conservation easements** annually after date of acquisition, for the duration of the proposed project.

**TABLE 2: TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET**

Task	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary & Benefits	Service Contracts	Material & Acquisition Costs	Miscellaneous and Other Direct Costs	Overhead and Indirect costs	Total Cost
Fee acquisition	910	40,000	36,000	4,750,000		10,400	4,836,400
Conservation easement acquisition	910	40,000	51,000	2,250,000		12,000	2,353,000
Management activities	1,092	29,100	30,000			5,820	64,920
Monitoring activities	819	19,350	15,000			3,870	38,220
Project Management	546	20,550	0			4,110	24,660
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,277</b>	<b>149,000</b>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>7,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36,200</b>	<b>7,317,200</b>

**TABLE 3: QUARTERLY BUDGET**

Task	Quarterly Budget Oct-Dec 1999	Quarterly Budget Jan-Mar 2000	Quarterly Budget Apr-June 2000	Quarterly Budget Jul-Sept 2000	Year 2 Budget Oct 00 - Sep 01	Year 3 budget Oct 01 - Sep 02	Total Cost
Fee acquisition	22,400	1,678,500			3,135,500		4,836,400
Conservation easement acquisition	8,500	22,100	462,000	924,000	936,400		2,353,000
Management activities		13,640	14,000	14,000	11,640	11,640	64,920
Monitoring activities		4,740	6,000	6,000	13,740	7,740	38,220
Project Management	2,055	2,055	2,055	2,055	8,220	8,220	24,660
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>32,955</b>	<b>1,721,035</b>	<b>484,055</b>	<b>946,055</b>	<b>4,105,500</b>	<b>27,600</b>	<b>7,317,200</b>

## **Cost-Sharing**

Funding of the land acquisitions identified in this proposal is presently expected to originate almost exclusively from this CALFED grant. However, the Conservancy has extensive experience with combining various sources of funds in order to complete land transactions. All of the previously-funded CALFED land acquisitions for the Cosumnes River Preserve have included additional sources of funds. For example, in addition to the CALFED grant money, the state bond act through the California Wildlife Conservation Board, the Wetlands Reserve Program through the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and the wetlands mitigation/fine sources through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are some of the sources that have been used for various acquisitions. We intend to continue using this multi-partner approach to floodplain transactions at the Cosumnes River.

## **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 nearly 50 years of experience in identifying, protecting, and managing significant natural areas. Its strength and reputation are built on the policy and practice of applying the best conservation science available and of 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: acquisition of land or conservation easements, land management and restoration, land-use planning and conflict resolution, and community education and outreach.

Several of The Nature Conservancy's landmark conservation projects have been supported by funding from previous grants from CALFED and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) and its Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, as well as additional public and private funding sources. These projects include the following:

### ***Cosumnes River Project — Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties***

Working with public agencies and private landowners, The Nature Conservancy has protected nearly 14,000 acres of floodplain habitat, created more than 1,000 acres seasonal wetlands, restored 850 acres of riparian forest habitat, and implemented innovative levee set-back projects to restore natural channel meander. The project enjoys broad public support and provides many opportunities for local involvement, including public visitation, research, and cooperative management with neighboring farmers. In recent years, The Nature Conservancy has begun working downstream, to include protection and restoration of key parcels near the confluence with the Mokelumne River that are critical to the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

### ***Sacramento River Project — Butte, Tehama, Colusa Counties***

An active participant in the SB 1086 process, The Nature Conservancy is collaborating with local landowners and stakeholders to develop the Sacramento River Conservation Area. To date, 15,000 acres have been protected and 2,340 acres restored, supported by funding from many partners and sources, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Water Resources, and others. Through the site-specific management planning process, the Conservancy is focusing on key sub-reaches of the river that are central to the implementation of a limited meander corridor, a high-priority objective for SB 1086 and CALFED.

### ***Mill Creek, Deer Creek, Battle Creek — Butte, Tehama, Shasta Counties***

These tributaries of the upper Sacramento River provide critical habitat for healthy populations of high-priority anadromous fish species including steelhead trout and winter, spring, fall, and late fall run chinook salmon. Protection of riparian parcels through the purchase of fee and easement interests is essential to ensuring connectivity of habitat to the main stem of the Sacramento River. Active restoration has also begun on some of the protected parcels, with funding from CALFED and CVPIA and with the cooperation of local watershed conservancies.

## **Compliance with Standard Terms and Conditions**

The Nondiscriminatory Compliance Statement and Small Business Preference forms are attached, as required under the Terms and Conditions of the 1999 CALFED Proposal Solicitation Package.

If state funds are used for this project, the following applies:

The applicants acknowledge the requirement of the Standard Clauses for service and consultant service contracts for \$5,000 and over with non-public entities, as described in the terms and conditions of the 1999 CALFED Proposal Solicitation Package.

If federal funds are used for this project, the following applies:

While The Nature Conservancy's systems comply with OMB Circulars A-110, A-122 and A-133, our accounting systems do not currently comply with all provisions of the cost accounting standards (which are applicable to federal procurement contracts). Therefore, the Conservancy would strongly prefer a grant or cooperative agreement. In addition, given the definitions in federal law, it would appear that this type of project would most reasonably fall under a grant or cooperative agreement.

**NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

STD. 18 (REV. 3-95) FMC

COMPANY NAME

The Nature Conservancy

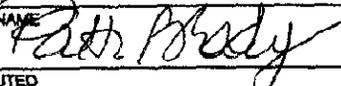
The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, 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.*

Patti Brady

OFFICIAL'S NAME



DATE EXECUTED

April 13, 1999

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF  
San Francisco

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

Director of Human Resources

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

The Nature Conservancy

**STANDARD CLAUSES --  
SMALL BUSINESS PREFERENCE AND CONTRACTOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER**

**NOTICE TO ALL BIDDERS:**

Section 14835, et. seq. of the California Government Code requires that a five percent preference be given to bidders who qualify as a small business. The rules and regulations of this law, including the definition of a small business for the delivery of service, are contained in Title 2, California Code of Regulations, Section 1896, et. seq. A copy of the regulations is available upon request. Questions regarding the preference approval process should be directed to the Office of Small and Minority Business at (916) 322-5060. To claim the small business preference, you must submit a copy of your certification approval letter with your bid.

Are you claiming preference as a small business?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes\*                        x   No

\*Attach a copy of your certification approval letter.