

Final Selection Panel Review

0093

Delta Working Landscapes

Delta Protection Commission

Applicant amount requested: \$1,274,066

Fund This Amount: \$800,000

The proposal lacks a well-defined monitoring program, which would support and explain the rationale for the specific amounts of work to be done in Task 2 (e.g., why 20,000 linear feet of vegetated ditch bank is appropriate), and provide a framework for Task 3 demonstration projects. In particular, Task 2 actions and potentially the demonstration projects in Task 3, need to be structured with an experimental design (including controls, replicates) in order to build the data to justify the relative benefit of funding the specified amount of work (such as 20,000 linear feet of vegetated ditch banks) and to measure environmental benefit (such as reduced sediment or pesticide loads). This plan should also serve to justify the amount of funding requested for these tasks, which presently is not well detailed. The Selection Panel thinks these tasks could be completed for less.

The revised Task 3 needs to identify the interview methodology to be used and how it is supported by current social science interview practices. The revised proposal also needs to be consistent in the description of deliverables among the text, the deliverables table, and the budget detail. The Selection Panel questioned the feasibility of implementing vegetated ditches in light of current ditch practices (i.e., spud ditches). Task 2 of the proposal appears to be a continuation of existing projects, but the proposal does not show how the new projects are informed by past work.

The Selection Panel indicated that while some of the wildlife-friendly approaches are good, they could be implemented for less than the amount requested. The Delta festivals may be a good outreach approach, but may not be an effective strategy to exchange information and ensure that growers adopt practices. It also appears that the festivals are focused beyond the ecosystem and agriculture objectives of this PSP, so the Selection Panel recommends reducing the ERP contribution to \$44,000. PSP funds cannot be used to create a non-profit group, and cost share funds for the festivals should be sought from other sources. The proposal should provide assurances that the applicants will coordinate with the Delta Vision and other planning processes.