

Geographic Review Panel 1 – Bay Delta

Proposal number: 2001-E212 **Short Proposal Title:** Tolay Creek and Cullinan Ranch

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. Per staff review, this proposal is applicable to ERP Goals 1 (At-Risk Species) and 4 (Habitats). Per the applicant, it is also applicable to Goals 2(Ecosystem Processes) and 5 (Invasive Species). As this is a monitoring rather than a restoration project, it will not contribute to any of the regional restoration goals for tidal marsh habitat.

Relative to CVPIA priorities, staff review indicated that the project might have a minor benefit to anadromous fishes and a somewhat greater benefit to resident fishes, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Note that this project is located in San Pablo Bay, which is outside the CVPIA program boundaries.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. In addition to previous CALFED funding of Tolay Creek and Cullinan Ranch, Tolay Creek is adjacent to another restoration project funded by CALFED. Panel is unsure which project this is, although it could be Phase I of 2001-E215 (Tubbs Island). Note that there are also CDFG lands adjacent to Cullinan Ranch that have been or will be breached (former Cargill salt ponds).

A regional monitoring plan for all Napa-Sonoma Marshes restoration projects should be developed, with similar monitoring protocols and common “reference” sites, as appropriate. CALFED is supporting the formation of a Wetlands Regional Monitoring Plan for San Francisco Bay (through SFEI).

3. Feasibility, especially the project’s ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. Generally high, but as noted by the TARP, the sampling design is inadequate for some components.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. Adequate

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). Applicants indicate coordination with and support of several federal, state, and local agencies and NPOs.

6. Cost. A revised sampling design may increase the cost.

7. Cost sharing. USGS will contribute \$54,000 (\$18,000 per year).

8. Additional comments. Ensure compilation of existing pre-project monitoring information.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium high

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: Panel endorses the proposed monitoring of these sites for the value of the information relative to any needed modifications of these restoration projects (adaptive management) and for future restorations in the San Pablo Bay region. Project includes in-depth physical, chemical, and biological monitoring.