

Geographic Review Panel 2 - Sacramento River/Butte Basin

Proposal number: 2001-B202 **Short Proposal Title:** Arundo donax: Survey and Eradication

- 1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region.** Geographically this project is a high priority and has high applicability to restoration goals in Region 2, particularly applicable to restoration of the spring-run tributary watersheds to the upper mainstem Sacramento River. This project contributes to CALFED ERP Goals 5 - 7. This project contributes to CVPIA supporting measures 3406(b)(13), 3406(e)(1), 3406(e)(6) and 3406(b)(1) through restoration of riparian habitat and associated ecosystem processes.
- 2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region.** This project is linked with Team Arundo of the Upper Sacramento River, an organization formed in response to the threat that *Arundo donax* present to the riparian habitat sand stream ecosystems of northern California and to many past and ongoing riparian restoration projects in many of the upper mainstem Sacramento River tributary watersheds funded by the AFRP.
- 3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner.** One technical reviewer feels that the project is feasible but the TARP feels that removal of Arundo is not a proven science and there is little information in the proposal to support this statement. They have many questions about removal and reestablishment but also feel these are details that have to be worked out. Panel concurs with the TARP.
- 4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project.** The Panel agrees with the TARP's feeling that the researchers are well qualified to carry out this work.
- 5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance).** Heavily partnered, tremendous local support. The project was developed with support from local groups, city and county agencies, landowners and interested organizations. Each county has an outreach coordinator identified to work with local landowners.
- 6. Cost.** Staff identified errors in cost calculations. Costs consistent with level of effort.
- 7. Cost sharing.** Yes, see Staff review, \$241,300 in cost-share identified.
- 8. Additional comments.** Panel agrees with the TARP that the proposal should be refocused as a demonstration project with an increased focus on monitoring for use as a management tool. The TARP feels that Arundo eradication should be a priority given its impacts on habitat. There also appears to be a need for budget oversight given the large amount of service contracts. Two scientific reviewers rated the proposal as Excellent and Very Good. The TARP rated it as Fair.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: High

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: This project is extremely important to this region, has extensive community support, considerable biological resource value, but funding

for this project should be conditioned on it being refocused as a demonstration project with an increased focus on monitoring for use as a management tool.