

i. Proposal number:# 2001-K219*

ii. Short proposal title .# Lower Calaveras River Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Life History Limiting Factors Assessment*

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***

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.# Restoration of salmonid runs on the Calaveras River is uncertain. This study will help determine if, indeed, restoration is feasible. A successful program could have a small effect on the overall effort to recover chinook but a moderate effect on restoring steelhead.*

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.# Goal 1, Objective 1. Achieve, first, recovery and then large self-sustaining populations of chinook salmon and steelhead.*

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 is loosely linked to the Fishery Monitoring Assessment, and Research section of the PSP. More specifically, the proposal is to improve and expand the inventory and monitoring of fishery resources by focused studies on the Calaveras River.*

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.# Actions on the Calaveras River are not described or linked to any Stage 1 actions.*

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 addressed chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both are MSCS "recover" species. The activities described in the proposal are generally consistent with the intent of MSCS conservation measures for chinook and steelhead, particularly the generalized measures that identify the need for more monitoring and research.*

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 has a useful conceptual model and seven preliminary hypotheses to be tested. Overall, the types of studies proposed are sufficient to collect the necessary physical and biological data. This data for the Calaveras system would be a great addition to the role and condition of the lower Calaveras River. This proposal does not address one of the 12 uncertainties as it is primarily a monitoring and research program.*

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.# Seven tasks are scheduled for completion during year 1, including data reviews, field studies, and fishery monitoring. The approach for examining the physical processes in the Calaveras River are acceptable. The approach for the fishery evaluations are somewhat simplistic or naïve, but probably appropriate for the first year. Overall, the proposal has a relatively low cost for the number of tasks to be implemented and completed during a two-year period. The Calaveras River's ability to support steelhead trout is particularly important when considering this species limited range and lack of distributional data and life history information. Genetic analysis of Calaveras salmon and steelhead could be informative and could

help delineate any linkages with Mokelumne River Hatchery stocks. It would be useful for this studies proponents to communicate with the resource agencies regarding the need to collect tissues from sampled fish for genetic inventory or analysis.*

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).# Anadromous fish species potentially benefitting from this project include: fall- and possibly

late-fall run chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout. The magnitude of the project's contribution to natural production of these species is potentially high (relative to existing production in the Calaveras) because it would provide life history, habitat and other data that are not presently available for this system. These data would be extremely useful in developing, evaluating, prioritizing or coordinating a number of water supply, flood control, watershed management and ecosystem restoration initiatives currently or soon to be underway throughout the catchment. Given the present lack of scientific information on anadromous fish populations in this catchment, the certainty of the project's benefits is also high. The expected benefits to production would depend in part on the findings of the study and the degree to which its recommendations are adopted by stakeholders and confirmed with field-scale adaptive management experiments, but could be immediate and of long term duration for chinook salmon. The duration of any resultant production increases for steelhead/rainbow trout would, however, probably not exceed the projected life span of New Hogan Dam because the Calaveras receives essentially no snow melt runoff. This study has the potential, however, to begin laying the scientific basis for water management and other actions that collectively would result in achievement of the AFRP production target of 2,200 adult chinook/year.*

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 anadromous species potentially benefitting from the project would be limited to Central

Valley steelhead trout (threatened). Central Valley fall- and late fall run chinook salmon, which are candidates for federal listing, would also benefit. The project would provide information that would facilitate restoration of chinook salmon and steelhead populations. Any restoration actions for these species are likely to result in general improvement of the ecosystem and thus benefit other native species.*

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 would provide data necessary for ensuring that an optimal level of natural channel and riparian habitat values is eventually achieved in the Calaveras catchment.*

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).# Results of this study could lead to changes in b(2) releases from New Melones (with subsequent transfer via Farmington canal) or to b(3) acquisitions within the Calaveras catchment.*

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.# Results of this study could provide scientific basis for quantifying purchase of New Hogan storage for fishery flows under the Water Acquisition Program; proposed rotary screw trap monitoring at Bellota Weir would support the Comprehensive Assessment and Monitoring Program; description of water diversion infrastructure would identify opportunities for partnerships with the Anadromous Fish Screen Program.*

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 Calaveras River supports a small (but unquantified) chinook salmon run and has been designated as critical habitat for Central Valley steelhead trout by the National Marine Fisheries

Service. To date, there has been very little scientific data collection focused on anadromous fish population dynamics or habitat conditions in the Calaveras. This study would provide an important first step toward evaluating instream flow, water temperature, salmonid migratory, spawning and rearing habitat and other data required to optimize conditions for natural fish production in the Calaveras River. This is a high priority evaluation item listed for the Calaveras River in the AFRP Revised Draft Restoration Plan. Results of this study could lead to changes in b(2) releases from New Melones or to b(3) acquisitions. The project would also benefit CAMP and lead to partnerships under the AFSP. This project would be appropriate for funding consideration under the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program.*

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.#Complements AFRP pilot study of chinook salmon habitat on the Calaveras River below New Hogan Dam. Recommendations from that study led directly to this proposed study. Coordinating with Calaveras County Water District and Stockton East Water District on their projects, and contributes to the watershed planning effort initiated by the recently formed Calaveras River Watershed Stakeholder Group. 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.#both*

**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.#CALFED 98B25 - Cosumnes River Salmonid Barrier Improvement
CVPIA 114200J033 - Juvenile salmon distribution in the Stanislaus River
CVPIA 11332-9-J013, Assess chinook salmon and steelhead distribution, habitat use, and food habits in the Cosumnes River floodplain***

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): #Work on previous projects is ongoing and satisfactory. CVPIA project 11332-9-J013 completed on time and within budget. Final report and all raw data are on file at the AFRP office of USFWS in Stockton. Source: CALFED tracking table, contract update CVPIA staff information*

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.# No apparent opposition or third party impacts.*

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

4d. List any potential environmental compliance or access issues as identified in the PSP checklists.# A Scientific Collection Permit is needed. This project will need to comply with CESA and ESA since the project is designed to sample both steelhead and potentially winter-run chinook slamon. This project is not exempt from either CEQA or NEPA.*

4e. Specifically highlight and comment on any regulatory issues listed above that may prevent the project from meeting the projected timeline.# See Above*

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 proposed

at 10%. Project management is not a separately defined task. Service contracts are proposed as lump-sum amounts with no further detail. Cover sheet of SF424 is inaccurately completed - see block 15.a. and g.*

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:# \$0*

6c2. Matching funds:# \$0*

6c3. Show percentage that cost sharing is of total amount of funding requested along with calculation.# \$0%*

6d. Please provide detailed comments in support of your answers to questions

6a - 6c3.# Applicant indicates

that the Calaveras River Steering Committee is pursuing an undefined amount of cost share funding from the CA Sportfishing Protection Alliance for this project.*