

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

Proposal number: 2001-K219

Short Proposal Title: Lower Calaveras River...

1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes.

Panel Summary:

Objectives are clear. Preliminary hypotheses are clear but will require refinement over the course of the project.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes.

Panel Summary:

One of the best conceptual models seen by this panel.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Generally well-designed to achieve the stated objectives. Description of temperature and population modeling are inadequate to evaluate.

The approach will generally allow researchers to further refine hypotheses and develop pilot studies. Conceptual model provides an indication that the authors are on the right track. The applicant does not appear to realize that existing biological and temperature data will be incomplete to non-existent.

Panel Summary:

Overall approach good but details of method missing. Inadequate description of what analytical tools are available – literature on fish passage, etc. Rotary screw trap work and snorkel survey seems to not fully appreciate amount of work involved (240 hrs total over 5 months). What population models, what temperature models, etc.? Unimpaired flow modeling should be accompanied with unimpaired temperature modeling.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes.

Panel Summary:

Concur.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes.

Panel Summary:

Concur. Information useful, but uncomfortable with lack of detail.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes, although the reconnaissance work is described in a general fashion. Later workplans will be submitted to CalFed for approval.

Panel Summary:

No, not enough information provided.

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:

Data collection techniques are reasonably well described, more details would be helpful. Protocols and reporting plan not clearly described.

Panel Summary:

Concur. Proponents have significantly underestimated the effort necessary for tasks 4 through 7.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes, work is similar to work done by these applicants on the Tuolumne River over 10 years. Work plan is very feasible but modeling may require approximations to make it feasible.

Lack of participation by SEWD and Calaveras County limits the feasibility of this project; the proponents are attempting to include these essential players.

Panel Summary:

Work is feasible but we are concerned about permitting and cooperation that might interfere with successful completion. Budget is too small for some tasks.

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

Summary of Reviewers comments:

Yes, but unclear of the technical role of the Fishery Foundation, if any? Do not see that team has requisite expertise for modeling.

Panel Summary:

Inappropriate times and cost in budget suggests lack of experience in some tasks. Lack of detail in many areas suggests inexperience on the part of whoever wrote the proposal; Frank Ligon has expertise in many areas where the proposal is weak.

5)Other comments

Ratings 'very good' and 'good.'

**Overall Evaluation
PANEL SUMMARY COMMENTS**

More details would make it a much stronger proposal. Expertise is there to do it, and the concept is definitely worth pursuing

Summary Rating

Your Rating: GOOD