

Geographic Review Panel 1 – Bay Delta

Proposal number: 2001-H212 **Short Proposal Title:** Watershed Stewardship in Marsh Creek: A Project to Protect Water Quality in the Eastern Delta

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. There appears to be a strong tie to CALFED Goals of acquiring and restoring flood/marsh plains. This proposal would support the CVPIA AFRP plan Evaluation numbers 4,6 and 7.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. Applicant indicates this CALFED request would continue and add to a Coastal Conservancy funded watershed science program begun in the Marsh Creek Watershed. There are apparently no CALFED programs nor any other restoration programs currently in place in this watershed.

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. It appears the applicants and collaborators have been successful in previous programs they have undertaken and have strong endorsements from agencies in the watershed. Panel concurs with TARP to first finish development of a plan.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. The applicants are qualified.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). The proposal includes good local involvement and proposes substantial additional local input, if funded. There is some concern about the applicants' assertion as to the ease of obtaining CEQA compliance, particularly the removal of levees adjacent to residential areas for floodplain restoration.

6. Cost. Reasonable.

7. Cost sharing. \$742,000 – Proposed cost shares

Coastal Conservancy – 212,000, Contra Costa County Flood Control District - \$300,000, EBRPD – 80,000 (50,000 in-kind), Sanitation District - \$75,000, and Foundation - \$25,000

Total - \$1,382,122

8. Additional comments. Mercury remediation may be relevant but applicant has not shown that there is a problem, only an assumption that there is a problem.

Panel wondered why this project didn't follow the CRMP process.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium high

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: There appears to be no other restoration effort in this rapidly urbanizing watershed. This project mixes research, education, remediation, acquisition and restoration in a complex and not always compelling way. The strongest programs are the proposed community consensus building and the marsh and channel restoration work. The panel agrees with the TARP to fund and complete task 1 and the acquisition of the key parcel (Griffith parcel).