

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

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**Directed Action Proposal Solicitation and Evaluation Guidelines
Ecosystem Restoration Program
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Purpose

The following guidelines establish the process that will be used for soliciting and evaluating CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Directed Action proposals funded through the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, Water Code Division 26.5¹, annotated (Proposition 50). These guidelines are consistent with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Programmatic Record of Decision (ROD) and Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) planning documents and are intended to fulfill the requirements of Section 79505.6 Division 26.5 of the Water Code. These guidelines are also intended to facilitate the administration and execution of ERP projects in the most expeditious manner possible.

The CALFED ERP is designed to maintain, improve, and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species. Proposition 50 identifies one hundred eighty million dollars (\$180,000,000) for ecosystem restoration program implementation of which not less than twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) shall be allocated for projects that assist farmers in integrating agricultural activities with ecosystem restoration. This funding is to be used for expenditures or grants. These guidelines, while focused on evaluating grant proposals, may also be used by the ERP Implementing Agencies to evaluate other expenditures such as interagency agreements.

Directed Action Projects

ERP Directed Action proposals are for projects addressing ERP implementation priorities of special near term importance and where a single eligible entity is known to be uniquely qualified to carry out the tasks. These actions are identified by one or more ERP Implementing Agencies for evaluation and funding throughout the fiscal year. Implementation of the ERP is the mechanism to achieve program objectives for ecosystem restoration and species recovery and to enable endangered species compliance for actions proposed in all CALFED Program elements. Consequently it is important that the Implementing Agencies and California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA) identify specific, strategic actions to expeditiously fund to meet environmental permitting commitments and strategic priorities as identified in program planning documents.

¹ http://resources.ca.gov/bond/Prop_50_with_legislative_amendments-3.pdf Proposition 50 was approved by the voters on November 5, 2002, and annotated to reflect subsequent implementing statutes as of November 23, 2004.

Directed Action project proposals address an urgent or timely issue or unique opportunity in response to immediate ERP priorities. The Directed Action proposal review process evaluates potential ecosystem restoration projects that meet the priorities referenced in CALFED planning documents, including the CALFED ROD, Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan² or current Multi-Year Program Plan (MYPP). These guidelines detail the process used to evaluate these proposals and expeditiously execute funding agreements.

Solicitation and Evaluation of Proposals

The 2002 and 2004 ERP Proposal Solicitation Packages (PSP)^{3,4} describe the review process and evaluation criteria for reviewing all proposals submitted to the ERP. The criteria included in the PSPs and in the Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan provide the foundation for evaluating ERP proposals and will remain the basis for evaluating Directed Actions. In addition to the criteria in the PSPs all proposals are evaluated for consistency with ROD commitments.

Process

The Directed Action proposal process begins with identification of potential ecosystem restoration projects that meet urgent, timely or unique opportunities to address priorities listed in ERP planning documents. Eligible applicants are invited to submit a proposal, in a format similar to and consistent with that used for a traditional PSP. A Directed Action proposal is reviewed using a multi-tiered evaluation process consistent with the procedures identified in past PSPs, described below.

Proposals will be evaluated through the following steps:

- **Consistency Review.** Applicability to ERP goals; consistency with draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan, MYPP, CALFED ROD; and other ERP planning documents.
- **Concurrent Review**
 - ✓ **Administrative Review.** Budget evaluation and environmental compliance review.
 - ✓ **Public, Local Government, and Tribal Notification.** Proposals will be posted on the CALFED ERP website⁵, and local governments and Tribes will be notified.
 - ✓ **Technical, Scientific and Regional Review.** All projects will undergo a technical and scientific review. On a case by case basis proposals will undergo an independent scientific review. Projects will be assessed for biological relevance and justification; approach; technical feasibility; performance measures; use of conceptual models; and application of adaptive management related to scientific uncertainties; potential for advancing scientific knowledge of the ecosystem; and regional context and importance.

² <http://calwater.ca.gov/Programs/EcosystemRestoration/EcosystemDraftStage1ImplementationPlan.shtml>

³ <http://calwater.ca.gov/Programs/EcosystemRestoration/Ecosystem2002ProposalSolicitationPackage.shtml>

⁴ http://www.calwater.ca.gov/Programs/EcosystemRestoration/2004_PSP/ERP_Monitoring_PSP_Document.pdf

⁵ <http://calwater.ca.gov>

- ERP Implementing Agency Review.** The ERP Implementing Agencies are defined in Section 79441(c) of the California Bay-Delta Authority Act and designated managers of these agencies (Ecosystem Restoration Program Implementing Agency Managers, or ERPIAMs) serve as the selection panel for funding recommendations. The Implementing Agencies for the ERP are the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The CBDA ERP designated manager participates with the ERPIAMs in an oversight and coordination role.
- Funding Decision.**
 - Implementing Agency Recommendation.** The ERP Implementing Agencies will present their funding recommendations to the CBDA. The CBDA may review these recommendations in a public meeting and may provide comment to the Implementing Agencies.
 - Grant Awarded.** The funding entity, i.e., the Implementing Agency awards the grant.

Figure 1. Directed Action Flow Chart

