+i. Proposal number.# 2001-H212*

ii. Short proposal title .# Watershed Stewardship in Marsh Creek: A Project to Protect Water Quality in the Western Delta.*

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,B,D, 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.# The proposal is requesting funding to protect and improve water quality, preserve and restore habitat and preserve habitat connectivity. It will contribute to Goal A - recover at risk species including splittail, chinook, red-legged frog and Western pond turtle; Goal B - reestablishment or frequent inundation of floodplains; Goal D - halt the conversion of agricultural land to urban and suburban uses; and Goal F - improve and maintain sediment and water quality.*

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.# The proposal would contribute to Goal A - objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,and 9 as described in the 1998 Strategic Plan; Goal B - objective 6; and Goal D objective 5. This information is from the proposal.*

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.# This proposal addresses the watershed stewardship section, contaminants section in regard to mercury, and channel reconstruction section of Section 3.5 of the PSP.*

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 proposal is not a Stage 1 action in Appendix D though Big Break is mentioned and research for evaluating species utilization of tidal wetlands on Big Break is encouraged. *

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.# This proposal would contribute to recovery of several at-risk species including splittail, chinook, smelt, red-legged frog and Western pond turtle. *

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.# The proposal will conduct two years of baseline monitoring under the watershed science program and may contribute to the contaminants uncertainty and channel-floodplain restoration uncertainty. They plan to conduct restoration projects as experiments to test hypotheses and provide valuable information.*

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 proposal offers four tasks to meet numerous CALFED goals and objectives and could provide valuable information for uncertainties in the Marsh Creek area. The proposal provides detailed information on the hypotheses to be tested and monitoring plans to evaluate results of actions proposed. *

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 project may increase rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and protect water quality in the Delta from toxic inputs. Fall run juvenile salmon, would likely benefit the most, since they rear for longer time periods in the Delta than the other races of juvenile salmon. The expected magnitude of benefit is unknown, but likely small, since Marsh Creek is not an extensively used area for juvenile salmon.*

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.# Delta smelt and splittail, both listed species in the Delta, could benefit from decreasing or limiting polluted runoff from Marsh Creek Watershed into the Delta. Other Delta fish species would also benefit. Native fish species, endangered red-legged frogs and western pond turtles in Marsh Creek would also benefit from the project. *

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 natural channel and riparian habitat values. It proposes to acquire land to protect a corridor along Marsh Creek and its tributaries, which would protect the confluence of these streams, improve water quality, accommodate flood conveyance, and facilitate habitat restoration. It will fund planning and implementation of channel restoration projects to filter pollutants and increase habitats in Marsh Creek. Once the land is purchased the benefits will be in perpetuity, but dependent upon other actions in the watershed. The project attempts to protect/improve water quality in the Marsh Creek and the Delta by reducing contaminant loads in Marsh Creek. Marsh Creek drains into the western Delta at Big Break. Protection of water quality would occur from the purchase of land and channel restoration and storm water filtration by restored wetlands. Further water quality improvements may occur from the mercury tailing remediation program whereby a low-cost plan will be developed and initiated to reduce mercury loading in Marsh Creek and to prevent it from entering the Delta.*

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).# The project would not contribute to efforts to modify CVP operations because Marsh Creek is not a CVP-controlled stream.*

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 would support implementation of the b(1) other Habitat Restoration Program of the CVPIA because it would lead to reduced contaminant exposure for all organisms dependent on Marsh Creek water. *

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.# The project proposes to acquire land to protect a corridor along Marsh Creek and its tributaries, which would protect the confluence of these streams, improve water quality, accommodate flood conveyance, and facilitate habitat restoration. The project may have limited benefits to anadromous fish and other listed species in the Delta as it attempts to protect water quality in the Delta by reducing (or preventing increases in) inputs from Marsh Creek. Increases of polluted runoff from Marsh Creek Watershed could inflict ecological harm to Big Break, the second largest tidal marsh in the legal Delta and the documented habitat of endangered native fishes (juvenile salmon, Delta smelt and splittail). Native fish species, endangered red-legged frogs, western pond turtles and potentially a limited number of juvenile salmon would benefit from floodplain habitat restoration in the Marsh Creek Watershed. The program could be funded through CVPIA, under the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program or b1 other: to provide habitat restoration/protection for Central Valley fish and wildlife. *

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.#NHI, the East Bay Regional Park District, and the Delta Science Center have raised funds to purchase Big Break and restore Big Break and Marsh Creek, for riparian restoration, special status

species, and recreational opportunities in the Delta Ecozone. This proposal is linked to a DWR effort to study Ecosystem and Salinity Benefits of Flooded Delta Island Restoration, and ongoing Delta smelt investigations. 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.#99A01 - Inundation of a Section of the Yolo Bypass to Restore Sacramento Splittail and Support other Anadromous and Native Species in Dry Years. 99B04 - Focused Action to Develop Ecologically-based Hydrologic Models and Water Management Strategies in the San Joaquin Basin.*

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.#no*

3c2. Please provide detailed comments in support of your answer, including source of information (proposal or other source):#Both of their current projects were approved in February 2000, signed contracts within the last month or two, and are just starting the work. They are a sub-contractor on another CALFED project (98C01) and have been responsive in their role in project management. Source: Proposal, contract administrator, CALFED Tracking Table*

REQUESTS FOR NEXT-PHASE FUNDING

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

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

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

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.#

3e3. Please provide detailed comments in support of your answers, including source of information (proposal or other source):#

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

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

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.# Many of the local governments appear to be part of the process and thus are expected to be supportive of the project. The proposal includes a watershed science program which would lay out a plan to engage students, teachers and local citizens in the program and watershed stewardship. It also would include representatives form Natural Heritage Institute, Delta Science Center, the Cities of Oakley and Brentwood and the East Bay Regional Park District.*

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

4d. List any potential environmental compliance or access issues as identified in the PSP checklists.# The project proponent will need to acquire a scientific collecting permit to implement portions of Task 1. The project applicant will also need to acquire permits from the Reclamation Board - Encroachment Permit and will have to consult with the US Army Corps of Engineers under the Rivers and Harbors Act.*

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.# yes*

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.# yes*

5e. Please provide detailed comments in support of your answers to questions 5a - 5d.# Overhead is quoted at 10-25%. Page13, Task 4, Channel Restoration Design is understated and should be $107,683 as displayed on the detailed budget breakdown. Task 3 is funding for a land acquisition. Applicant does not address severability of tasks or incremental funding or proposed work.*

COST SHARING

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

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:# $50,000 proposed*

6c2. Matching funds:# $692,000 in-hand*

6c3. Show percentage that cost sharing is of total amount of funding requested along with calculation.# 116% or 742,000/640,122=1.159154036*

6d. Please provide detailed comments in support of your answers to questions 6a - 6c3.# n/a*