

Geographic Review Panel 1 – Bay Delta

Proposal number: 2001-F214

Short Proposal Title: Wetland Hg

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. Very little justification is provided concerning how this proposal addresses CALFED Goals. No specifics are given relative to the 6 goals outlined in the PSP. To the extent that this proposal would provide information that may lead to a reduction in mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment, this proposal would support the CVPIA AFRP plan, Evaluation number 7. Mercury in wetlands is a problem that needs to be addressed in this region.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. Connections in the proposal to other studies of Hg in the region are weak. The TARP notes that specifics of Hg in SF Bay are lacking and no explicit reference is made to previously funded CALFED research on HG (99-B06).

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. Yes, it is likely feasible – although there were questions in the technical review about the appropriateness of particular methods (eg., C dating). The panel concurs with the TARP regarding the ability of methods identified to achieve stated goals.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. The qualifications of the researchers in the field of Hg biogeochemistry are weak. The TARP recommended addition of a member with specific expertise with Hg.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). None.

6. Cost. The panel concurs with the TARP that the cost of the proposed research is excessive relative to benefits.

7. Cost sharing. Cost sharing is not indicated.

8. Additional comments.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium Low

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking Important local issue and long-term concern, however there are significant questions about the research approach and the ability of the applicants to complete the research.