Geographic Review Panel **1 – Bay Delta**

Proposal number: 2001-E211 **Short Proposal Title:** Feasibility Study of the Ecosystem and Water Quality Benefits Associated with Restoration of Franks Tract, Big Break, and Lower Sherman Lake.

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. This proposal is specifically applicable to the Delta, and supports ERP goals 1, 2, 4 and 5. The study will be centered in the Delta, and the results will be applicable to Delta habitat. Rehabilitation of the flooded islands and the resultant creation of habitat for at-risk species supports ERP Goal 1, the creation of complex self-sustaining natural processes supports ERP Goal 2, restoration of functional tidal marsh habitat in flooded islands supports ERP Goal 4, and replacement of shallow open water habitat with marsh channels subject to tidal flow, which subsequently should prevent establishment of invasive species, supports ERP Goal 5. The restoration of tidal marsh habitat in the flooded Delta islands supports the CVPIA Revised Draft Restoration Plan for the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Evaluation 6 (high priority) and Evaluation 7 (medium priority).

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. This proposal will complement several studies in the Delta, including restoration of islands within Franks Tract by Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR); evaluation of wetland restoration along Big Break by East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD); studies of fish use at Lower Sherman Lake by DWR; and a demonstration of the feasibility of reusing dredged materials by DWR.

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. The proposal describes an approach that is both feasible and appropriate. Since the product is a feasibility report, the project is somewhat independent of external factors that could prevent timely completion. A factor that could affect the schedule would be program redirection resulting from advisory groups that provide direction to the program. Frequent interaction with these groups is programmed and should head off most problems of this nature.

Panel feels that one-year time frame is not realistic. A better result may be obtained with a longer time frame. Panel suggests a staged approach over a longer time frame to adaptively manage project.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. The project team appears to have extensive training and experience to conduct the proposed work.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). The proposal will create a public stakeholders group consisting of representatives invited from affected constituent groups including environmental, waterfowl/hunting, boating, Delta diverters , CVP contractors, and Delta management and technical experts. Public and resource agency meetings will be convened to receive input and to

provide program updates/status. The program goals to replace poor quality with improved quality habitat and to reduce salinity should receive support from a wide spectrum of special interests. There are no identified third party impacts.

6. Cost. The proposed budget is commensurate with the expected benefit of the work and with the effort required to complete the work, and the budgeted items are justified.

7. Cost sharing. The Delta Science Center will provide approximately $100,000 as a cost share for this project. The proposal indicates other co-sponsors will participate in cost-sharing, but does not identify these partners.

8. Additional comments. Feasibility study should include relevant environmental documents.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: High

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: Potential for wide-spread benefits. The proposal is well thought out and well presented.