

## Geographic Review Panel 1 – Bay Delta

**Proposal number:** 2001-F213      **Short Proposal Title:** San Joaquin River Dissolved Oxygen Depletion Next Phase Funding Request for 2001.

**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 applicable to the Delta, and supports ERP Goal 6. The proposal is centered on a reach of the lower San Joaquin River in the vicinity of Stockton, and the results will be applicable to Delta habitat specifically in the Deepwater Ship Channel. The improvement in water quality associated with this project supports the CVPIA Revised Draft Restoration Plan for the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Evaluation 7 (medium priority).

**2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region.** The results from this project would affect anadromous fish restoration activities in the tributaries upstream of the dissolved depression that would be dependent on improving dissolved oxygen levels in the Deepwater Ship Channel. In particular, collaboration would occur with the tagging study to determine fish movement past the low dissolved oxygen concentration in the Deepwater Ship Channel. There would also be collaboration with water quality studies in the lower San Joaquin River basin, including the dissolved organic carbon studies in the San Joaquin River, sediment metal flux studies, and Central Valley tributary nutrient monitoring/modeling.

**3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner.** The feasibility to move forward in a timely and successful manner is unclear. The proposal identifies 5 tasks and 19 major subtasks, with little descriptions of the integration of the tasks, sequencing of work, relative importance of the tasks, etc. This lack of clarification precludes an assessment of the appropriateness of the proposed work, and whether the work can be completed in the time allotted. The purpose of the project as stated in the executive summary is to develop an adaptive management plan but this is not clearly described within the proposal.

**4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project.** The applicants appear to be qualified in terms of experience to do the work. A brief one-paragraph description of each subtask identifies the nature of the work; each subtask is assigned to an individual investigator, whose experience appears adequate. These investigators presumably have access to all necessary facilities to accomplish their particular tasks.

**5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance).** Representatives from nine cities, the California Farm Bureau, DeltaKeeper and State and Federal agencies participated in the development of the proposal. The San Joaquin River Dissolved Oxygen Steering Committees and subordinate committees meet monthly, and public outreach workshops have been held. Regular activities of the steering Committee are publicly posted and regularly updated on the web site.

**6. Cost.** The costs appear reasonable. There is so much work identified, though, and in such a wide range of topics (i.e. nineteen different subtasks) that the overall cost is substantial. The lack of

connectivity between the subtasks precludes an assessment of the relative value of doing the nineteen subtasks.

**7. Cost sharing.** The following cost share partners have contributed to this proposal: City of Stockton (~\$50,000); Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (labor - \$5,000; laboratory - \$10,000); City of Modesto (\$12,000 plus an indeterminate labor contribution), and DeltaKeeper (labor worth ~ \$4,200).

**8. Additional comments.** There is such a wide array of tasks identified with minimal coordination identified that program management is potentially jeopardized.

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## **Regional Ranking**

**Panel Ranking:** Medium

**Provide a brief explanation of your ranking:** It is an important problem in the delta that needs to be addressed. Panel concurs with TARP summary that tasks should be prioritized. Panel recommends partial funding based on further prioritization of tasks.