

Review Form

Proposal number:2001-B203-3

Short Proposal Title: Invasive Spartina Project

1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?

Yes. The objectives are very clearly stated on the bottom of 5th page and are elaborated throughout proposal. This proposal has a three part objective which shows a holistic approach to the overall problems being addressed. The objectives address practical management, scientific investigation, and building of an infrastructure which addresses current and future program needs. I think the investigators have framed the objectives for this system into an hypothesis that is clear and can be evaluated based on the monitoring data.

1b1) Does the conceptual model clearly explain the underlying basis for the proposed work?

The conceptual model is presented as a graphical schematic diagram. While there is no detailed written explanation of this model, I believe the model is clear and based on my professional familiarity with these systems does adequately reflect the important and relevant dynamics.

1b2) Is the approach well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project?

Yes. For each of the three objectives in the proposal there is a clear and sound plan for achieving these objectives. The control program is sound and additional research is being conducted by Dr. Anderson to improve techniques. The monitoring program is being conducted by the SFEI institute which is well qualified to carry out the monitoring plan. The objectives are not overly ambitious and the stated design is well suited.

1c1) Has the applicant justified the selection of research, pilot or demonstration project, or a full-scale implementation project?

Yes. The Spartina problem is a large one and will not be solved by a few million dollars. This type of project will serve as a demonstration and will build the network that will be necessary to contain and eventually eradicate the non-native Spartina.

1c2) Is the project likely to generate information that can be used to inform future decision making?

Yes. Weed control projects need constant feedback and detailed geographic inventory data much in the same firefighters constantly monitor the location and movement trends of a dynamic wildfire.

2a) Are the monitoring and information assessment plans adequate to assess the outcome of the project?

Yes. The monitoring and assessment criteria are well thought out and will provide the type of data needed to assess the outcome of the project. Dr. Collins has vast expertise in monitoring the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

2b) Are data collection, data management, data analysis, and reporting plans well-described, scientifically sound and adequate to meet the proposed objectives?

Yes. The monitoring and assessment criteria are well thought out and will provide the type of data needed to assess the outcome of the proposed objectives. Dr. Collins has vast expertise in monitoring the Bay-Delta ecosystem

3) Is the proposed work likely to be technically feasible?

Yes. The work should be technically feasible in my opinion and

4) Is the proposed project team qualified to efficiently and effectively implement the proposed project?

Yes. At the risk of being redundant, this project is being done by some of the most technically adept and skilled practitioners in this field. Drs. Anderson and Strong have world-wide reputations and the other researchers and implementers have similar eminence at the statewide level.

Miscellaneous comments

Spartina is a major ecological threat to the CalFed Bay-Delta system. It is the type of invasive species that TOTALLY changes the habitat it invades. It was listed as a top priority by the CalFed Non-native Invasive Species Committee and this is the ecological “Dream Team” to go after it. While preparing a lengthy and demanding proposal such as this is a daunting and time consuming procedure and it is hard to satisfy each facet perfectly, I’m sure that no other project or team could surpass the worthiness of this project/proposal.

**Overall Evaluation
Summary Rating**

Provide a brief explanation of your summary rating

Excellent

I have assigned a rating of excellent to reflect the quality of the proposal in addressing the format requested by the PSP. This is a well drafted proposal that has already incorporated an adaptive management adjustment to the previously existing objectives. I recommend CalFed always try to fund existing CalFed projects when they identify increased project funding needs.

I also assign excellent based on the importance of the project to the health of the Bay-Delta Ecosystem (Spartina is a BAD plant) and the quality of the implementation/research/monitoring team assembled for the project. These are some of the best and brightest invasive species workers in the CalFed geographical emphasis area.

- Very Good
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
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