

Geographic Review Panel 1 – Bay Delta

Proposal number: 2001-G202 **Short Proposal Title:** Staten Island Acquisition

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. Goals 1, 3, 4, 6. Significant to CALFED vision for East Delta Habitat Corridor – the acquisition would provide a contiguous habitat corridor reaching from Stone Lakes to the Mokelumne Forks confluence. Important property to Sandhill crane and other Migratory Birds and the vision of encouraging wildlife friendly Agriculture. The main question is whether this area is at risk for development or unfriendly agriculture. Not applicable to CVPIA fish restoration goals.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. Strong linkage to other projects as noted above. Also future research will be linked to other restoration activities.

3. Feasibility, especially the project’s ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. Feasibility is excellent. No CEQA/NEPA requirement for land acquisition.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. The Nature Conservancy has a good record for acquisitions and monitoring.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). Landowner is willing to sell and already involved in current Cosumnes River Preserve.

6. Cost. Relatively expensive, \$35,000,000 (\$3,800 per acre for corn). Island is owned as an investment of a retirement fund and could be sold. Value of parcel for development should be assessed and a determination of whether an easement in perpetuity could be arranged with current owner.

Cost is in question as current values under wildlife management through Cosumnes River Preserve are high.

7. Cost sharing. No match. It seems like TNC could raise some money to support this project.

8. Additional comments. Land managers will be interested in the economic viability of wildlife-friendly farming practices and natural resource specialists, on water quality assessments and waterfowl habitat improvement.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium high

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: This could be a good project that would yield tangible benefits to different elements under the CALFED program. However, this is an expensive proposal and there should be more emphasis on eliciting support from the private sector to cost share with CALFED.