

Geographic Review Panel 2 - Sacramento River/Butte Basin

Proposal number: 2001-L215

Short Proposal Title: Coleman NFH Intake

- 1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region.** Project includes screening and expansion of gravity conveyance facilities including construction of a new pipeline in the riparian corridor and a new diversion head works (possibly a new large dam) that will reduce instream flow along a significant reach of stream. Screening is clearly consistent with ERP goals; however it appears expansion of gravity water diversion capability is not applicable to ERP goals for improving instream flow, riparian habitat, water quality and diversion works (potentially dams) that may adversely affect fish passage.
- 2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region.** Linked with Battle Creek Restoration Project and Coleman NFH Improvement Plan.
- 3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner.** Screening is feasible; however, expansion of capability to divert water from Battle Creek and potentially construct a new dam may experience difficulty moving forward in a timely manner due to the presence of alternatives that may be environmentally superior. The Coleman NFH is also beginning a reevaluation study that may redefine water needs at the Coleman and Livingston Stone sites thereby changing the requirements for the diversion capability. In addition, there are significant water right issues if the proposed diversion capability is used. There is no state or local approval of increased water rights to fully use the proposed diversion capability. Panel concurs with TARP who stated that plan for failsafe water supply was highly suspect.
- 4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project.** Qualified to implement projects that restore habitat and/or modernize and expand hatcheries.
- 5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance).** Current hatchery reevaluation and the intake project includes local involvement. Hatchery has an outreach program.
- 6. Cost.** Screening costs similar to those reported on tributaries. Increasing the gravity diversion capability before completing the reevaluation process that could change the water needs between the Coleman and Livingston Stone facilities could lead to a major stranded investment on the pipeline and diversion head works or any control structure that is required. Cost increases may occur if the diversion new head works require a dam to make the diversion of 156cfs reliable. Based on the operation of all other diversions on the creek of that magnitude it is necessary to establish a dam to provide reliability to divert up to 75 percent of the base flow of the stream.

7. Cost sharing. Cost sharing is identified and the amount is significant (although the source of funds may be the CVPIA).

8. Additional comments. Project should be sequenced after completion of the reevaluation contract that is just now beginning. The Coleman NFH is also beginning a reevaluation study that may redefine water needs at the Coleman and Livingston Stone site thereby changing the requirements for the diversion capability. In addition, there are significant water right and environmental issues if the proposed diversion capability is used. Until the reevaluation is completed, the project appears to lack state and community acceptance.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Low

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: Although the screening portion of this project is a high priority project with the potential to contribute to restoration of Battle Creek, the Panel gave the proposal a low rank because we are concerned about feasibility and timing of providing funding for the project as proposed prior to completion of the CNFH re-evaluation.