

Geographic Review Panel 1 – Bay Delta

Proposal number: 2001-E209

Short Proposal Title: Suisun Marsh Land Acquisition and Tidal Marsh Restoration

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. Clear benefits related to the CALFED Goals are identified in the proposal. The proposed purchase of lands would work towards many of these goals, but the lack of detail about specific project location and subsequent restoration efforts makes achievement of these goals uncertain.

The TARP notes that overall habitat goals for the project have not been identified, in part because specific lands have not been identified for purchase.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. The proposal identifies links with the Montezuma Slough project as well as Baypoint Shoreline. They indicate that efforts have been made to coordinate the purchase of lands and future restoration plans with these and other projects.

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. This is a potential weakness of the proposal. Many uncertainties lie ahead – finding willing sellers, developing appropriate restoration goals for these projects and then implementing the restoration. The proposal is only for land acquisition; however, the feasibility of overall restoration should be considered.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. Team appears to be qualified. TARP felt additional staff should have been identified that have expertise in habitat assessment and restoration.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance).

6. Cost. It was not clear how property costs were estimated since no specific properties have been identified. If costs are \$1,000-2,000/acres, they should be able to purchase much more than 500 acres.

7. Cost sharing. No specifics are given for cost sharing, although it is indicated that this will be considered.

8. Additional comments. No differentiation is made between fee-title acquisition and easement and management is likely to be different under these two options.

Potential for not meeting CALFED goals if long-term restoration identified for this area is not successful.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium high

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: With the properly selected sites and appropriate transitional habitat, regional importance is high. Acquisition and restoration of the potential properties provides numerous opportunities. However, numerous uncertainties are associated with this proposal.