

Geographic Review Panel 1 – Bay Delta

Proposal number: 2001-F209

Short Title: Evaluation of BAC as Selenium Indicator

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. Applicability to ERP goals 1 and 6 are clearly described. Proposal is generally applicable to CVPIA Biological Principles as data generated should be relevant to all fish species.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. Linkages to four other CALFED funded projects are detailed. The panel sees no conflicts with other projects. Should reference and build upon previous non-CALFED funded studies. To the extent that this proposal will lead to a reduction in harmful level of selenium in the aquatic environment, this proposal would support the CVPIA AFRP plan Evaluation number 7.

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. Proposal sections C.2.f. and C.2.g present a strong case for why the project as proposed is highly feasible, and thus able to meet projected timelines. The panel agrees. The only potential concern we have is if the existing collaboration with the Department of Fish and Game changes, and DFG can no longer provide the field collection of fish in the future, the proposal does not present an option for field collection of fish.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. Investigators appear highly qualified, and access to facilities is adequate. Responsibilities are well delineated.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). No plan for public outreach program is included other than CALFED reports and publications in peer-reviewed scientific literature. This is appropriate for the proposed research project.

6. Cost. Cost for this project is between \$650,000 and 871,000. Panel cannot make a determination as to reasonableness of cost. The proposal does describe possible synergistic benefits to several other CALFED projects that are currently funded.

7. Cost sharing. No direct cost share proposed.

8. Additional comments.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium Low

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: Applicants could have made a better connection to non-CALFED previously funded projects. Also, the effects of selenium contamination on the biota (population effects) are not well quantified.

Though the panel realizes that selenium is an important problem regionally, the panel is not certain due to outstanding technical issues whether this proposal would benefit habitats and species.