

Panel Scientific and Technical Review Form
(Note: Review comments will be anonymous, but public.)

Proposal number: 2001-I208

Short Proposal Title: Delta Studies Program - SJ County Schools

1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes. Focus on teacher training and support to improve environmental education in San Joaquin County schools.

Panel Summary:

Yes. Develop interdisciplinary, age-appropriate curriculum. Establish a central resource center and build curriculum kits to support curriculum. Intensive teacher training.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Develop a coherent curriculum. Improve overall academic achievement through interdisciplinary, environmental education approaches connected to place. Good use of community resources.

Panel Summary:

Yes. Curriculum development, teacher training and support, easily accessible resources ==> effective delivery of environmental education programs to a broad range of classes in a District.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes. Age appropriate and site appropriate curriculum. Like resource center and kits. Teacher training and Principal training.

Panel Summary:

County Office of Education well situated to deliver these programs to schools in the District. Well thought out plan for curriculum development. We like the intensive level of teacher training (30 hrs) and post-training support. The Resource Center and Kits will be a valuable asset to District teachers. We like the idea of training Principals to improve the buy in of school administrations to this project. These Principals are more likely to support teacher efforts.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Justifications for project include: current lack of place-based curriculum, general student need for environmental education, general need to boost academic performance.

Panel Summary:

This pilot project has been well justified.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

This is a model project that may be transferable to other locations. The curriculum developed will be available to others through the Resource Center.

Panel Summary:

New curriculum will be a valuable resource for others

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Evaluation will include student work, teacher responses, and program partner input. Field testing of curriculum in years 2 and 3.

Panel Summary:

Applicant proposes to use rubrics, portfolios, assessment tools. More detail might be helpful.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes, evaluation materials will be kept at the Resource Center.

Panel Summary:

Fine.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes. Curriculum will be developed by a range of expert collaborators. Foundations in established State curriculums (CA. CLASS Project, a Child's Place in the Environment, etc). Training and support seem adequate to deliver discussed curriculum.

Panel Summary:

The plans for curriculum development, resource support, and training are well thought out and realistic.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

A powerhouse line-up of educators and environmental experts.

Panel Summary:

Agreed. The project team has strong qualifications.

5)Other comments

The panel would like to see the applicant try to secure financial support from the region that it will serve. Perhaps a little more detail on evaluation scheme.

**Overall Evaluation
PANEL SUMMARY COMMENTS**

Knowledge of education research exhibited and utilized.
Clear, well organized proposal. This project will be a valuable asset to the populace and should have the support of the School District, community, local businesses, etc.

Summary Rating

- XXX Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Your Rating: EXCELLENT