Geographic Review Panel 2 - Sacramento River/Butte Basin

Proposal number: 2001-H205 **Short Proposal Title:** Battle Creek Watershed

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. Fully applicable and necessary to achieve CALFED and CVPIA priorities as well as consistent with the implementation methods advocated in both the CALFED Watershed Program and CVPIA AFRP program.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. The identified tasks link well with the Battle Creek Restoration Plan for instream habitat and TNC conservation efforts in the riparian corridor. The project ensures continued community involvement in the adaptive management program for the Battle Creek Restoration project with PG&E. Producing a competent watershed strategy links well with the instream and riparian corridor programs and provides several benefits; such as addressing sediment discharges in the watershed, meadow restoration and educational programs. All tasks appear achievable based upon the identified tasks and past performance.

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. The project is feasible and the organization is sufficiently qualified to provide the input from the community in a timely manner. Past projects completed by the Battle Creek Conservancy faced the challenge of quickly analyzing complex and large-scale government actions in the form of the Battle Creek Restoration Project with PG&E and Coleman Hatchery reevaluation as well as endangered species issues previously unknown to the community. Battle Creek Conservancy made much of the public outreach and communication to the community members possible.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. Excellent. Many well-qualified community leaders stepped forward to participate in the board for the watershed group. The newsletter produced by the Conservancy is an example of the group's effective communication within their community and the agencies. One area that may need more work in the proposal is the information management system because it was a valid concern of some of the scientific technical review panel. The concept of having a library of information in electronic media along with other material is something the applicant is well qualified to maintain. However, it may not be appropriate to expand that task to a level that serves the management of a scientific data management system in perpetuity. It may be possible to modify the system and link effectively into the scientific data management systems developed by the CALFED and CVPIA in the valley and make that information fully available to the community.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). The plan developed for checking for community acceptance of restoration ideas has been effective in the past and is similar to this proposal.

6 Cost. The proposed budget is commensurate with the expected benefit in all areas with the possible exception of the information management system and modifications described above.

7. Cost sharing. The proposal includes a substantial private contribution. Past experience indicatives the community leaders participating in the project will provide an exceptional level of in kind service.

8. Additional comments. The primary focus of the information system should be to benefit the community and support their understanding of the instream and riparian corridor restoration projects as well as the overall stewardship of the watershed.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium-high

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: High regional relevance, but proposal not well written. Applicants need to address TARP comments concerning the data management system.