

Geographic Review Panel 1 – Bay Delta

Proposal number: 2001-E205

Short Proposal Title: Suisun Marsh Property Acquisition and Restoration

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. Proposal would address ERP Goals 1, Species, and 4, Habitats. The relative value of this acquisition depends on the site selected, but using criteria to select the site and the applicant's knowledge of the region and CALFED and CVPIA goals should ensure that this project, once underway will have high applicability. We agree with TARP comments that the proposal strengths are the approach and potential information and adaptive management benefits regarding restoring diked marsh to functional tidal marsh—a goal for CALFED in this region which has the potential to improve fisheries. The CVPIA staff noted the potential benefit as small due to the small number of acres; however this is uncertain due to our lack of knowledge regarding tidal marsh use by fish species. To the extent that the land purchase in this proposal results in improved shallow water habitat, this would support the CVPIA AFRP plan, evaluation number 7.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. The proponents stated their intention to benefit from preliminary data being collected at other tidal restoration sites in the Bay Delta including Martinez Regional Shoreline Marsh and Enhancement, Sonoma Baylands Marsh Restoration, Carl's Marsh and Sonoma Baylands. The participants are the Suisun Marsh Environmental Coordination Advisory Team.

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. Very feasible. It appears that the team has an idea of certain properties they wish to target and their emphasis on planning and criteria for site selection indicate that the project is likely to move forward quickly. On the negative side, without a defined property and identified willing sellers, this could take longer than expected. We understand the TARP's concern regarding the conceptual model; and would encourage the group to work on the conceptual model as a means of clarifying which property should be selected.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. The planning group appears well qualified; however, there is some uncertainty whether the group includes skilled negotiators that can assist in the purchase of the property.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). Good local involvement, working with the Suisun RCD and the Wildlife area manager of Grizzly Island. Given uncertainty of parcels, will need outreach with landowners.

6. Cost. Appears reasonable, given the lack of parcel specificity.

7. Cost sharing. Matching funds of \$536,000

8. Additional comments.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium high

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking. Important acquisition for tidal marsh restoration. Team is well qualified to embark on this endeavor. Proposal is well written, except for conceptual model, and there is good cost sharing.