

i. Proposal number:# 2001-G200.*

ii. Short proposal title .# Canal Ranch Habitat Restoration-Phase III*

APPLICABILITY TO CALFED ERP GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1a1. Link to ERP Strategic Goals: What Strategic Goal(s) is /are addressed by this proposal? List the letter(s) of all that apply.

A. At-risk species

B. Rehabilitate natural processes

C. Maintain harvested species

D. Protect-restore functional habitats

E. Prevent non-native species and reduce impacts

F. Improve and maintain water quality# A,C through F*

1a2. Describe the degree to which the proposal will contribute to the relevant goal. Quantify your assessment and identify the contribution to ERP targets, when possible.# Project addresses needs of at-risk ("R") native species (Goal A) to maintain and enhance fish and wildlife populations on the island, Goal C - harvestable species, Goal D - Habitats through purchase and restoration of the island, Goal E - non-native invasive species through habitat management practices, and Goal F - sediment and water quality through land use changes to facilitate reduction in toxics entering the Mokelumne River. Contributes to the ERP targets for habitat restoration to enhance fish and wildlife populations, including at risk species. Land purchase is 3,070 acres, a portion of which will be in "wildlife friendly" agriculture and some restored to a variety of wetland and riparian habitats.*

1b. Objectives: What Strategic Objective(s) is/are addressed by this proposal? List Objective (from the table of 32 objectives) and describe potential contribution to ERP Goals. Quantify your assessment, when possible.#

Contribution to ERP goals is as described in 1a2. Objectives addressed include:

Goal A, objective 1 - recovery of "R" at-risk species through habitat restoration on Canal Ranch,

Goal C, objective 3 - enhance populations of waterfowl for harvest by hunting and for non-consumptive recreation,

Goal D, objectives 1 and 2 - restoration of large expanses of habitat types, and connectivity among habitat types, in the Delta,

Goal E, objectives 6 and 7 - reduce the impact of non-native mammals and when appropriate eradicate populations of non-native species on Canal Ranch, and

Goal F, objective 1 - reduce loadings and concentrations of contaminants by reducing load coming from Canal Ranch*

1c. Restoration Actions: Does the proposal address a Restoration Action identified in Section 3.5 of the PSP? Identify the action and describe how

well the proposed action relates to the identified Restoration Action.# Although this proposal is for acquisition of the property, the next phase includes habitat restoration which addresses the following actions:
Riparian Re-vegetation Projects - This project is a demonstration project which includes riparian revegetation
Wetland Restoration - The PSP stated they would consider projects to restore a mosaic of seasonal and permanent wetlands and associated uplands adjacent to northern Delta sloughs and this project plans (in the next phase that is not part of this proposal)to restore a mosaic on Canal Ranch
Wildlife Friendly Farming Practices - This proposal intends to keep part of the land in agricultural production and will employ wildlife friendly management to promote use by waterfowl and sandhill cranes.*

1d. Stage 1 Actions: Is the proposal linked directly, indirectly or not linked to proposed

Stage 1 Actions? If linked, describe how the proposal will contribute to ERP actions during

Stage 1.# This project is linked directly to early implementation action 17f - Habitat development along the Mokelumne River Corridor. Canal Ranch is for that purpose and would contribute to establishment of a Mokelumne River Corridor.*

1e. MSCS: Describe how the proposal is linked to the Multi-Species Conservation Strategy and if it's consistent with the MSCS Conservation measures. Identify the species addressed and whether the proposal will

"recover", "contribute to recovery" or "maintain" each species.# The ERP and MSCS have identified habitat restoration as contributing to Goal 1, to assist in recovery of at-risk species ("R" and "r"). This project targets chinook salmon, Delta smelt, splittail, sandhill cranes, waterfowl, shorebirds and migratory birds.*

1f. Information Richness/Adaptive Probing related to the proposal: Describe the degree to which the proposal provides information to resolve one of the 12 scientific uncertainties (Section 3.3 of the PSP), and whether the proposal offers a prudent approach to answer these uncertainties.# This project is for land acquisition

and they do not yet have a detailed plan for their restoration and monitoring. CALFED should work with the project proponents in development of their plan, to incorporate some of the research to address scientific uncertainties in the fish and wildlife use of wetland habitats (page 35 of PSP) and connectivity with riparian and "beyond the riparian corridor" habitats (page 38 of PSP).*

1g. Summarize comments from section 1a through 1f related to applicability to CALFED goals and priorities. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal, highlighting the applicability of the proposed project to CALFED and CVPIA goals and priorities. Focus on aspects of the proposal

that may be important to later stages in the project review and selection

process.# This project fits in well with the ERP Goals and Objectives and directly addresses one of the early implementation actions. The project is for acquisition of Canal Ranch for habitat restoration purposes. This is located in the Mokelumne River Corridor and the acquisition would help promote habitat connectivity and use in that corridor.*

APPLICABILITY TO CVPIA PRIORITIES

1i. Describe the expected contribution to natural production of anadromous fish. Specifically identify the species and races of anadromous fish that are expected to benefit from the project, the expected magnitude of the contribution to natural production for each species and race of anadromous fish, the certainty of the expected benefits, and the immediacy and duration of the expected contribution. Provide quantitative support where available (for example, expected increases in population indices, cohort replacement rates, or reductions in mortality rates).#

The natural production of steelhead and San Joaquin River fall-run chinook salmon could benefit from the actions in this proposal. The project is designed to restore land on Canal Ranch tract in the eastern Delta, as defined in the Canal Ranch Fish and Wildlife Management Plan (HMP).. Those aspects of the proposal that would have greatest potential benefit for anadromous fish are land conversions from current agricultural use to permanent and seasonal wetlands, riparian, instream aquatic and shaded riverine aquatic habitats. The proposal would benefit juvenile salmonids by expanding the amount of desirable habitat available during their downstream migration. The length of streamside habitat to be restored is not identified. The expected magnitude of the contribution to natural production and the certainty of the expected benefits cannot be determined, but is probably relatively small. The activities included in this proposal cover Phase III (property appraisal and land purchase) of a four-phase project. The construction and associated work involved with habitat restoration and the subsequent monitoring of the effectiveness of these activities will occur in Phase IV. No timeline is presented for the work in Phase IV because acquisition of the property through an easement or in fee purchase is required before implementation of the HMP would occur; negotiations regarding the acquisition of the property are ongoing.. Therefore, the immediacy of the expected contribution is indeterminate. The duration of the expected contribution is not indicated in the proposal, but is probably long-term.*

1j. List the threatened or endangered species that are expected to benefit from the project. Specifically identify the status of the species and races of anadromous fish that are expected to benefit from the project, any other special-status species that are expected to benefit, and the ecological community or multiple-species benefits that are expected to occur as a result of implementing the project.#

Listed species, anadromous species and special status species expected to benefit from the implementation of the project include San Joaquin River fall-run chinook salmon, delta smelt, Sacramento splittail, Swainson's hawk, giant garter snakes, and greater sandhill cranes, black rails, and various listed plant species. The program is anticipated to result in improved ecological community or mixed-species benefits through the restoration of permanent and seasonal wetlands, riparian, instream aquatic, shaded riverine aquatic, and perennial grassland habitats together with "wildlife-friendly" agriculture mixed through seasonal wetlands.*

1k. Identify if and describe how the project protects and restores natural channel and riparian habitat values. Specifically address whether the project protects and restores natural channel and riparian habitat values, whether the project promotes natural processes, and the immediacy and duration of benefits to natural channel and riparian habitat values.#

The project protects and restores both natural channel and riparian habitat values, and promotes natural processes through restoration of agricultural land in the eastern Delta to permanent and seasonal wetlands, riparian, instream aquatic, shaded riverine aquatic, and perennial grassland habitats. The project proposes to implement the measures in the Canal Ranch Fish and Wildlife Management Plan (HMP) for the Canal Ranch, a 3,070 acre area four miles southwest of Thornton on Canal Ranch Tract along the South Fork, Mokelumne River, which will reduce subsidence and consumptive water use by shifting to wetland management strategies. Permanent waterside habitat areas will be developed, agricultural management practices will be modified to enhance spawning and rearing habitat for chinook salmon, Sacramento splittail and delta smelt, and increase foraging habitat for sandhill cranes, Swainson's hawks and wintering waterfowl. The restoration methods will involve construction of levees, excavation of interior sloughs, ponds, and ditches, limited plantings of sensitive plant species, and a program of invasive species management. the Canal Ranch, a 3,070 acre area four miles southwest of Thornton on Canal Ranch Tract in the East Delta along the South Fork, Mokelumne River. The activities included in this proposal cover Phase III (property appraisal and land purchase) of a four-phase project. The construction and associated work involved with habitat restoration and the subsequent monitoring of the effectiveness of these activities will occur in Phase IV. No timeline is presented for the work in Phase IV because acquisition of the property through an easement or in fee purchase is required before implementation of the HMP would occur; negotiations regarding the acquisition of the property are ongoing.. Therefore, the immediacy of the expected contribution is indeterminate. The duration of the expected contribution is not indicated in the proposal, but is probably long-term.*

1l. Identify if and how the project contributes to efforts to modify CVP operations. Identify the effort(s) to modify CVP operations to which the proposed project would contribute, if applicable. Efforts to modify CVP operations include modifications to provide flows of suitable quality, quantity, and timing to protect all life stages of anadromous fish as directed by Section 3406 (b)(1)(B) of the CVPIA, including flows provided through management of water dedicated under Section 3406(b)(2) and water acquired pursuant to Section 3406(b)(3).#

No evidence is presented to indicate whether/how the project would contribute to efforts to modify CVP operations. No such relationship is apparent.*

1m. Identify if and how the project contributes to implementation of the supporting measures in the CVPIA. Identify the supporting measure(s) to which the proposed project would contribute, if applicable. Supporting measures include the Water Acquisition Program, the Comprehensive Assessment and Monitoring Program, the Anadromous Fish Screen Program, and others.#

The project does not obviously contribute to implementation of the supporting measures in the CVPIA.*

1n. Summarize comments from section 1i through 1m related to applicability to CVPIA priorities (if applicable, identify the CVPIA program appropriate to consider as the source of CVPIA funding [for example, the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, Habitat Restoration Program, Water Acquisition Program, Tracy Pumping Plant Mitigation Program, Clear Creek Restoration Program, Comprehensive Assessment and Monitoring Program, and Anadromous Fish Screen Program]). Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal, highlighting the applicability of the proposed project to CALFED and CVPIA goals and priorities. Focus on aspects of the proposal that may be

important to later stages in the project review and selection process.# This project is appropriate for funding support from the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program. The project could contribute to meeting the goal of the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program to increase the natural production of anadromous fish by increasing the amount and quality of available shallow water and riparian habitat in the eastern Delta, thereby providing additional high-quality favorable habitat for juvenile salmonids as they migrate through the Delta. A basic premise of this proposal is that the existing agricultural land can be converted to a tidal wetland ecosystem of varied habitat types (i.e. permanent and seasonal wetlands and riparian) capable of supporting a greater number and variety of desirable species. This project is consistent with Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Evaluation No.4 (Evaluate potential benefits of and opportunities for increasing salmonid and other anadromous fish production through improved riparian habitats in the Delta.) and No. 6 (Evaluate benefits of and opportunities for additional tidal shallow-water habitat as rearing habitat for anadromous fish in the Delta) in the Revised Draft Restoration Plan for the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, May 30, 1997; they are both identified as a high priority in the draft plan. The strength of the proposal is that new desirable habitat will be created at the expense of less desirable habitat. The weakness of the proposal is that it only addresses the work to be accomplished in the early phases of a multi-phased project; there is no guarantee if/when funding of the work in the subsequent phases will be secured.*

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS

2a. Did the applicant explain how the proposed project relates to other past and future ecosystem restoration projects, as required on page 57 in the PSP? Type in yes or no.#yes*

2b. Based on the information presented in the proposal and on other information on restoration projects available to CALFED and CVPIA staff, describe how the proposed project complements other ecosystem restoration projects, including CALFED and CVPIA. Identify projects or types of projects that the proposed project would complement, now or in the future. Identify source of information.#This project will provide increased fish and wildlife value by complementing work at the Cosumnes River Preserve (TNC), the Mokelumne River watershed (Woodbridge Ecological Reserve), White Slough Wildlife Area, and additional easements and restoration projects in Delta rivers and sloughs. Consistent with goals set for the Central Valley and Delta by the North American Joint Venture Program. Source: Proposal*

RESULTS AND PROGRESS ON PREVIOUSLY FUNDED CALFED AND CVPIA PROJECTS, INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR NEXT-PHASE FUNDING

3a1. Based on the information presented in the proposal and on project reports and data available to CALFED and CVPIA staff, has the applicant previously received CALFED or CVPIA funding? Type CALFED, CVPIA, both, or none.#CALFED*

3a2. If the answer is yes, list the project number(s), project name(s) and whether CALFED or CVPIA funding. If the answer is none, move on to item 4.#00F02 - Canal Ranch Habitat Restoration Phase II.*

3b1. Based on the information presented in the proposal and on project

reports available to CALFED and CVPIA staff, did the applicant accurately state the current status of the project(s) and the progress and

accomplishments of the project(s) to date? Type yes or no.#yes*

3b2. If the answer is no, identify the inaccuracies: #

3c1. Has the progress to date been satisfactory? Type yes or no.#yes*

3c2. Please provide detailed comments in support of your answer, including source of information (proposal or other source): #Contract for this phase was executed in July 2000 and work is underway. Source: CALFED Tracking Table and quarterly progress reports.*

REQUESTS FOR NEXT-PHASE FUNDING

3d1. Is the applicant requesting next-phase funding? Type yes or no.#yes*

3d2. If the answer is yes, list previous-phase project number(s) here. If the answer is no, move on to item 4.#00F02*

3e1. Does the proposal contain a 2-page summary, as required on pages 57 and 58 of the PSP? Type yes or no.#yes*

3e2. Based on the information presented in the summary and on project reports available to CALFED and CVPIA staff, is the project ready for next-phase funding? Type yes or no.#no*

3e3. Please provide detailed comments in support of your answers, including source of information (proposal or other source): #Contract was just signed in July 2000 for Phase II. When completed, tasks include developing an interdisciplinary team to review the conceptual plan created in 1996, complete engineering surveys, and develop a feasibility level Habitat Management Plan. Will conduct public workshops to inform all interested parties. Since contract just signed, and work for phase II is for one year, proponents should resubmit in 2001 for FY 2002 funds. Source: Proposal, CALFED project tracking table.*

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

4a. Does the proposal describe a plan for public outreach, as required on page 61 of the PSP? Type yes or no.# No.*

4b. Based on the information in the proposal, highlight outstanding issues related to support or opposition for the project by local entities including

watershed groups and local governments, and the expected magnitude of any potential third-party impacts.# No opposition to the proposal is identified.

The project would allow agricultural practices to continue on a portion of the ranch while allowing development of fish and wildlife habitat on other portions. Both agricultural and fish and wildlife interests would benefit from this proposal.*

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

4d. List any potential environmental compliance or access issues as identified in the PSP checklists.# This proposal is for land acquisition only, therefore, nothing is needed in this phase.*

4e. Specifically highlight and comment on any regulatory issues listed above that may prevent the project from meeting the projected timeline.#None*

COST

5a. Does the proposal include a detailed budget for each year of requested support? Type yes or no.# No, it doesn't state which year(s) the budget is for*

5b. Does the proposal include a detailed budget for each task identified? Type yes or no.# Yes*

5c. Is the overhead clearly identified? Type yes or no.# Yes*

5d. Are project management costs clearly identified? Type yes or no.# No mention of project management costs in Table 1*

5e. Please provide detailed comments in support of your answers to questions 5a - 5d.# Some necessary information is missing*

COST SHARING

6a. Does the proposal contain cost-sharing? Type yes or no.# No*

6b. Are applicants specifically requesting either state or federal cost share dollars? Type state, federal, or doesn't matter.# Doesn't matter*

6c. List cost share given in proposal and note whether listed cost share is identified (in hand) or proposed.

6c1. In-kind:# n/a*

6c2. Matching funds:# n/a*

6c3. Show percentage that cost sharing is of total amount of funding requested along with calculation.# n/a*

6d. Please provide detailed comments in support of your answers to questions 6a - 6c3.# The project is located on property owned by the Canal Ranch Partners, LLC. Negotiations are ongoing regarding the acquisition of the property.*