

Geographic Review Panel 1 – Bay Delta

Proposal number: 2001-E208

Short Proposal Title: Benecia Marsh, Phase II

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. The project is definitely applicable to CALFED Goals. The proposed project is Phase II of a project, and Phase I was funded by CALFED. It is applicable to ERP Goals #4 and #2 and indirectly to Goals #1 and #5.

Reviewers indicate that the relevance of this small scale project to the functioning of the larger ecosystem was not clear.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. No direct connection to other projects is identified in the proposal.

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. The project appears to be feasible; however, few details are provided for the long-term monitoring of the project.

Panel concurs with TARP's expressed concern over the pockets of hydrocarbons at the restoration site. It is not clear how these would be handled if they are encountered in the excavation.

Assume applicant would address the importance of this type of habitat in Carquinez Strait area, as one of the few sites in this area ideal for restoration.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. Applicants and subcontractors are qualified to complete the proposed work.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). Public involvement is a component of the Benecia Parks program, and community involvement will be a component of this project; however, few specifics were included to identify how local involvement would be done. This public outreach not funded within the proposal, but is a benefit.

The proposal indicates that they have initiated NEPA and CEQA compliance review, and other permits are in process.

6. Cost. \$502K.

Concur with the TARP that cost of over \$70,000 per acre seems excessive, without the inclusion of an education component.

7. Cost sharing. \$68K. \$40K in cash from the City of Benicia and \$28K as in-kind services.

8. Additional comments. None.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: This is a unique opportunity for restoration in Carquinez Strait, and funding has been committed for the first phase of the project. Panel feels that the costs are relatively high; suggest higher cost share.