: Form I - Project Information

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Ecosystem Restoration Program - 2002 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP): Form I - Project Information

Proposal Title:(there is no limitation on the number of characters)

Recovery Implementation for Riparian Brush Rabbit and Riparian Woodrat on the Lower Stanislaus River

List all proposal applicants.

First NameLast NameOrganization

Heather Bell US Fish and Wildlife Service (916) 414-6529 (until Dec. 20, 2002)

Kim Forrest US Fish and Wildlife Service (209) 826-3508 (after Dec. 20, 2002)

Joanne Karlton California Department of Parks and Recreation (209) 826-1197

Corresponding Contact Person: (Show name of primary contact person even if they are already listed in question 2. The corresponding contact person should be the individual to whom award letters will be sent.)

First Name: Forrest

Last Name:Kim

Organization:U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Address: P.O. Box 2176, Los Banos, California 93635

Phone: (including area code)209-826-3508

Email: kim_forrest@fws.gov

Project Keywords- Please select three keywords to describe your project. Different browsers handle multiple select lists differently. In general, PC users should use CTRL + left mouse button; Mac users should use the Command + mouse button.

Endangered Species

Habitat Restoration, Riparian

Preserves

Type of project (choose the one that best fits your overall project): -

Research

- Monitoring

Restoration

- Planning (Restoration or Engineering)

- Implementation: Pilot/Demo

X Implementation: Full Scale

- Education

- Fish Screen/Ladder Construction

Does the project involve land acquisition, either in fee or through a conservation easement? X Yes - No
If yes, is there an existing specific restoration plan for this site? -
Yes X No

Topic Area (check only one box) - At-Risk Species Assessments
- Importance of the Delta for Salmon
- Diversion Effects of Pumps
- Fish Screens
- Natural Flow Regimes
- X2 Relationships
- Decline in Productivity
- Channel Dynamics and Sediment Transport
X Riparian Habitat
- Floodplains and Bypasses as Ecosystem Tools
- Shallow Water, Tidal and Marsh Habitat
- Uplands and Wildlife Friendly Agriculture
- Fish Passage
- Non-Native Invasive Species
- Ecosystem Water and Sediment Quality
- Environmental Education

Type of applicant (check only one box) - Landowner- Local Agency-
Private non-profit- Private for profit- Tribe
- University- XJoint Venture- State Agency Federal Agency

Location - GIS coordinates (Provide geographic coordinates (northing/easting in latitude/longitude (decimal degrees)) for your project's centroid.) If you do not have a GPS or GIS to find the coordinates of the centroid of your project, you may use the TIGER Map Service.
Provide the following information for your proposed project. Leave lat/long boxes blank if your project fits the "Multi-region (independent of specific site) Code 15: Landscape" category shown under Question 10 Location - Ecozone. For projects in multiple adjacent Ecozones, please provide your best estimate of the approximate center point. Please do not add any directional characters (e.g. N, S, E, W). Please enter numbers only.
Latitude: (example: 38.575; must be between 30 and 45)37.6750145
(decimal degrees to the nearest 0.001)
Longitude: (example: -121.488; must be between -120 and -130)-121.216522
(decimal degrees to the nearest 0.001)
Datum (e.g., NAD27, NAD83) (if known--leave blank if unknown)

Describe project location using information such as water bodies, river miles, road intersections, landmarks, and size in acres.

River miles 0-9.5 on the Stanislaus River: on the south bank the project includes the San Joaquin River NWR on the west to approximately Gates Road on the east, with the land protection emphasis on 94.34 acres adjacent to the refuge. On the north bank the project includes Caswell Memorial State Park and adjacent land with an emphasis on protecting 90 acres adjacent to the Park.

Location - Ecozone

Background Maps:

CALFED Regions and ERP Geographic Scope
ERP Geographic Scope and Ecological Management Units
Sacramento Region Ecological Management Zones
San Joaquin Region Ecological Management Zones
Delta Region Ecological Management Zones
Bay Region Ecological Management Zones

(check all that apply)

Sacramento Region

Ecozone 3: Sacramento River
- 3.1 Keswick Dam to Red Bluff Diversion Dam
- 3.2 Red Bluff Diversion Dam to Chico Landing
- 3.3 Chico Landing to Colusa
- 3.4 Colusa to Verona
- 3.5 Verona to Sacramento

Ecozone 4: North Sacramento Valley
- 4.1 Clear Creek
- 4.2 Cow Creek
- 4.3 Bear Creek
- 4.4 Battle Creek

Ecozone 5: Cottonwood Creek
- 5.1 Upper Cottonwood Creek
- 5.2 Lower Cottonwood Creek

Ecozone 6: Colusa Basin
- 6.1 Stony Creek
- 6.2 Elder Creek
- 6.3 Thomas Creek
- 6.4 Colusa Basin

Ecozone 7: Butte Basin
- 7.1 Paynes Creek
- 7.2 Antelope Creek
- 7.3 Mill Creek
- 7.4 Deer Creek
- 7.5 Big Chico Creek
- 7.6 Butte Creek

- 7.7 Butte Sink

Ecozone 8: Feather River & Sutter Basin
- 8.1 Feather River
- 8.2 Yuba River
- 8.3 Bear River and Honcut Creek
- 8.4 Sutter Bypass

Ecozone 9: American River Basin
- 9.1 American Basin
- 9.2 Lower American River

Ecozone 10: Yolo Basin
- 10.1 Cache Creek
- 10.2 Putah Creek
- 10.3 Solano
- 10.4 Willow Slough

San Joaquin Region
Ecozone 12: San Joaquin River
- 12.1 Vernalis to Merced River
- 12.2 Merced River to Mendota Pool
- 12.3 Mendota Pool to Gravelly Ford
- 12.4 Gravelly Ford to Friant Dam

Ecozone 13: East San Joaquin Basin
X 13.1 Stanislaus River
- 13.2 Tuolumne River
- 13.3 Merced River

Ecozone 14: West San Joaquin Basin
- West San Joaquin Basin

Delta & East Side Tributaries Region
Ecozone 1: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
- 1.1 North Delta
- 1.2 East Delta
- 1.3 South Delta
- 1.4 Central and West Delta

Ecozone 11: Eastsize Delta Tributaries
- 11.1 Cosumnes River
- 11.2 Mokelumne River
- 11.3 Calaveras River

Bay Region
Ecozone 2: Suisun Marsh & North San Francisco Bay
- 2.1 Suisun Bay & Marsh
- 2.2 Napa River
- 2.3 Sonoma Creek
- 2.4 Petaluma River
- 2.5 San Pablo Bay

Multi-region (independent of specific site)
- Code 15: Landscape

Outside ERP Ecozones
- Code 16: Inside ERP Geographic Scope, but outside ERP Ecozones
Location - County (check all that apply) - Alameda- Alpine- Amador- Butte
- Calaveras- Colusa- Contra Costa- Del Norte
- El Dorado- Fresno- Glenn- Humboldt
- Imperial- Inyo- Kern- Kings
- Lake- Lassen- Los Angeles- Madera
- Marin- Mariposa- Mendocino- Merced
- Modoc- Mono- Monterey- Napa
- Nevada- Orange- Placer- Plumas
- Riverside- Sacramento- San Benito- San Bernardino
- San Diego- San FranciscoX San Joaquin- San Luis Obispo
- San Mateo- Santa Barbara- Santa Clara- Santa Cruz
- Shasta- Sierra- Siskiyou- Solano
- SonomaX Stanislaus- Sutter- Tehama
- Trinity- Tulare- Tuolumne- Ventura- Yolo
- Yuba
Other: -

Location - City
Does your project fall within a city jurisdiction? - Yes X No
If yes, please list the city:
Location - Tribal Lands
Does your project fall on or adjacent to tribal lands? - Yes X No
If yes, please list the tribal lands:
Location - Congressional District
Please show the congressional district where the project will take place. If you need help in finding this information, check the website provided by the United States House of Representatives.
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Location - California State Senate District & California Assembly District
Please show the California State Senate District and California Assembly District Numbers where the project will take place. If you need help in

finding this information, check the website provided by the California State Senate. Both the senate district and the assembly district locations will be given to you at the same time.
California State Senate District Number (e.g., 4) 12, 5
California Assembly District Number (e.g., 22) 26, 17
How many years of funding are you requesting? (You may request up to 3 years of funding.) 3
Requested Funds: (If the answer to 17a is yes, provide State overhead rate and corresponding Total State Funds, and Federal overhead rate and corresponding Total Federal funds. Leave the remaining two boxes of 17a blank. If the answer to 17a is no, provide the Single overhead rate and Total requested funds. Leave the first four boxes of 17a blank.)
Are your overhead rates different depending on whether funds are state or federal? - Yes X No
If yes, list the different overhead rates and total requested funds.
State overhead rate (%):
Total State Funds:
Federal overhead rate (%):
Total federal funds:
If no, list single overhead rate and total requested funds. Single overhead rate (%):4.5, 14 or 20 depending on fund distribution to Federal Partner. For State partner, CDPR, the overhead is 10% if the funds are from a State entity. If, however, the funding source is federal, then the approved indirect overhead rate for 2002/2003 is 13.8%, and the budget does not reflect this, so a change would be necessary.

Total requested funds:

$6,427131.03

Do you have cost share partners already identified? - XYes No
If yes, list partners and amount contributed by each: PartnerAmount Contributed
Bureau of Reclamation contributes approx. 400,000 per year for controlled propagation and currently providing funding for Caswell Tasks F1 and F2, and I3 at $155,320. Additionally, they have funded the construction of the controlled propagation pens and previous habitat restoration work at Caswell at a cost of over 500,000.
US Fish and Wildlife Service contributed 100,000 in FY02 for controlled propagation, and currently providing funding for Caswell Task F10.
California Department of Fish and Game contributes approx. 60,000 per year for controlled propagation
The Department of Water Resources has loaned the land for the controlled propagation facility and the Department of Parks and Recreation contributes in-kind services at Caswell Memorial State Park.

Do you have potential cost share partners? - Yes X No
If yes, list partners and amount contributed by each: PartnerAmount Contributed

Are you specifically seeking non-federal cost share funds through this solicitation? - Yes X No
If yes, list total non-federal funds requested:
If the total non-federal cost share funds requested above does not match the total state funds requested in 17a, please explain the difference:

Is this proposal for next-phase funding of an ongoing project funded by CALFED? X Yes - No
If yes, identify project number(s), title(s) and CALFED program (e.g., ERP, Watershed, WUE, Drinking Water). NumberTitleProgram
ERP-01-N11 Habitat Acquisition for Riparian Brush Rabbit and Riparian Woodrat ERP

Have you previously received funding from CALFED for other projects not listed above? XYes No
If yes, identify project number(s), title(s) and CALFED program.
NumberTitleProgram
01-N11 San Joaquin River NWR Riparian Habitat Protection and Floodplain Restoration ERP

Is this proposal for next-phase funding of an ongoing project funded by CVPIA?
X Yes No
If yes, identify project number(s), title(s) and CVPIA program (e.g. AFRP, AFSP, b(1) other). NumberTitleProgram b(1)other Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction of the Riparian Brush Rabbit

Have you previously received funding from CVPIA for other projects not listed

above? - Yes X No
If yes, identify project number(s), title(s) and CVPIA program.
NumberTitleProgram

Is this proposal for next-phase funding of an ongoing project funded by an entity other than CALFED or CVPIA?
- Yes X No
If yes, identify project number(s), title(s) and funding source
NumberTitleFunding Source

Please list suggested reviewers for your proposal. (optional)
NameOrganizationPhoneEmail
Irene Davies Army Corp of Engineers 916-557-6755
Maurice Roos Division of Flood Management 916-574-2625
John Cain & Monty Schmitt Natural Resources Defense Counsel 415-777-0220

Kathy Ralls Smithsonian Institution 805-237-8215

Comments.

To address Calfed reviewers comments we have brought more of the research and monitoring components of this riparian brush rabbit recovery program into this resubmittal. As these research and monitoring projects receive partial funding from other sources, such as b(1) other, there have been changes to this form. Additionally, we are requesting that tasks B and F be contracted directly with the State (California Department of Parks and Recreation, contact is Joanne Karlton, Resource Ecologist at 209-826-1197).

If you have questions, please contact the UC Davis CALFED Proposal Review Office:
Email: calfed@ucdavis.edu
Phone: (866) 752-2434
Fax: (916) 914-2043

login: hbell
2002-10-03 10:44:32 PST

: Form III - Environmental Compliance Checklist

Ecosystem Restoration Program - 2002 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP): Form III - Environmental Compliance Checklist

Successful applicants are responsible for complying with all applicable laws and regulations for their projects, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Any necessary NEPA or CEQA documents for an approved project must tier from the CALFED Programmatic Record of Decision and Programmatic EIS/EIR to avoid or minimize the projects adverse environmental impacts. Applicants are encouraged to review the Programmatic EIS/EIR and incorporate the applicable mitigation strategies from Appendix A of the Programmatic Record of Decision in developing their projects and the NEPA/CEQA documents for their projects.

CEQA or NEPA Compliance

Will this project require compliance with CEQA? X Yes - No

Will this project require compliance with NEPA? X Yes - No

If neither CEQA or NEPA compliance is required, please explain why compliance is not required for the actions in this proposal.

If the project will require CEQA and/or NEPA compliance, identify the lead agency(ies). Please write out all words in the agency title other than United States (use the abbreviation US) or California (use the abbreviation CA). If not applicable, put None.

CEQA Lead Agency: California Department of Fish and Game or California Department of Parks and Recreation.

NEPA Lead Agency (or co-lead:) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

NEPA Co-Lead Agency (if applicable):U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Please check which type of CEQA/NEPA documentation is anticipated.

CEQA

- Categorical Exemption
-XNegative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration
- EIR
- none

NEPA

- Categorical Exclusion
X Environmental Assessment/FONSI
- EIS
- none

If you anticipate relying on either the Categorical Exemption or Categorical Exclusion for this project, please specifically identify the exemption and/or exclusion that you believe covers this project.

CEQA/NEPA Process

Is the CEQA/NEPA process complete? - Yes X No - Not Applicable

If the CEQA/NEPA process is not complete, please describe the dates for completing draft and/or final CEQA/NEPA documents.

Some of the NEPA documentation is complete, however, additional documents may be necessary in which case we anticipate

April 2004 for final

If the CEQA/NEPA document has been completed, please list document name(s):
Environmental Assessment and Land Protection Plan: Proposed Addition to the San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge, Stanislaus County, California
Categorical Exclusion for the controlled propagation and reintroduction of the riparian brush rabbit
Categorical Exclusion for Boundary Expansion and the Addition of the Buffington Property to the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, Stanislaus County, California.

Environmental Permitting and Approvals

Successful applicants must tier their project's permitting from the CALFED Record of Decision and attachments providing programmatic guidance on complying with the state and federal endangered species acts, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act. The CALFED Program will provide assistance with project permitting through its newly established permit clearing house.

Please indicate what permits or other approvals may be required for the activities contained in your proposal and also which have already been obtained. Please check all that apply. If a permit is not required, leave both Required? and Obtained? check boxes blank. LOCAL PERMITS AND

APPROVALSRequired?Obtained?
Conditional use permitX -
Variance- -
Subdivision Map Act- -
Grading PermitX -
General Plan Amendment- -
Specific Plan Approval- -
Rezone- -
Williamson Act Contract CancellationX -
Other- -
STATE PERMITS AND APPROVALSRequired?Obtained?
Scientific Collecting Permit- X
CESA Compliance: 2081X -
CESA Compliance: NCCP- -
1601/03- -
CWA 401 certificationX -

Coastal Development Permit- -
Reclamation Board ApprovalX -
Notification of DPC or BCDC- -
Other- -
FEDERAL PERMITS AND APPROVALSRequired?Obtained?
ESA Compliance Section 7 ConsultationX -
ESA Compliance Section 10 Permit- ObtainedX
Rivers and Harbors Act- -
CWA 404X -
Other- -
PERMISSION TO ACCESS PROPERTYRequired?Obtained?
Permission to access city, county or other local agency land.
Agency Name: Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District - Required X
Permission to access state land.
Agency Name: California Department of Parks and Recreation - Obtained X
Permission to access federal land.
Agency Name: San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge - Obtained X
Permission to access private land.
Landowner Name: Buffington, - Obtained X
Landowner Name: Brocchini - Required X

Comments. If you have comments on any of the above questions, please enter the question number followed by a specific comment.
#3. The controlled propagation and reintroduction of a species into its historic range in categorically exempt under NEPA, however, because we anticipate a certain amount of ground disturbing activities and there will be the perceptions of impacts by the public we anticipate at the most, an EA tiered off of the CALFED PEIS for both the Refuge expansion and the Park expansion.

If you have questions, please contact the UC Davis CALFED Proposal Review Office:
Email: calfed@ucdavis.edu
Phone: (866) 752-2434
Fax: (916) 914-2043

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: Form IV - Land Use Checklist

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[System Requirements] [System Overview] [Registration] [Q&A]

Ecosystem Restoration Program - 2002 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP): Form IV - Land Use Checklist

Does the project involve land acquisition, either in fee or through a conservation easement? X Yes - No

If you answered yes to #1, please answer the following questions:

How many acres will be acquired? Fee 185

Easement0

Total 185, some combination of fee/easement may be appropriate

Will existing water rights be acquired? - XYes No

Are any changes to water rights or delivery of water proposed? X Yes - No

If yes, please describe proposed changes.

Access to water will be needed for the first 3 years of revegetation and to continue agricultural production within the buffer area. We anticipate that the agricultural lands will be planted in crops which help meet the refuges waterfowl goals.

Will the applicant require access across public or private property that the applicant does not own to accomplish the activities in the proposal? - Yes X No

Do the actions in the proposal involve physical changes in the land use? X Yes - No

If you answered no to #3, explain what type of actions are involved in the proposal (i.e., research only, planning only).

If you answered yes to #3, please answer the following questions:

How many acres of land will be subject to a land use change under the proposal?

up to 185

Describe what changes will occur on the land involved in the proposal.

riparian restoration and the building of flood refugia "mounds" on two sites, each totalling approximately 50 acres. The remainder may be able to remain in agricultural production.

List current and proposed land use, zoning and general plan designations of the area subject to a land use change under the proposal.

CategoryCurrentProposed (if no change, specify "none")

Land Use Agricultural and ACOE flowage easement. Approximately 50 acres at two sites may be taken out of agriculture to accommodate the needed riparian restoration and flood refugia.

ZoningA-2-40 (Stanislaus) OS/RC (San Joaquin)None None
General Plan Designation agriculture and open space as well as protection and use of natural resources, and for protection from natural hazards. None

Is the land currently under a Williamson Act contract? (For multiple sites, answer Yes if true for any parcel, and provide an explanation in the Comments box below) X Yes - No

Is the land mapped as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Local Importance under the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program? For more information, contact the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/FMMP/index.htm). (For multiple sites, answer Yes if true for any parcel, and provide an explanation in the Comments box below) - Yes - X No
If yes, please list classification: approx. 50% Prime and 50% Unique
Describe what entity or organization will manage the property and provide operations and maintenance services.

For the property adjacent to Caswell Memorial State Park the California Department of Parks and Recreation is the anticipated long-term owner. For the land adjacent to the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge - the US Fish and Wildlife Refuge System will be the owner as part of the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge
Comments.
To address CalFed reviewers comments we have more narrowly focused the land protection to address just two parcels. These two parcels were the priority in the first request and continue to be the best choice for 1) the second reintroduction site for the riparian brush rabbit, and 2) the expansion habitat for the extant population of riparian brush rabbits. Both landowners have been contacted about this proposal and expressed a willingness to enter into negotiations. Because we had acquisition funding from Phase 1 we have begun preliminary negotiations and requested permission to appraise the property which lies adjacent to the Refuge.

Williamson Act is in place on the property adjacent to Caswell, however, cancellation may or may not be necessary.
If you have questions, please contact the UC Davis CALFED Proposal Review Office:

Email: calfed@ucdavis.edu
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Fax: (916) 914-2043

login: hbell
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: Form V - Conflict of Interest Checklist

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[System Requirements] [System Overview] [Registration] [Q&A]

Ecosystem Restoration Program - 2002 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP): Form V - Conflict of Interest Checklist

Please list below the full names and organizations of all individuals in the following categories:

Applicants listed in the proposal who wrote the proposal, will be performing the tasks listed in the proposal or who will benefit financially if the proposal is funded.

Subcontractors listed in the proposal who will perform some tasks listed in the proposal and will benefit financially if the proposal is funded.

Individuals not listed in the proposal who helped with proposal development, for example by reviewing drafts, or by providing critical suggestions or ideas contained within the proposal.

The information provided on this form will be used to select appropriate and unbiased reviewers for your proposal.

Applicant

The applicants entered on the Project Information form will be used.

Subcontractor

Are specific subcontractors identified in this proposal? X Yes - No

If yes, please list the name(s) and organization(s):

NameOrganization

Dan Williams Endangered Species Recovery Program, CSU Stanislaus, Foundation

John Carlen Sacramento River Partners

Helped with proposal development

Are there persons who helped with proposal development? X Yes - No

If yes, please list the name(s) and organization(s): NameOrganization

Connie Lee Endangered Species Recovery Program, CSU Stanislaus, Foundation

Joanne Karlton California Department of Parks and Recreation

Daniel Williams and Laurissa Hamilton Endangered Species Recovery Program, CSU Stanislaus, Foundation

Kim Forrest San Luis Refuge Complex Project Manager
F. Thomas Griggs Sacramento River Partners

Comments

If you have questions, please contact the UC Davis CALFED Proposal Review Office:

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Phone: (866) 752-2434
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login: hbell
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YEAR 1		Phase 2 Re-submittal								(indirect)		
Task No.	**Task Description-Land Protection**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultan	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead	Acquisition	TOTAL
A1	Protection Shortfall Phase 1/realty										2,132,080	2132080
2	Lease/Easement Negotiations/refuges (1 year)	520	81.25	42250					42250	14		48165
3	Property security/refuges (3 years)	130	81.25	10562.5				14,000	24562.5	14		28001.25
		Subtotals	162.5	52812.5	0	0	0	14000	66812.5		2132080	**2208246**
Task No.	Task Description-Land Protection at Caswell	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultan	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
B1	Appraisals/cdpr-local			0			20,000		20000	10		22000
2	Title, escrow, deed/cdpr			0			15,000		15000	10		16500
3	Prop. Surveys/cdpr-local			0			40,000		40000	10		44000
4	Contaminant Level 1/cdpr			0			10,000		10000	10		11000
5	Negotiations, closing, CEQA, reviews/cdpr			0			40,000		40000	10		44000
6	Acquisition/cdpr			0							1,090,000	1090000
7	Property security/cdpr (2 years)			0					0	10		0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	125000	0	125000		1090000	**1227500**
Task No.	**Task Description-Data Collection**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultan	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
C1	Recon. veg. surveys/srp			0			10,000		10000	4.5		10450
2	Hydrology study/srp			0			30,000	100,000	130000	4.5		135850
3	SJRNWR census & monitoring/esrp (3 years)			0			332,222		332221.8	4.5		347171.8
4	Caswell Census/esrp (3 years)			0			23,977		23976.61	4.5		25055.56
5	LSRP surveys, habitat assessment/esrp (3 years)			0			9,519		9519.46	4.5		9947.836
6	Coordination/refuges (1 year)	520	81.25	42250					42250	14		48165
		Subtotals	81.25	42250	0	0	9519.46	0	51769.46		0	**576640.2**
Task No.	**Task Description-Planning**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultan	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
D1	Draft Restoration & Mngmt/srp			0			30,000		30000	4.5		31350
2	Draft R&MP consulation/esrp			0			15,755		15755	4.5		16463.98
3	Draft R&MP review/refuges	80	81.25	6500					6500	14		7410
4	Draft R&MP review/sfwo	80	81.25	6500					6500	20		7800
5	Final R&MP/srp			0					0			0
		Subtotals	162.5	13000	0	0	45755	0	58755		0	**63023.98**
Task No.	**Task Description - Implementation at LSRP**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultan	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
E1	Refugia at Buff. & Gallo/srp (35,000 per mound)			0					0			0
2	Plant Propagation (50 acres)/srp			0					0			0
3	Planting/srp			0					0			0
4	Maintenance (1 of 3 years)/srp			0					0			0
5	Aleutian C. goose restoration (170 acres)/refuges			0					0			0
6	Fish Screen/refuges-local			0					0			0
7	Pump Acq. & rehabilitation/refuges-local			0					0			0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	**0**
Task No.	**Task Description - Implementation at Caswell**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultan	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
F1	Campground fencing/local-cdpr BOR funding			0			0	0	0			0
2	Non-native removal/local-cdpr BOR funding			0	0	0	0		0			0
3	Wildfire protection fire hydrant & generator/cdpr-local			0			25,000	5,500	30500	10		33550
4	Refugia at Caswell expansion/srp			0					0			0
5	Plant Propagation (50 acres)/srp			0					0			0
6	Planting/srp			0					0			0
7	Maintenance (1 of 3 years)/srp			0					0			0
8	Orchard Removal/srp			0					0			0
9	T&E monitoring of impacts/esrp SFWO funding			0			0		0			0
10	Oversight, environmental compliance/cdpr	120	35	4200					4200	10		4620
		Subtotals	0	60100	0	0	25000	5500	30500		0	**33550**
Task No.	**Task Description - Permanent Landowner**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultan	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
G1	Refuge expansion docs/refuge Completed in-kind	0										0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Task No.	**Task Description - Environmental Compliance**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultan	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
H1	Draft NEPA & CEQA/sfwo-refuges or local			0			40,000		40000	4.5		41800
2	Scoping & outreach/sfwo-refuges	55	81.25	4468.75		6,000			10468.75	20		12562.5
3	Final NEPA & CEQA/sfwo-refuges or local			0					0			0
4	ESA Compliance/sfwo-refuges	320	81.25	26000					26000	20		31200
		Subtotals	162.5	30468.75	0	6000	40000	0	76468.75		0	**85562.5**
Task No.	**Task Description - Project Management**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultan	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
I1	Oversight/sfwo	106.67	81.25	8666.938					8666.938	20		10400.33
2	Oversight/refuges (3 years)	1040	81.25	84500				5,000	89500	14		102030
		Subtotals	162.5	93166.94	0	0	0	5000	98166.94		0	**112430.3**
	Phase 2 2003 TOTAL											**4306953**

YEAR 2		Phase 2 Re-submittal								(indirect)		
Task No.	**Task Description-Land Protection**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead	Acquisition	TOTAL
A1	Protection Shortfall Phase 1/realty											0
2	Lease/Easement Negotiations/refuges (1 year)			0								0
3	Property security/refuges (3 years)	130	81.25	10562.5					10562.5	14		12041.25
		Subtotals	81.25	10562.5	0	0	0	0	10562.5		0	**12041.25**
Task No.	Task Description-Land Protection at Caswell	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
B1	Appraisals/cdpr-local			0					0	10		0
2	Title, escrow, deed/cdpr			0					0	10		0
3	Prop. Surveys/cdpr-local			0					0	10		0
4	Contaminant Level 1/cdpr			0					0	10		0
5	Negotiations, closing, CEQA, reviews/cdpr			0					0	10		0
6	Acquisition/cdpr			0								0
7	Property security/cdpr (2 years)	40	35	1400				15,500	16900	10		18590
		Subtotals	35	1400	0	0	0	15500	16900		0	**18590**
Task No.	**Task Description-Data Collection**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
C1	Recon. veg. surveys/srp			0					0			0
2	Hydrology study/srp			0					0			0
3	SJRNWR census & monitoring/esrp (3 years)			0			337,009		337009.11	4.5		352174.52
4	Caswell Census/esrp (3 years)			0			25,077		25076.51	4.5		26204.953
5	LSRP surveys, habitat assessment/esrp (3 years)			0			9,945		9944.85	4.5		10392.368
6	Coordination/refuges (1 year)			0					0			0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	9944.85	0	9944.85		0	**388771.84**
Task No.	**Task Description-Planning**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
D1	Draft Restoration & Mngmt/srp			0					0			0
2	Draft R&MP consulation/esrp			0					0			0
3	Draft R&MP review/refuges			0					0			0
4	Draft R&MP review/sfwo			0					0			0
5	Final R&MP/srp			0			15,000		15000	4.5		15675
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	15000	0	15000		0	**15675**
Task No.	**Task Description - Implementation at LSRP**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
E1	Refugia at Buff. & Gallo/srp (35,000 per mound)			0			245,000		245000	4.5		256025
2	Plant Propagation (50 acres)/srp			0			40,000		40000	4.5		41800
3	Planting/srp			0			35,000		35000	4.5		36575
4	Maintenance (1 of 3 years)/srp			0					0			0
5	Aleutian C. goose restoration (170 acres)/refuges			0			85,000		85000	14		96900
6	Fish Screen/refuges-local			0			50,000	75,000	125000	4.5		130625
7	Pump Acq. & rehabilitation/refuges-local			0			40,000		40000	4.5		41800
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	495000	75000	570000		0	**603725**
Task No.	**Task Description - Implementation at Caswell**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
F1	Campground fencing/local-cdpr BOR funding			0			0		0			0
2	Non-native removal/local-cdpr BOR funding			0			0		0			0
3	Wildfire protection fire hydrant & generator/cdpr-local			0			0			10		0
4	Refugia at Caswell expansion/srp			0			140,000		140000	10		154000
5	Plant Propagation (50 acres)/srp			0			40,000		40000	10		44000
6	Planting/srp			0			35,000		35000	10		38500
7	Maintenance (1 of 3 years)/srp			0					0	10		0
8	Orchard Removal/srp			0			25,000		25000	10		27500
9	T&E monitoring of impacts/esrp SFWO funding			0			0		0			0
10	Oversight,environmental compliance/cdpr	400	35	14000			0		14000	10		15400
		Subtotals	0	337062.5	0	0	240000	0	240000		0	**264000**
Task No.	**Task Description - Permanent Landowner**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
G1	Refuge expansion docs/refuge Completed in-kind	0										0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Task No.	**Task Description - Environmental Compliance**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
H1	Draft NEPA & CEQA/sfwo-refuges or local			0					0			0
2	Scoping & outreach/sfwo-refuges								0			0
3	Final NEPA & CEQA/sfwo-refuges or local			0			15,000		15000	4.5		15675
4	ESA Compliance/sfwo-refuges			0					0			0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	15000	0	15000		0	**15675**
Task No.	**Task Description - Project Management**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
I1	Oversight/sfwo	106.67	81.25	8666.9375					8666.9375	20		10400.325
2	Oversight/refuges (3 years)	1040	81.25	84500				5,000	89500	14		102030
		Subtotals	162.5	93166.938	0	0	0	5000	98166.938		0	**112430.33**
	Phase 2 2004 TOTAL											**1430908.4**

YEAR 3		Phase 2 Re-submittal								(indirect)		
Task No.	**Task Description-Land Protection**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead	Acquisition	TOTAL
A1	Protection Shortfall Phase 1/realty											0
2	Lease/Easement Negotiations/refuges (1 year)			0					0			0
3	Property security/refuges (3 years)	130	81.25	10562.5					10562.5	14		12041.25
		Subtotals	81.25	10562.5	0	0	0	0	10562.5		0	**12041.25**
Task No.	Task Description-Land Protection at Caswell	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
B1	Appraisals/cdpr-local			0					0			0
2	Title, escrow, deed/cdpr			0					0			0
3	Prop. Surveys/cdpr-local			0					0			0
4	Contaminant Level 1/cdpr			0					0			0
5	Negotiations, closing, CEQA, reviews/cdpr			0					0			0
6	Acquisition/cdpr			0								0
7	Property security/cdpr (2 years)	40	35	1400					1400	10		1540
		Subtotals	35	1400	0	0	0	0	1400		0	**1540**
Task No.	**Task Description-Data Collection**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
C1	Recon. veg. surveys/srp			0					0			0
2	Hydrology study/srp			0					0			0
3	SJRNWR census & monitoring/esrp (3 years)			0			348,763		348763.47	4.5		364457.83
4	Caswell Census/esrp (3 years)			0			25,980		25980.03	4.5		27149.131
5	LSRP surveys, habitat assessment/esrp (3 years)			0			10,313		10312.59	4.5		10776.657
6	Coordination/refuges (1 year)			0					0			0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	10312.59	0	10312.59		0	**402383.61**
Task No.	**Task Description-Planning**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
D1	Draft Restoration & Mngmt/srp			0					0			0
2	Draft R&MP consulation/esrp			0					0			0
3	Draft R&MP review/refuges			0					0			0
4	Draft R&MP review/sfwo			0					0			0
5	Final R&MP/srp			0					0			0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	**0**
Task No.	**Task Description - Implementation at LSRP**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
E1	Refugia at Buff. & Gallo/srp (35,000 per mound)			0					0			0
2	Plant Propagation (50 acres)/srp			0					0			0
3	Planting/srp			0					0			0
4	Maintenance (1 of 3 years)/srp			0			75,000		75000	4.5		78375
5	Aleutian C. goose restoration (170 acres)/refuges			0					0			0
6	Fish Screen/refuges-local			0					0			0
7	Pump Acq. & rehabilitation/refuges-local			0					0			0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	75000	0	75000		0	**78375**
Task No.	**Task Description - Implementation at Caswell**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
F1	Campground fencing/local-cdpr BOR funding			0			0		0			0
2	Non-native removal/local-cdpr BOR funding			0			0		0			0
3	Wildfire protection fire hydrant & generator/cdpr-local			0			0		0			0
4	Refugia at Caswell expansion/srp			0			0		0			0
5	Plant Propagation (50 acres)/srp			0			0		0			0
6	Planting/srp			0			0		0			0
7	Maintenance (1 of 3 years)/srp			0			75,000		75000	10		82500
8	Orchard Removal/srp			0			0		0			0
9	T&E monitoring of impacts/esrp SFWO funding			0			0		0			0
10	Oversight, environmental compliance/cdpr	400	35	14000			0		14000	10		15400
		Subtotals	0	337062.5	0	0	75000	0	75000		0	**82500**
Task No.	**Task Description - Permanent Landowner**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
G1	Refuge expansion docs/refuge Completed in-kind	0										0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Task No.	**Task Description - Environmental Compliance**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
H1	Draft NEPA & CEQA/sfwo-refuges or local			0					0			0
2	Scoping & outreach/sfwo-refuges			0					0			0
3	Final NEPA & CEQA/sfwo-refuges or local			0					0			0
4	ESA Compliance/sfwo-refuges			0					0			0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	**0**
Task No.	**Task Description - Project Management**	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel (	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
I1	Oversight/sfwo	106.67	81.25	8666.9375					8666.9375	20		10400.325
2	Oversight/refuges (3 years)	1040	81.25	84500				5,000	89500	14		102030
		Subtotals	162.5	93166.938	0	0	0	5000	98166.938		0	**112430.33**
	Phase 2 2005 TOTAL											**689270.19**

: Form VII - Budget Justification

[Welcome] [Log On] [View Proposals] [Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan and 2002 PSP]

[System Requirements] [System Overview] [Registration] [Q&A]

Ecosystem Restoration Program - 2002 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP): Form VII - Budget Justification
Budget Form Instructions
Direct Labor Hours. Provide estimated hours proposed for each individual.

We are anticipating that this phase will take three years. Please see detailed budget attached to Project Proposal.

Please note, all federal contracts and acquisitions must conform to the Federal Acquisition Regulations. The goals of the acquisition process "are to deliver on a timely basis the best value product or service to the customer, while maintaining the public's trust and fulfilling public policy objectives". Therefore, even though much of the information provided below is very general, prior to any contract being let or equipment acquired, we will follow the regulations including requesting bids for services, as appropriate.

Salary. Provide estimated rate of compensation proposed for each individual.

For Service ESP Biologists, Refuge Biologists/Law enforcement, and Program Manager we use "Bio-Day Rate" of 81.25/hour
(Salary, Benefits, Supplies and Expendables, Travel)

For tasks B and F, we are requesting a separate contract with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR). For their personnel which include maintenance supervisors ($28.52), Senior Park aids ($14.38), Associate State Park Resource Ecologist ($35.22), Sector Superintendent (44.97), and State Park Ranger I ($30.34), we have averaged the Salary/Benefits at $35.00 per hour. These can be refined upon completing a scope of work.

Provide the overall benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project.

Benefits are included in all salaries.

Travel. Provide purpose and estimate costs for all non-local travel.
Travel is included in salaries.

Supplies & Expendables. Indicate separately the amounts proposed for office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies.
All office supplies, computing, etc. are covered under salaries or overhead. The only expendables are for Service outreach materials that may need to be professionally printed.

Services or Consultants. Identify the specific tasks for which these services would be used. Estimate amount of time required and the hourly or daily rate.
Full breakdown of services by ESRP are provided in the "Monitoring Translocated Riparian Brush Rabbits and Surveying for and Censusing of Brush Rabbits and Woodrats" which can be accessed at
http://sacramento.fws.gov/es/bunnies/bunny_jump.htm.
Sacramento River Partners provided only a quote on the proposed action, such as $5,000 per acre for riparian restoration. These quotes are based on the work they are currently doing under a CalFed grant for the restoration of the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge.
Installation of fire hydrant/generator range from $50 - $85/hour according to a local contractor.
Other services, including installation of fish screen, pump acquisition and rehabilitation, and NEPA/CEQA documents are based on best available in-house information from other contracts.

The budget under task B (CDPR), is based on 15% of project acquisition price. This is a common formula for the State to use to cover all the tasks associated with an acquisition. The CDPR has two oversight agencies which must review all documents so the costs budgeted cannot be compared to the federal costs used in acquisition. Additionally, one expense, the property survey, appears overestimated, however, the property must be legally divided which will necessitate a lot line adjustment, and the lot is curved which will take numerous markers.

Equipment. Identify non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one (1) year and an acquisition cost of more than $5,000 per unit. If fabrication of equipment is proposed, list parts and materials required for each, and show costs separately from the other items.
GSA Vehicle lease are approx.$5,000/year.
$6,000 per gate with 2 gates may be needed by Refuges and 2 by the CDPR.
Fencing is estimated at $1.00/foot for wire fencing and is needed on either side of gates.
For the hydrology study we estimate $100,000 needed in equipment.
Unable to get price on fish screen without knowing the pump cfs and lift. Estimates range from 75,000 - 200,000. I have used the lower estimate. This may need to be amended when we pump requirements.

Project Management. Describe the specific costs associated with insuring accomplishment of a specific project, such as inspection of work in progress, validation of costs, report preparation, giving presentations, response to project specific questions and necessary costs directly associated with specific project oversight.
The Service estimates a ½ Time Refuge Employee over 3 years to manage the project including monitoring on-site progress, presenting updates to state and federal agencies and the general public, investigate cost-share or partners programs for future phases, liason with landowners, etc., Additionally the Service estimates 320 hours of ESP Biologists oversite of the Program.
The CDPR estimates 920 hours of project management and oversight, invoicing, reporting, and environmental compliance, etc. over a 3 year period, with the majority (800 hours) being in the 2nd and 3rd years.

Other Direct Costs. Provide any other direct costs not already covered.

Indirect Costs. Explain what is encompassed in the overhead rate (indirect costs). Overhead should include costs associated with general office requirements such as rent, phones, furniture, general office staff, etc., generally distributed by a predetermined percentage (or surcharge) of specific costs. [CORRECTION: If overhead costs are different for State and Federal funds, note the different overhead rates and corresponding total requested funds on Form I - Project Information, Question 17a. On Form VI - Budget Summary, fill out one detailed budget for each year of requested funds, indicating on the form whether you are presenting the indirect costs based on the Federal overhead rate or State overhead rate. Our assumption is that line items other than indirect costs will remain the same whether funds come from State or Federal sources. If this assumption is not true for your budget, provide an explanation on the Budget Justification form.] Agencies should include any internal costs associated with the management of project funds.
Overhead rates vary depending on the purpose of the funding as well as the recipient of the funding. The Service will administer all contracts except those under tasks B and F. We anticipate a separate contract be negotiated with the CDPR for those two tasks and their overhead rate of 10% if the funding is from the State is reflected in the table. If the funds are federal then the federally approved 2002/2003 Indirect Administrative Cost Rate is 13.8% and this is not reflected in the budget. All other contractors have included their overheads into their salary/benefits and range from 17-20%. The Service overhead is 20% (SFWO) (operational costs) or 14% (Refuges) for all salary/benefits funding received except that which is "pass through" funding which is 4.5% (such as the funds for contracts).

If you have questions, please contact the UC Davis CALFED Proposal Review Office:

Email: calfed@ucdavis.edu
Phone: (866) 752-2434
Fax: (916) 914-2043

login: hbell
2002-10-03 10:54:36 PST

Executive Summary

Riparian brush rabbits and riparian woodrats are critically endangered. The riparian brush rabbit is currently known to exist at only two locations, both under the extreme threat of extirpation due to numerous causes including flooding. There is also compelling evidence that at least the population at Caswell Memorial State Park is undergoing a significant decline. These factors prompted a 5-year captive breeding program for the brush rabbit which was launched by Department of Interior in 2001. To date we have constructed all three controlled propagation pens, and bred and reintroduced over 40 juvenile brush rabbits to historic habitat on the San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge. Also in 2001, CALFED granted funds for the acquisition and inclusion into the Refuge 288.66 acres of historic riparian habitat for the second release site (Phase 1). The goal of this proposal, Phase 2, is to complete the Phase 1 acquisition, restore habitat on the newly protected and existing federal easement land to prepare for the release of the brush rabbits at this second release site. Additionally, we hope to add to Caswell Memorial State Park an area specifically restored and protected for the riparian brush rabbit, and continue critical tasks that will ameliorate the threat of wildfire and non-native species. Hypothesis testing, monitoring, and adaptive management are integral components of all proposed phases. The woodrat will benefit from most of these actions.

Objective-(1) take immediate and critical action to prevent extinction of the rabbits; (2) establish Preserve that meets larger ecosystem goals.

Type-Riparian habitat restoration implementation along the lower Stanislaus River.

Hypothesis-The hypotheses being tested for the Lower Stanislaus River Riparian Preserve are: (1) up-stream impoundment and downstream channelization of the river eliminated most refugia from flooding for terrestrial animals that occupied riparian communities, and caused the endangerment of riparian brush rabbits and woodrats; (2) providing 500-1,000 contiguous acres of existing and restored riparian habitat with a very low threat of total inundation will sustain a population of brush rabbits, to be introduced to the site from the captive propagation program, and allow for expansion of an existing population of woodrats; and (3) population augmentation will assist in the recovery of these two highly endangered riparian species.

The populations of brush rabbits and woodrats in Caswell MSP are critical to the recovery of both species. The principal hypothesis for the extant brush rabbit population at Caswell Memorial State Park is that lack of scouring floods, because of up-stream impoundments, and long term fire suppression have altered ecological succession in the Park, which resulted in a largely decadent, climax community that does not provide suitable habitat for brush rabbits, contributing to its endangerment. We hypothesize that by expanding the Park onto currently cultivated ground and creating refugia higher than the tops of the levees, the extant population of riparian brush rabbits can be greatly enhanced and the threats to its extinction can be greatly reduced.

Uncertainties-non-native invasive species. Future proposals may address channel dynamics, sediment transport, and riparian vegetation; flood management as an ecosystem tool; and beyond the riparian corridor.

Approach-(1) conservation easements/fee title will protect existing/restorable riparian habitat and agricultural buffer, and the monitoring of the recently released and extant populations of brush rabbits will provide an experimental avenue for testing the hypotheses and provide guidance for restoration and future reintroductions; (2) we will assess the feasibility off full-scale restoration in the future.

Expected Outcomes-Phase 2: Protect, in fee title/conservation easement **and** existing refuge conservation easements, up to 1,050 acres on the south bank of the lower Stanislaus River, and 90 acres on the north bank; implement critical tasks; conduct surveys and monitoring; complete a restoration and management plan; and complete NEPA/CEQA documents.

CALFED ERP Goals 1-5, Restoration Priorities-San Joaquin Region 1, 2 & 4; CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program Goals.

Adjustments made to this proposal: Because we were funded for land acquisition in Stanislaus County in Phase 1, we were able to move forward during this last year with landowner negotiations and appraisal of the priority parcel. Therefore, we are now only requesting "acquisition" funds for completing the Phase 1 acquisition and the expansion of Caswell Memorial State Park, greatly reducing the acquisition component of the proposal. We will request a separate contract with the California Department of Parks and Recreation to facilitate the Caswell expansion and restoration (tasks B and F). Also during this year we completed the refuge expansion with in-kind services by the Service. By completing the refuge expansion we have secured the long-term landowner and completed NEPA. Additionally, we needed to move forward with certain critical tasks at Caswell Memorial State Park and secured funding from the Bureau of Reclamation.

To address the Panel's request for an experimental framework, we have included monitoring and research tasks which will be used to inform ongoing conservation planning and provide us with detail on numerous aspects of the riparian brush rabbit reintroduction and their responses to habitat improvement actions. This information will guide us as we prepare the second and eventually the third release site and the expansion of Caswell Memorial State Park, as well as providing the needed information for long-term management of this species. We had anticipated many of these studies to occur in Phase 3 of the project, however time constraints also required that we move these tasks up, as our controlled propagation program is well underway. Also in addressing the Panel's concerns over the hypotheses presented, the integration of the controlled propagation and this proposal, and the lack of the conceptual model which can be effective given the current knowledge of the species, the author of the *Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan for the Riparian Brush Rabbit*, Dr. Daniel Williams, has addressed and incorporated the Panel's suggestions in the Final Plan, and has introduced the *Monitoring Translocated Riparian Brush Rabbits and Surveying for and Censusing of Brush Rabbits and Woodrats* which are located at
http://sacramento.fws.gov/es/bunnies/bunny_jump.htm

CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program 2002 Solicitation

Recovery Implementation
for Riparian Brush Rabbit and Riparian Woodrat on the Lower Stanislaus River
-Resubmitted November 15, 2002-

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Project Goals and Scope of Work
1. Statement of the Problem

The riparian brush rabbit (brush rabbit), *Sylvilagus bachmani riparius*, and the riparian woodrat (woodrat), *Neotoma fuscipes riparia*, (also known as the San Joaquin Valley woodrat) are two of the most critically endangered species in the Central Valley of California. Both species were federally listed as endangered on February 23, 2000 (USFWS 2000a). Decline of these two species has been the result of riparian habitat loss associated with agricultural and urban development in the San Joaquin Valley and construction and maintenance of dams and flood control levees. Only about 6% of the riparian forest community remains in the San Joaquin Valley (CALFED 1999). Although the brush rabbit's immediate recovery needs are the driving force behind this proposal, the woodrats will gain from the actions proposed.

Until recently only one population of the brush rabbit was known to exist, at the 258-acre Caswell Memorial State Park on the Stanislaus River in San Joaquin County. The continued survival of brush rabbits and woodrats is tenuous because riparian habitat within the Park is subject to wildfire and periodic and extensive flooding that exposes these two species to increased predation, and the rabbit to drowning. Additionally, this acreage is not considered to be sizable enough to support populations of either species for the long-term. The last 2 years of censusing has yielded less than 20 captures of the riparian brush rabbit. A second small population of the brush rabbit was discovered in 1999 by the Endangered Species Recovery Program (ESRP) in the southern Delta (Paradise Cut), near Tracy (Figure 1). The continued survival of the Delta population is threatened by proposed development, stochastic demographic and genetic events, disease, predation, competition (Williams, et. al. 2002), and illegal riparian habitat clearing. Other than Caswell, the remaining riparian remnants are linear and degraded with no refugia from flooding. Therefore, no existing riparian habitat of sufficient size and quality exists that would allow for a self-sustaining population of riparian brush rabbits.

Because of the extreme threats to the only two known populations, declining numbers of brush rabbits at Caswell and small size of the population at the south Delta, and the lack of protected and appropriate habitat sites, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and Bureau of Reclamation have launched an aggressive recovery program. Funds are being provided for a 5-year captive propagation program and justification for the need for this program and hypotheses are discussed extensively in the *Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan for the Riparian Brush Rabbit* (Williams, et al. 2002) available for review at
http://sacramento.fws.gov/es/bunnies/bunny_jump.htm

This plan meets the Service's policies on controlled propagation and reintroduction of species and has been extensively peer reviewed. For copies of the plan, policy or peer review information please contact the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, Recovery Branch.

The captive propagation began in November 2001. In tandem with captive breeding, protection and restoration of riparian habitat are critical as we must provide a minimum of three secure sites for the upcoming release of captive-bred rabbits (Figure 1). Both captive breeding, and habitat protection and restoration are Priority One tasks identified in the *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley* (USFWS 1998a). Priority One recovery tasks are those tasks needed to prevent extinction.

Fortunately, large areas of restorable lands exist on the Stanislaus River from Caswell Memorial State Park (MSP) downstream to its confluence with the San Joaquin River; on the San Joaquin River up and downstream from its confluence with the Stanislaus River; and in the southern Delta area (Old and Middle River areas) and these areas are within the historic ranges of the brush rabbit and woodrat.

This proposal focuses on the opportunities along the lower Stanislaus River. We are proposing a Lower Stanislaus River Riparian Preserve of 500-1,000 acres on the south bank of Stanislaus River in Stanislaus County, within an area defined by the confluence with the San Joaquin River up to river mile 9.5. Additionally, we are proposing expansion of the habitat at Caswell Memorial State Park, San Joaquin County (Figure 2), while monitoring the rabbits response; and monitor the recently reintroduced rabbits at the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge on the San Joaquin River in Stanislaus County to gain a better understanding of the reintroduction process. A companion document to the *Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan for the Riparian Brush Rabbit*, the *Monitoring Translocated Riparian Brush Rabbits and Surveying for and Censusing of Brush Rabbits and Woodrats* (Williams, et al. 2002), provides detail on both the monitoring and censusing actions discussed here. Both documents are available for review at http://sacramento.fws.gov/es/bunnies/bunny_jump.htm. The funding requested for critical wildfire protection and non-native species removal in the original proposal has gone forward out of necessity and been funded by the Bureau of Reclamation.

These areas are in the CALFED "East San Joaquin Basin Ecological Management Zone".

2. Justification

a. Conceptual Model

The following conceptual model is for the entire project, which consists of five phases: (1) property protection; (2) additional property protection, data gathering, and development of a restoration and management plan that allows for immediate critical task implementation; (3) release and monitor captive-bred rabbits; (4) implementation of the full-scale restoration if applicable and feasible; and (5) long-term monitoring to gauge success of release and restoration efforts and provide information for adaptive management. The activities associated with each phase are detailed in the Approach section.

In a healthy ecosystem, the stressors, as defined in the Ecological Restoration Program Plan

(ERPP) (CALFED 1999) are relatively minor and kept in check by natural processes and adaptations of plants and animals inhabiting the system. In an impacted ecosystem, the natural processes can no longer keep the stressors in check. The system and its inhabitants are forced into a widespread re-equilibration, which may result in lowered species diversity. The San Joaquin River and its tributary, the Stanislaus River, are an obvious example of an impacted system with a multitude of stressors. The widespread adverse effects of these stressors is manifested in the numerous animals currently under federal protection.

The Stanislaus River, a major tributary of the San Joaquin River, is subjected to stress from levees and other flood control efforts. The width of the riparian corridor adjacent to the river is greatly reduced from historical levels, which creates less habitat for the brush rabbit and the woodrat. In addition, the uplands outside the levees are in agricultural production, providing no uplands with cover for the brush rabbit and the woodrat to use as refugia during high flows on the river. During high water, there are few or no sites within the levees that are above water where terrestrial animals can seek shelter and there are no places to escape flooding on the land sides of levees and often these are flooded as well from surface runoff. The reduced floodplain corridor concentrates floods and creates catastrophic events for the brush rabbit and woodrat, as was evident in 1995 and 1997. A flood in Caswell MSP in 1997 may have reduced the known population at that time to near extinction (CALFED 1999). The two most recent censuses have revealed two brush rabbits one year and less than 20 the next, whereas the 1993 population estimate was 241 rabbits (Williams pers. comm.). Riparian community expansion, restoration, and high ground (flood refugia) with cover are needed to provide habitat for captive-bred individuals that will be released in the existing riparian corridor.

This conceptual model is sufficiently robust to meet the needs of any adaptations that may be required. Adaptive management requires that restoration planning and implementation include feedback loops and iterative planning, rather than one-time planning and then rigid implementation. As the project progresses and more is learned through monitoring, censusing and research about brush rabbit and woodrat biology and successful restoration techniques, tasks will be adapted and modified to better serve the needs of these critically endangered species. Additional information is provided in the *Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan for the Riparian Brush Rabbit*, which can be reviewed at
http://sacramento.fws.gov/es/bunnies/bunny_jump.htm

b. Hypothesis Being Tested

As background for the main hypotheses presented here, we point to a set of observations and assumptions in the *Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan for the Riparian Brush Rabbit* (Williams et al. 2002) which can be reviewed at
http://sacramento.fws.gov/es/bunnies/bunny_jump.htm
Each assumption associated with an observation can be restructured as one or more testable hypotheses; however, we believe it is impractical and unnecessary to formally test most of these. Working through these statements will result in an more complete understanding of the framework for the principal hypotheses in this proposal.

The hypotheses being tested for the Lower Stanislaus River Riparian Preserve are: (1) up-stream impoundment and downstream channelization of the river eliminated most refugia from flooding for terrestrial animals that occupied riparian communities, and caused the endangerment of riparian brush rabbits and woodrats; (2) providing 500-1,000 contiguous acres of existing and restored riparian habitat with a very low threat of total inundation will sustain a population of brush rabbits, to be introduced to the site from the captive propagation program, and allow for expansion of an existing population of woodrats; and (3) population augmentation will assist in the recovery of these two highly endangered riparian species.

The populations of brush rabbits and woodrats in Caswell MSP are critical to the recovery of both species. The principal hypothesis for the extant brush rabbit population at Caswell Memorial State Park is that lack of scouring floods, because of up-stream impoundments, and long term fire suppression have altered ecological succession in the Park, which resulted in a largely decadent, climax community that does not provide good habitat for brush rabbits, contributing to its endangerment. We hypothesize that by expanding the Park onto currently cultivated ground and creating refugia higher than the tops of the levees, the extant population of riparian brush rabbits can be greatly enhanced and the threats to its extinction can be greatly reduced.

Through management the newly acquired portion of the Park's plant communities can be kept in successional series more productive for brush rabbits and simultaneously allow for restoration of more dynamic and less fire-prone plant communities in the existing natural areas of the Park. All restoration and manipulations of biotic communities will be measured and monitored, and where appropriate, controlled, replicated experimentation will be conducted.

For a few other sites, such as the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), where levees are being set back, breached, or removed, and where more than 900 contiguous acres of useable habitat already exist and over a thousand more are being restored through a CALFED grant, we hypothesize that self-sustaining populations of riparian brush rabbits can be established through translocation of animals from existing populations or a controlled propagation facility. The monitoring of the brush rabbits released at the first reintroduction site on the San Joaquin River NWR will provide guidance for the riparian restoration needed at both the Lower Stanislaus River Preserve and the Caswell MSP expansion.

c. Selection of Project Type

This project will benefit the riparian ecosystem at either partial or full-scale implementation. Table 1 provides a list of species that could benefit, as applicable, from partial project implementation or full-scale restoration. The proposed project is full-scale implementation based on successful restoration techniques developed by the San Joaquin River NWR Riparian Habitat Protection and Floodplain Restoration Project. However, the brush rabbit reintroduction is not a tested method of brush rabbit population augmentation, therefore, there are aspects to the full proposal that are pilot in nature. The critically endangered status and depleted population numbers of the riparian brush rabbit do not allow for a pilot project. Rather we are implementing and must continue to implement tasks in order to meet essential recovery goals for the brush

rabbit. Adaptive management is crucial, then, to our implementation of this project. As an example of a possible adaptive management scenario, initial monitoring may show that brush rabbits in and around the soft-release pens are being heavily impacted by avian predators which are using nearby power poles to perch. This information will then be used to refine our selection criteria for future release sites (i.e. and absence of power poles) and adaptive management through trapping and relocation of avian predators or the installation of anti-perching equipment would be employed to lessen the impact of predators on the newly released population of rabbits. Additionally, the re-established brush rabbit population will be augmented periodically, as needed, during the expected 5-year life of the controlled propagation program, until it reached a self-sustaining population level. Other contingencies are planned for, see the *Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan for the Riparian Brush Rabbit* (Williams et al. 2002) attached or by contacting the USFWS at 916-414-6600. All adaptive management is reviewed by a technical committee and as needed, by outside experts.

It is a considerable challenge to coordinate time-sensitive at-risk species recovery and other CALFED goals such as floodplain restoration (a CALFED milestone). Therefore, we are proceeding with the at-risk species needs without precluding, but implementing, full-scale implementation. Full-scale implementation and its feasibility will be addressed in the future and with coordination of all partners.

The CALFED uncertainties addressed by this proposed project include:

- non-native invasive species
- beyond the riparian corridor

additional uncertainties which may be addressed by future phases include:

- channel dynamics, sediment transport, and riparian vegetation
- flood management as an ecosystem tool

Non-native invasive species and their effects on at-risk species is already a concern at Caswell MSP. Removal of giant cane (*Arundo donax*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), and feral cats (*Felis domesticus*) began last year. Research on the impacts of black rats *(Rattus rattus)* on woodrats is commencing. We believe that black rats may prey on nestling rabbits and woodrats, as well as eggs and nestlings of birds. Once target parcels are protected they will be thoroughly surveyed for non-native plants and animals. Initial efforts would center on preventing new introductions and controlling existing non-natives. These interim measures are needed because removal of cattle from the riparian areas needed for restoration may allow conditions for non-natives to spread. The restoration plan will address long-term plans for prevention, removal and control of non-native species.

Beyond the riparian corridor. Our project includes acquiring and managing lands beyond the riparian zone. These lands will not only act as a buffer but will be managed in a wildlife friendly manner for the benefit of Aleutian Canada goose and sandhill crane. By having this area within our project boundary we will be able to assess wildlife friendly farming techniques, and ultimately

be able to provide direction on modification to existing agricultural practices that will benefit both the bird species as well as the riparian brush rabbit and the riparian woodrat.

Channel dynamics, sediment transport, and riparian vegetation. The first phases of this project proposes to preserve existing riparian habitat and protect enough of the historical meander belt to allow for later restoration. We will explore the feasability, within the physical constraints of the land we are able to protect, to restore the channel dynamics to improve the long term health of the riparian community. Implementation of any full-scale restoration will likely await cooperation with other partners and river restoration programs (DWR/ACOE Comprehensive Study, AFRP, and Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District). We will ensure that our immediate restoration needs for the brush rabbit will not preclude restoration of channel dynamics, sediment transport, or riparian vegetation.

Flood management. CALFED agrees that protection of floodplain land to provide opportunities for restoring channel-floodplain connectivity will provide flood management benefits. Our proposal is to protect existing riparian land, and to purchase enough land or easements on adjacent agricultural land behind the existing levees, so that the levees could be moved away from the river or breached to allow for greater river channel dynamics at less cost, over the long run, to human farming activities. Set-back levees, with cover, can provide much-needed upland refugia for brush rabbits and woodrats to protect them during flood events. Any proposed channel-floodplain restoration will await coordination with DWR/ACOE's Comprehensive Study, AFRP, and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District (see channel dynamics above). We will ensure that our immediate restoration needs for the brush rabbit will not preclude flood management opportunities.

3. Approach

Our dual objectives are (1) taking immediate and critical action to prevent extinction of the brush rabbit by providing improvements in occupied habitat and a second, protected release-site; and (2) establishing a Preserve that meets larger ecosystem goals benefitting multiple at-risk species without precluding future floodplain restoration on a broad scale. The approach includes (1) using landowner incentive programs to protect enough parcels to meet the desired future state of 500-1,000 acres of contiguous riparian habitat (existing plus restored) and an agricultural buffer, which will maintain a self-sustaining population of brush rabbits; (2) data collection for developing a restoration and management plan which will include (a) critical task implementation, (b) results from the short-term monitoring (3 years) of the first release site, (c) needs of other at-risk species, and (d) which minimizes the impact on the agricultural community. The recovery implementation for the brush rabbit and woodrat on the lower Stanislaus River, including establishing a Lower Stanislaus River Riparian Preserve, is anticipated to be a multi-year and multi-phase project. Phase 1 received CALFED funding in FY2001, funding for Phase 2 is requested this year, and Phases 3-5 will be presented to CALFED in upcoming proposal solicitation cycles.

The need for release sites for captive-bred rabbits is presented in the attached *"Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan for the Riparian Brush Rabbit"* (Propagation Plan) developed by Williams et al. (2002). In summary a minimum of three self-sustaining populations, in addition to the extant population at Caswell Memorial State Park, are the long-term conservation requirements for the brush rabbit put forth in the Recovery Plan (USFWS 1998a).

The justification for controlled propagation is discussed in both the Recovery Plan and the Propagation Plan as the best course of action to obtain the animals needed to found new populations without depleting or significantly altering the genetic structure of existing populations. The Recovery Plan justifies the use of a captive breeding program under Conservation Strategy. By assigning captive breeding a Priority 1, the Service determines that it is "an action that must be taken to prevent extinction or to prevent a species from declining irreversibly in the foreseeable future". The controlled propagation is being carried out in ways designed to maximize genetic diversity in founder populations within the constraints imposed by other considerations. Because animals selected for breeding are being returned to their place of capture after one breeding season or a part of a breeding season, their genes are not being removed from the source population and genetic diversity is not being appreciably reduced by this activity. Further, the Recovery Plan requires that the Service introduce captive bred animals into areas where local populations have been extirpated, and acquire and restore more land where populations of brush rabbits or woodrats already exist in Caswell Memorial State Park and along the south side of the Stanislaus River, across from the Park.

Ideally, release sites should be on different waterways to minimize the probability that the same stochastic event, such as flooding, would eliminate multiple populations. Without additional release sites for the captive-bred rabbits this species will experience a detrimental genetic bottleneck and could go extinct. Captive propagation of brush rabbits began in November 2001, and the three release sites must be available over the next 5 years. The San Joaquin River NWR has completed the preparation of the first release site (east of Christman Island, San Joaquin River) by building a refugial mound with vegetative cover. We began reintroducing the brush rabbits at the NWR site in August 2002. Monitoring of the released brush rabbits will provide information on predation and other mortality, translocation success, dispersal, and habitat use. The Refuge also is restoring 1,130 acres of additional habitat for future expansion of the brush rabbit population, through recruitment from the original release cohort (estimated to be about 50 rabbits) or additional releases, to the number of rabbits needed for a self-sustaining population, which is estimated to be somewhere between about 1,200 and 5,000. A second release site needs to be ready as soon as possible because we anticipate a need in 2003/2004. A web site is maintained that provides up-to-date information on the progress of the recovery implementation efforts for the brush rabbit: http://riparian:refugia@www.esrp.org/riparian/rbrupdate.htm.
Lower Stanislaus River Riparian Preserve: For implementation of brush rabbit recovery we need 500-1,000 contiguous acres with riparian communities and flood refugia, and a wildlife-friendly agricultural buffer. The amount of acreage needed for the buffer depends on the property's configuration, existing condition, proximity of the levee to the river channel, and regulatory constraints. Phases 1and 2 include land protection through acquisition of fee title/conservation easement. Our planning has included certain preserve-selection criteria—the lower Stanislaus River is being targeted because it meets these criteria (Table 2). Criteria also will be developed for release site readiness. Development of criteria allows us to gauge the appropriateness of our actions, make alternative plans if needed, and to know when we have reached key milestones.

We are targeting riparian habitat and adjacent agricultural lands on the south bank of the lower Stanislaus River (river mile 0-9.5) which meet reintroduction selection criteria and may be useful in improving riverine ecosystem functions. The target area for the Lower Stanislaus River

Riparian Preserve (Preserve) includes approximately 2,300 acres (one-third flowage easement, two-thirds agriculture) within, adjacent, or just upstream to the boundaries of the San Joaquin River NWR and across the river from Caswell Memorial State Park. Within this area we need to protect 500-1,000 acres of existing and restorable riparian habitat (Figure 2).

Our strategy will be to work with willing sellers or easement holders to create a Preserve that will be managed by the Refuge. To accommodate immediate riparian restoration and creation of a flood refugium, about 40-50 acres will be taken out of agricultural production. This is ground on the land side of the levee that can be manipulated to include about 0.25 acre that is naturally vegetated and above 200 year flood level. To accommodate any future levee breeching (Phase 4) or setback needed for full-scale restoration (i.e. floodplain restoration and upgrade of flood-flow capacity) we anticipate a future impact to a maximum of 436 acres of agricultural land (50% prime/50% unique).

Compatible floodplain agricultural uses, such as cattle grazing or select crops, could continue in areas outside that needed for the riparian habitat. Seasonal or limited cattle grazing in the riparian habitat may be compatible with maintaining optimum habitat for riparian brush rabbits and woodrats.

Primary economic and agricultural production losses to the agricultural community will be minimized by utilizing, to the greatest extent possible, existing riparian communities, promoting conservation easements and continuing agricultural practices in the agricultural buffer, and by providing monetary and regulatory incentives to participating private landowners. Funding for Safe-Harbor Agreements has been secured through a new federal Section 6 grant proposal. If the lands come into the Refuge system, the counties will, under the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act, be reimbursed annually to offset revenue lost as a result of fee title acquisition. Secondary economic losses (e.g. feed, fertilizer, and tractor suppliers) may not be fully mitigated.

Perpetual protection and management by the Refuge for the 500-1,000 acres of riparian habitat is recommended as this proposal meets multiple Refuge goals, management funds will be provided, and Refuge staff will have had prior experience with the riparian restoration, preparing a release site, and post-release monitoring.

This 500-1,000 acre Preserve will be a combination of existing riparian habitat (flowage easements) and agricultural land utilizing the following prioritization:

(1) **Buffington riparian areas -** currently within approved refuge boundary but not yet protected (160-acre ACOE flowage easement - *to be funded with Phase 1 funds*);

(2) **Gallo Faith Ranch -** currently under Refuge conservation easement (950 acres - 180-acre ACOE flowage easement; 770 agriculture);

(3) **Buffington agricultural area -** currently within approved refuge boundary but not yet protected (223 acres of agriculture - *137 acres to be funded with Phase 1 funds*);

(4) **Other riparian areas -** flowage easements with existing riparian habitat outside of approved refuge boundary, adjacent or not adjacent to the refuge, and not yet protected (any of the 238 acres of flowage easement acres available). This would mostly benefit extant woodrat populations as connection to protected habitat for brush rabbits would be uncertain).

(5) **Wend property and others -** agriculture land outside of approved refuge boundary and not adjacent to approved refuge boundary (730 acres of agriculture).

Approximately 30% of the lands discussed are under ACOE flowage easements. These easements generally equate to the area on the river-side of the levee. This area also is considered "riparian" for purposes of appraisal values, however, the actual riparian vegetation is in patches that range from 10 - 70 acres with thin connecting strips. Protecting the riparian patches that are within the approved refuge boundary is the priority for Phase 1 funds. Any protected patches greater than 10 acres (currently in federal Refuge conservation easement, protected in Phase 1, or Phase 2) likely will be utilized for the immediate release-site if flood refugia exist or can be constructed without diminishing flow capacity. For an aerial view of current riparian and agricultural conditions see Figure 3.

The grant proposal for FY01 identified the need for the protection of 400 acres at the cost of 2.5 million ($2,000 per acre for riparian, $8,000 per acre for agricultural), however increased land costs (up to $6,000 per acre for riparian and $12,000 per acre for agricultural) have reduced the acreage acquisition to 160 acres of riparian and 128.66 acres of agriculture. Therefore, Phase 1 funding at $ 2.5 million, utilizing current land prices, will protect 288.66 acres (160 flowage easement; 128.66 agriculture). All acreage numbers and costs are estimates.

In Phase 2 - we are requesting $ 2,132,080 which will address the shortfall from Phase 1 and funding necessary to clear title on the entire property. Because there is a pre-existing first right of refusal on the Buffington property there is a chance that we will be unable to acquire this priority property. In such a case we will request an amendment and the acquisition funding request could reach the figure presented in the first submission of this grant request ($11,160,000).

Caswell Memorial State Park: Due to a recent census results at Caswell Memorial State Park (2 brush rabbits trapped in 2001) tasks have been added to the grant request to further the protection, expansion, habitat enhancement, and monitoring at the Park. These tasks focus on protecting additional acreage (approximately 90 acres currently in agricultural production - funding requested is $1,090,000) which will be specifically restored for the brush rabbit and provide space for flood refugia either utilizing the levee or building a mound(s) (Figures 2 and 3). If fee title is acquired, up to 90 acres of existing orchard may be restored to riparian habitat with refugia. We are requesting funds for 50 acres of restoration in this re-submission of the grant. Additional funding was requested in the initial proposal to minimize the impact of increased recreational use and further implementation of the Park's *Habitat Management for Riparian Brush Rabbits and Woodrats with Special Attention to Flood and Fire* (Close and Williams 1998) which is intended to provide successional vegetation and reduce the risk of

extinction of the brush rabbit and woodrat populations due to wildfire. These tasks are now being covered by the Bureau of Reclamation. However, we have added annual monitoring of the riparian brush rabbit coinciding with the implementation of these tasks, to provide essential information on the response of the species. This will address the reviewers questions as to whether the rabbit could rebound on their own if habitat is improved and/or more habitat is provided. We are requesting funds for 3 years of monitoring. The current state of the Park can be seen at: http://arnica.csustan.edu/esrpp/Valley_riparian_forest.htm
or http://greatvalley.parks.ca.gov/caswell.html

In Phase 2 the Service proposes to protect (fee title/conservation easement) additional acreage in the Preserve area and expand Caswell Memorial State Park, monitor the response of the brush rabbits during the implement of critical tasks, conduct surveys and monitoring of brush rabbits to guide restoration actions and future reintroduction efforts, develop and begin implementing the Restoration and Management Plan, and complete outstanding environmental compliance documents. Monitoring of brush rabbits both at Caswell and after their release on the Refuge, is designed to provide information on habitat composition and structure, dispersal and dispersion of rabbits within the riparian community, social sorting of released, captive-bred rabbits, predation rates associated with different habitat patches and their characteristics, reproductive success in the re-established population, and success of the translocation program. These data will help guide future management decisions and the development of restoration and management plans for the Refuge, the Lower Stanislaus River Preserve, Caswell MSP, and the South Delta population of riparian brush rabbits. We are proposing in this phase that funding be provided to monitor existing population at Caswell MSP and the re-established population for three years, from October 2002 through September 2005, and to analyze and summarize the data and develop restoration and management recommendations. As information is developed it will be analyzed for management implications within an adaptive management framework and made available through consultation with those involved in restoration and management.

Task A. Land Protection - Lower Stanislaus River Preserve: To address our protection priorities 1 and 3, we will negotiate with the landowner(s) within the approved refuge boundary. The focus will be on protecting the riparian and agricultural lands owned by Mrs. Buffington in perpetuity (utilizing funds from Phase 1 and Phase 2) and removing or limiting grazing from the riparian area and providing refugia and riparian expansion by approximately 50 acres. A long-term grazing and agricultural lease is in place (40 years, 25 remaining) which may necessitate negotiations with, or buy out from, the lessee.

To address priority 2, we will discuss with the landowner(s) within the current Refuge boundary about the potential for release of brush rabbits. As this land is already under conservation easement with the Refuge no purchase is proposed. However, this easement does not specifically allow for the planned habitat restoration (construction and revegetation of flood refugia) and species reintroductions. If actions such as these are pursued, additional landowner negotiations will be required, and coverage under the Endangered Species Act might need to be addressed, depending on the location and nature of the actions. Regardless, this approach will maximize the use of federal lands and existing flowage and wildlife habitat easements (ACOE).

Providing for property security is also requested. This will include fencing and gates as appropriate as well as patrols by Refuge law enforcement personnel.

We are adjusting the budget in this second submission to address only our priorities 1-3. If the Buffington acquisition fails, then we will request an amendment and the acquisition funding request could, but is unlikely to, reach the figure presented in the first submission of this request ($11,160,000).

Task B. <u>Land Protection - adjacent to Caswell Memorial State Park</u>: Negotiations with the landowner(s) adjacent to and north of the Park will be the priority. Our most immediate need is an area outside of the Park for a vegetated refugium from flood; additionally, the amount of high quality habitat with patches of successional plants, shrubs, and vines needs to be increased so that the population of brush rabbits is more robust. This cannot be accomplished now in the existing Park because of other, conflicting resource management objectives and because any temporary loss of existing habitat could jeopardize the population of brush rabbits or woodrats. The enhanced population of brush rabbits on restored ground will then allow vegetation renewal on a small scale where appropriate within the current Park, slowly improving habitat suitability and reducing fuel loads and consequent risk of wildfire. The targeted parcel is currently in orchard production. The State will conduct negotiations and acquisition of the parcel.

Task B can be separated from Task A.

Permission to conduct appraisals, conduct contaminants surveys, and purchase transactions will be conducted by the Service for Task A, and by the State for Task B. Prices offered will be in compliance with federal and State land acquisition standards and procedures. Land or easements will be purchased only from willing landowners and offers made will be based on an approved appraisal and existing fair market value. The decision on whether to purchase in fee title or conservation easement will depend on the interest of the landowner, the Refuge's/Park's preference, and the potential restoration needs of the particular parcel.

Task C. <u>Data collection</u>: Reconnaissance surveys and extant population monitoring and post-release monitoring will be conducted by Service contractors and will provide information for the immediate riparian restoration and flood refugia actions necessary for preparing a site for the future release of captive-bred brush rabbits, and provide additional information for the Restoration and Management Plan (Task D).
The Endangered Species Recovery Program will conduct surveys needed for at-risk species. The surveys will at a minimum (1) determine the presence of brush rabbit, woodrat, and non-native species, (2) assess and map baseline habitat quality, (3) evaluate risk factors including threats from non-native and native species. Additionally, the post-release monitoring at the first reintroduction site will provide information on brush rabbit habitat composition and structure, dispersal and dispersion of rabbits within the riparian community, and predation rates associated with different habitat patches and their characteristics. Continual monitoring of the extant Caswell MSP population is also needed to determine success of task implementation, habitat preferences and to determine if needed population expansion will be natural or if augmentation

will be required. With this information the contractor will propose potential sites for restoration and vegetation and refugia needs for the future release of brush rabbits or expansion of the brush rabbit populations.

The Sacramento River Partners will collect data on the soils, hydrology, topography, and existing vegetation as appropriate to determine restoration and flood refugia placement. We anticipate a close working relationship between the two contractors and the Refuge so that the Plan will be specific to the needs of the species and meet Refuge habitat management standards.

Refuge staff will also need to clarify easement restrictions and coordinate with landowners, easement holders, reclamation boards, drainage districts, ACOE, California Department of Fish and Game, and the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office Endangered Species Program, to insure that the Plan addresses the needs of the private sector and agency regulations and restrictions.

The Service will ensure that planned restoration (including construction of mounds) and management will not decrease flood conveyance capacity and will not preclude potential future full-scale restoration (floodplain restoration and as appropriate additional at-risk species needs). This may necessitate an analysis of current flood conveyance capacity by (1) determining status of river cross-sectional studies, (2) reviewing channel shape and resistance to flow under current conditions, (3) researching flooding frequency and high-water levels, and (4) modeling of current to proposed restoration scenarios. Either Service personnel or a contractor (such as SRP or existing Service IQC contracts) will complete this portion.

The funding for the above tasks should be available to promptly complete data collection and allow for planning to proceed.

Task D. <u>Planning</u>: Utilizing information gathered in Task C the Restoration and Management Plan will at a minimum (1) provide designs for the immediate restoration of a riparian community and placement of refugia; (2) provide management guidelines for Refuge personnel. Likely contractors include the SRP, who recently completed a pre-restoration plan for the San Joaquin River NWR, and/or ESRP. The Service will maintain oversight and approval of all documents.

Expeditiously completing the immediate restoration/refugia needs plan is critical to meeting our release goals. The delay in property acquisition has put our release schedule one year behind. As we have only a limited time in which the controlled propagation facility will be in operation, this delay and any further delays may greatly impact the success of this program.

Task E. <u>Implementation of restoration/refugia at the Preserve</u>: Based on results of Task C, immediate restoration/refugia actions will be implemented. We are basing the costs on the premise that the Buffington purchase is acquired. We anticipate the construction of multiple refugial mounds on the land side of the levees and approximately 50 acres of restoration. Mounds can prove quite costly to construct, depending on the source location for the fill and engineering plans. Utilizing levees as refugia would dramatically decrease the cost, however,

this is not allowed by the current levee easement. Only the 1st of 3 years of monitoring restoration success are covered in this grant request. Sacramento River Partners likely will be contracted to implement immediate actions.

The remaining agricultural lands, 167 acres, would best be kept in agricultural production. One option is provide habitat for the Aleutian Canada goose. Lands for the goose are typically planted in pasture or alfalfa, thus retaining the agricultural use.

To facilitate restoration and habitat management for Aleutian Canada goose a permanent water source will be necessary. This may require acquisition of the existing pump and pump rehabilitation to meet OSHA standards, or acquisition of a new pump. In either case a fish screen will need to be installed on river diversions to meet Endangered Species Act requirements.

Refuge personnel will provide on-site monitoring and oversight.

Immediate restoration and construction of refugia are critical. The funding for this task will need to be available upon protection of any of the proposed parcels.

Task F. **Implementation at Caswell Memorial State Park**: When the additional acreage is acquired an immediate task is to provide vegetated refugia and habitat restoration to facilitate expansion of the brush rabbit population. This task has been added in this re-submission. We anticipate 50 of the 90 acres of the existing orchard would be restored to riparian habitat and refugia under this phase. Only the 1st of 3 years of monitoring restoration success are covered in this grant request. The remaining years are to be covered under a subsequent proposal. Sacramento River Partners are the likely contractors for this task.

Under the directives in the report by Close and Williams (1998) *Habitat Management for Riparian Brush Rabbits and Woodrats with Special Attention to Fire and Flood*, the Bureau of Reclamation is continuing to fund the non-native vegetation removal, reducing risk from wildfire by clearing brush and woodchips, and minimizing the impacts of increasing recreational activities by funding fencing of campgrounds to better contain use and reduce habitat alteration. Non-native vegetation removal and reduction of wildfire risk began two years ago with funds from the Bureau of Reclamation, and due to the urgency of this task the Bureau has continued funding thereby removing this portion of the proposal from the budget. Other tasks for wildfire risk-reduction that are critical are the installation of a fire hydrant and generator to ensure adequate water supply in an fire emergency. Local contractors will be utilized and work will be overseen by California Department of Parks and Recreation personnel. These tasks remain in the budget. Oversight funding is being requested under this task for State Parks personnel.

This task can be seen as a separate product, however, it is vital to the extant population's survival.

Task G. Permanent Landowner: **This task has been completed in-kind over this last year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.**

Task H. <u>Environmental Compliance</u>: NEPA compliance documents for the Refuge expansion were completed in 1998 (USFWS). The reintroduction of a species into its historic range is a categorical exclusion under NEPA. Because of the potential that private land may have been needed for reintroductions, the restoration, and the perception that this may effect agricultural production and elevate flood risks, the Service, the Bureau, and the California Department of Fish and Game held initial agency and public scoping (landowners, local governments, and general public). It is now likely that the three essential reintroduction sites may be on federal lands. Therefore, some of the compliance tasks proposed in the initial proposal are now not necessary. What is unknown at this time is the restoration needs of the specific locations, therefore, we will retain environmental compliance as a budget item in the event that site-specific compliance is needed. Any NEPA will tier off of the CALFED PEIS. The Service will then conduct any NEPA-related public meetings. CEQA compliance is likely for the restoration proposed adjacent to Caswell, State staff time is included in oversight under task F1 but if contracting is needed for document preparation, the Service could handle the contract. Outreach will most certainly be needed and has been retained in this re-submission.

Environmental compliance needs are being addressed with both in-kind services by the Service and if necessary site-specific environmental compliance will need to be funded prior to implementation restoration, and must be funded to completion.

Task I. <u>Project Management</u>: Activities include providing quarterly fiscal and programmatic reports to CALFED following the end of each quarter (January, April, July, and October). These reports will be completed by Service staff. Contract oversight, meetings, and site-visits are also included in this task.

In Phase 3 releases of brush rabbits will occur. The immediate restoration/refugia actions completed in Phase 2 are anticipated to provide a release site for 20 or more individuals in the Lower Stanislaus River Preserve and expanded opportunities for the Caswell brush rabbit population. Repeated releases are anticipated at the reintroduction site as some of the originally released individuals will have died, disappeared, or dispersed beyond the area of protected habitat. The Caswell population also may be in need of augmentation. Monitoring of rabbits begins upon release and will continue as long-term monitoring to assess the success of the project and larger recovery implementation goals. As restoration continues the population (s) are expected to respond by expanding to a number which is considered self-sustaining (1,200-5,000 individuals in each separate population). Additionally, this phase will fund the completion of the maintenance of restoration plantings, and the 2 remaining years of restoration monitoring.

In Phase 4 full-scale riparian and flood restoration will be implemented only if feasible. This may include set-back levees to allow for the return of river meander. The scope of this restoration and the partnerships necessary will be determined in the future. Even if full-scale restoration is deemed not feasible at this juncture, additional riparian restoration/refugia which focuses on the brush rabbit and woodrat may be implemented. Brush rabbit releases may continue, either to replace original members or for augmenting the population, as the habitat is restored.

In Phase 5 long-term monitoring will begin that will gauge restoration success and provide information for adaptive management. Phase 5 will commence after the restoration and reintroduction of rabbits are accomplished and the intensive short-term monitoring is complete. The short and long-term monitoring success criteria for the rabbit is included in the Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan and will be refined as we receive data from the recently reintroduced population. The success criteria will serve as reference points for long-term management goals adopted by the Refuge.

3. Feasibility

We believe the project proposal is appropriate to meet the goal of establishing one of three required self-sustaining populations of brush rabbit in historical habitat and providing for expansion and protection of the Caswell population so that it becomes self-sustaining. The concept of brush rabbit reintroduction and habitat expansion at Caswell was peer reviewed during public comment period for the draft *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley.* Peer review comments were either incorporated or answered in appendix G for the final version (USFWS 1998a). The more detailed *Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan for the Riparian Brush Rabbit* (Williams et al. 2002) also was peer reviewed and comments have been incorporated and changes made as appropriate. This specific area, the lower Stanislaus River, meet the criteria put forth in the approach section (see Table 2).

This project, other reintroduction sites for the brush rabbit, and Refuge expansion have been or will be addressed in environmental compliance documents. Although reintroduction of a species within its historical range is categorically excluded from the NEPA process, the restoration needed to prepare the site for the release may trigger NEPA. If this is the case, we will be completing an EA, tiering from the CALFED PEIS. One of the objectives of the NEPA/CEQA process is to address all known implementation issues; to address public concerns; and to establish a framework for handling additional implementation issues that occur after the environmental document is adopted.

Restoration will be within the historical distribution of Riparian Forest as mapped by Küchler (1977), and specialists, such as the Sacramento River Partners, have successfully restored sections of the Sacramento River and are currently restoring over 800 acres on the San Joaquin River for the Refuge. We, therefore, anticipate that restoration will be successful given sufficient resources, skilled contractors, and time. The immediate restoration/refugia activities and non-native vegetation removal are actions that have been done before by the same cooperators/contractors and we do not foresee any difficulty with expertise or timeliness. NEPA/CEQA compliance documents can be handled by the Service and/or any qualified consulting firm.

Permits or agreements necessary to proceed include:

- Refuge Expansion Documents: We have completed the Refuge expansion documents (Summary to EcoTeam, Initial Ascertainment Report and Categorical Exclusion Decision Document). A goal of the San Joaquin River NWR are to manage and restore the

riparian plant community for federally listed and candidate species (specifically the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, winter-run Chinook salmon, California red-legged frog, delta smelt, brush rabbit and woodrat), neotropical and other migratory birds, and resident wildlife (USFWS 1998b).

- Conservation Easements: Current easements and leases need to be reviewed for restrictions. The current ACOE flowage and wildlife habitat easements may necessitate a memorandum of understanding to ensure compliance with both the easement restrictions and Endangered Species Act requirements. For protection in perpetuity an endangered species conservation easement may need to be negotiated and recorded over some or all of the 500-1,000 acres. Restoration actions may necessitate negotiation with the easement holders and lessee to allow for the physical actions necessary for restoration activities (grading, planting vegetation, installing temporary irrigation), or lease buy-out. This may take up to 2 years.

- Securing a water source: A water source for restoration will be addressed either through inclusion of riparian rights with fee title, or an agreement with the current landowner/lessee/easement holder, purchasing the existing pump, or drilling a well. As water rights remain with the land, any water needed for continued agricultural production will be available regardless of the owner. Screening diversions and upgrading any dilapidated lift pumps or water conveyance systems will be necessary.

- Contracts: The Service already has existing contracts with ESRP and SRP. New contracts or amendments will be relatively simple.

- Environmental Permitting and Approvals: Endangered Species Section 7 Consultation will be completed under the umbrella of the Programmatic Biological Opinion on CALFED Bay-Delta Program (USFWS 2000b). A Clean Water Act (Section 401 or 404) permit is not anticipated. The Section 10(A)(1)(a) permit is held by Dr. Daniel Williams of ESRP for the handling of at-risk species. Much of the environmental compliance documents have been completed, however, any outstanding documents will be completed by the Service or a contractor within 12 months.

- Local Permits and Approvals: Stanislaus County planning department has zoned the area proposed for the Lower Stanislaus River Riparian Preserve as "general agricultural district (A-2)". A-2 is intended to support and enhance agriculture as the predominant land use, and to protect open space lands. Natural resources management and enjoyment of scenic beauty are identified as being compatible with agricultural and open space land uses. Because the land to be acquired is within the refuge boundary, the Service has already completed NEPA during the Refuge expansion phase and planned activities which include restoration. The Service also coordinated with Stanislaus County and the County had an opportunity to determine the consistency with the general plan during that process. The San Joaquin County planning department has zoned the land adjacent to Caswell Memorial State Park as (OS/RC) "Open Space/Resource Conservation" with the accompany zoning of General Agriculture (AG-40). The amount of agricultural land

being restored under this proposal has been adjusted to minimize agricultural production loss, preserve open space in perpetuity, and may reduce economic loss by removing flood-prone lands from production. The County has stated in its October 9, 2002, letter that the acquisition of this land is consistent with the General Plan. Conditional Use and Grading Permits are anticipated. Agreements may be needed with the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District or local reclamation districts (Reclamation District 2031 on the south side of the river; Reclamation District 2064 on the north side of the river), and Williamson Act Contracts may or may not need cancellation.

- State Permits and Approvals: Dr. Daniel Williams of ESRP has a current Scientific Collecting Permit. CESA compliance will follow the ESA compliance, usually with a letter of adoption. Any vegetation of the levees is anticipated to need Reclamation Board Approval and Encroachment Permit.

- Permission to Access Property: Permission has been granted by one landowner and will be sought any other effected landowners, including the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District and local reclamation districts, for appraisals, surveys or other pre-purchase actions. Once easements or fee title are negotiated access should be permitted; an access agreement may need to be negotiated with the Drainage District/reclamation district.

- Any full-scale complex restoration activities in future phases will require permits and partnership agreements with ACOE, DWR, State Reclamation Board, San Joaquin River Flood Management Association, Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District, and others.

5. Performance Measures

a. Monitoring and Assessment Plans

The Restoration and Management Plan to be completed in this phase, Phase 2, will include monitoring/assessment plans for physical and biological factors associated with riparian restoration success criteria. Contingency measures will be included for each factor. NEPA/CEQA documents and Endangered Species Act compliance may refine the restoration and release site criteria and the monitoring/assessment plans. All generated data will be reported to the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office/Refuge, and current landowner.

6. **Data Handling and Storage**

The Service will act as the official repository for all data reports generated by this project, and will provide the data to the public upon request. Realty documents will be kept in the Sacramento Realty Office; environmental and planning documents will be kept either by the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Division or the Refuge. Scientific research field notes will be kept by ESRP, with final documents, annual reports, and journal articles supplied to the Service. A web site is maintained that provides up-to-date information on the progress of the recovery implementation efforts for the brush rabbit http://riparian:refugia@www.esrp.org/riparian/rbrupdate.htm.

7. **Expected Products/Outcomes**

The outcome of this year's proposal will be the protection in fee title or conservation easement from willing landowners of approximately 94.34 acres on the south bank, and protection of up to 90 acres on the north bank of the Stanislaus River; monitoring the implementation of critical tasks, to determine effects on brush rabbits and woodrats, monitoring of newly released brush rabbits, and reconnaissance surveys; completing the Restoration and Management Plan; implementing immediate restoration needs; and completion of any outstanding Environmental Compliance documents.

The outcome of all five phases will be establishment of the second of three essential self-sustaining populations of the federally endangered riparian brush rabbit at a Preserve on the lower Stanislaus River that also meets larger ecosystem and at-risk species goals, improved chances of sustainability for the main population of this species at Caswell Memorial State Park, and habitat expansion and enhancement for the federally endangered riparian woodrat. In addition information from the five phases will be used to guide habitat restoration and management activities on the San Joaquin River NWR, where the first of the three self-sustaining populations is now being established, in habitat protection and enhancement on private lands in the South Delta population and preparing for the 3rd reintroduction site. Optimistically, this program will ultimately result in the information and most of the resources needed to recover the riparian brush rabbit from endangerment

8. **Work Schedule**

Phase 2: *Estimated start date = award of funding by CALFED (estimated at April 2003); estimated date of completion = December 2005*. These have been revised for the re-submittal.

Task	**Estimated Start; End**
Task A: Land acquisition-Preserve	in progress; September 2003
Task B: Land acquisition-Caswell	April 2003; April 2004
Task C: Data/Surveys/Monitoring	in progress; October 2003
Task D: Restoration and Management Plan	in progress; February 2004
Task E: Restoration/refugia actions	May 2004; December 2005
Task F: Tasks at Caswell Memorial State Park	in progress; December 2005
Task G: Refuge expansion planning	Completed
Task H: Environmental compliance	in progress; April 2004
Task I: Project Management	quarterly, upon execution of contract

Phase 3: Riparian brush rabbit releases and monitoring in the Lower Stanislaus River Preserve: *Estimated start date = July 2004; estimated date of completion = September 2005.* Maintenance and monitoring of restoration will continue.

Phase 4: Full-scale or additional restoration: *Estimated start date = unknown; estimated date of completion = unknown.*

Phase 5: Long-term monitoring: *Estimated start date = October 2005; estimated date of completion = April 2010.*

B. APPLICABILITY TO CALFED ERP AND SCIENCE PROGRAM GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND CVPIA PRIORITIES

1. ERP, Science Program and CVPIA Priorities

A. The ERP strategic goals (CALFED 2001) addressed by this proposal include:

Goal 1: At-Risk Species. The brush rabbit and woodrat are the focus of this project, both highly endangered at-risk species dependent on a functioning watershed in the San Joaquin Valley. Implementation of all five phases will (1) enhance and stabilize the extant populations of both species at Caswell; (2) establish, at the Lower Stanislaus River Preserve, the second of three essential brush rabbit populations needed for recovery; and (3) enhance habitat for the extant population of the woodrat. This proposal will assist in studying the efficacy of the reintroduction/restoration program and refine the understanding of the habitat requirements for riparian brush rabbits. Other aspects of these two species' recovery (distribution, life history, threats, controlled propagation) are addressed by other programs (CDFG section 6, CVPIA (b)(1) "Other", USFWS Endangered Species Division Research Grants, BOR's Conservation Program). Other CALFED at-risk species that could benefit from this project are listed in Table 1.

Goal 2: Ecosystem Processes and Biotic Communities. Protection of riparian communities, including old-growth riparian forest, is the minimum goal of the protection phases of this project; Immediate restoration will be designed to accommodate the reintroduction and/or expansion of brush rabbit and woodrat populations. Long-term restoration - if deemed feasible - will be designed to rehabilitate natural riparian processes and riparian habitat within the meander belt; and, if agricultural lands outside the existing riparian corridor are available, portions will be used to further rehabilitate natural processes, with the remaining agricultural lands managed in a manner that supports migratory birds and acts as a buffer to the riparian corridor. Restoring the flow variability that will support the recovery and restoration of the riparian vegetation and associated species, although not a direct component of this proposal, will be addressed by coordinating this project's restoration with other programs addressing flow. The area targeted is currently 30% ACOE flowage easements.

Goal 3: Harvestable Species. Properly designed and executed riparian restoration may benefit harvestable species such as chinook salmon and steelhead. Coordination with the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP) will help meet this goal. Waterfowl species will benefit from the upland agricultural component of this project.

Goal 4: Habitats. The parcels targeted by this proposal were identified by researchers from ESRP as habitat for reintroduction of brush rabbits and partly occupied habitat for riparian woodrats. Restoration will provide the minimum acreage of contiguous habitat necessary for long-term population viability of endangered riparian brush rabbits, and probably woodrats. Enhancing the native biotic community is an immediate goal—rehabilitating stream corridor ecological processes will be implemented in the future if feasible. Scientific research funded in this proposal will focus on the monitoring and restoration/reintroduction techniques for brush rabbits as detailed in the *Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan for the Riparian Brush Rabbit* (other programs fund other research components of the Plan). Caswell Memorial State Park experiences constant use by the public and boating on the river is popular. Habitat expansion and enhancement at the Park and restoration of the riparian corridor across the river

will directly improve the public's aesthetic experience.

The agricultural preservation component of the Preserve will provide habitat for other special-status wildlife and waterfowl, provide a buffer zone for the riparian corridor from expanding suburban development (Stanislaus County mitigation measure) and dairy operations, and if appropriate provide for future floodplain expansion.

Goal 5: Non-native invasive species. Non-native invasive species are known to exist and require control/removal at Caswell Memorial State Park. Supporting focused on-going efforts at Caswell to prevent, control, and remove detrimental non-native species will benefit both the brush rabbit and woodrat. Surveys proposed for newly protected lands will determine the amount and types of tasks required for preventing new introductions and establishment of non-native invasive species, and limiting or eliminating the impacts of detrimental non-native species. Immediate non-native species control may be necessary until the restoration and management plan is implemented. Feral cats and black rats are present at Caswell and may be having a significant effect on reproductive success of brush rabbits and woodrats. Public outreach may be necessary if feral cat removal is needed.

B. The Science Program Goals (CALFED 2001) addressed by this proposal include:
Building population models for at-risk species: Although the initial phases of this project are primarily land protection, this phase and later phases will focus on the reintroduction of the brush rabbit, including analyses of site selection criteria, site restoration techniques, reintroduction techniques (soft-release pens, nest boxes, predator removal), and reintroduction success. ESRP will be contracted to conduct this research. This project, includes research that will result in substantial improvement in knowledge about brush rabbit ecology and biology. Additionally, ongoing monitoring of the brush rabbit at Caswell will provide information on the effects of habitat enhancement. These data will be used in establishing the other required populations, as well as managing the San Joaquin River and the Caswell populations.

Understanding the intertwined implications of all CALFED Program actions: The dual objectives of this project will inevitably have conflicts needing resolution through cooperation and creative consultation and collaboration.

Advancing the scientific basis of regulatory activities: The close cooperation with the Endangered Species Division of the Service will provide direction and allow the transfer of information back to staff for use in later regulatory endeavors.

Coordinating and extending existing monitoring: A CALFED priority is developing monitoring programs for riparian zones. We will use existing protocols whenever possible to facilitate coordination and data sharing. Existing or anticipated are survey protocols; trapping, handling, transporting protocols; captive propagation protocols; release-site criteria; release-site readiness criteria; and post-release monitoring protocols.

C. The CVPIA Priorities (CVPIA 2001) addressed by this proposal include the Habitat Restoration Program - Section 3406(b)(1) "Other" biological goal A. "protect and restore native

habitats impacted by CVP...", and B. "stabilize and improve populations of native species impacted by CVP...". This project dovetails with extensive Habitat Restoration Program efforts to develop and implement the captive propagation program for the brush rabbit.

2. Relationship to Other Ecosystem Restoration Projects

San Joaquin River NWR Riparian Habitat Protection and Floodplain Restoration Project: The lands we propose to protect in Phases 1 and 2 are within or adjacent to the approved Refuge boundary. The Refuge has restored Christman Island as the first brush rabbit reintroduction site, and is also protecting potential habitat for the brush rabbit and woodrat within existing conservation easements on the Stanislaus River.

Caswell Memorial State Park: Caswell Memorial State Park is currently improving brush rabbit and woodrat habitats under guidance of the Park's *Habitat Management for Riparian Brush Rabbits and Woodrats with Special Attention to Fire and Flood* (Close and Williams 1998).

Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study: The coordinated study by ACOE and DWR contains many of the same objectives as does our proposal. The Comprehensive Study states "emphasis will be placed on managing the floodplain and detaining flood flows to meet safety, infrastructure reliability, and habitat objectives, along with reconstructing and upgrading existing levees. Therefore, our proposal on the lower Stanislaus River would contribute to accomplishing the Comprehensive Study's authorized purposes. Any future full-scale restoration activities, including set-back levees, will be done with the ACOE and DWR, as well as our other partners.

ACOE Habitat Easements: As mitigation for the impacts of the New Melones Dam, easements are recorded with the ACOE within this river stretch. The language of the easements -to "maintain, patrol, regulate and restore fish and wildlife habitat..."- are compatible with this proposal.

CVPIA Anadromous Fish Restoration Program: There are no current full-scale restoration programs on the Stanislaus; however, AFRP goals are to develop habitat for out-migrating juvenile salmon. One property upstream of the Park was purchased by the Refuge for this reason. Full-scale implementation of our project would contribute to AFRP goals.

Other: *San Joaquin River Management Program; Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Implementation Plan; California Riparian Habitat Joint Venture Implementation Plan; North American Waterfowl Management Plan; Conservation of Avian Diversity in North America*; and USFWS recovery plans for Aleutian Canada goose, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, giant garter snake, and vernal pool species.

3. Requests for Next-Phase Funding

This is the second phase of a five phase full-implementation project. See Attachment for status.

4. Previous Recipients of CALFED Program or CVPIA Funding

The Service has received previous funding from both CALFED and CVPIA. The project most

like this proposal is the San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge Riparian Habitat Protection and Floodplain Restoration Project funded the last two years by CALFED.

5. System-wide Ecosystem Benefits
Providing protection for existing riparian habitat and implementing a comprehensive restoration plan which takes into account terrestrial and aquatic at-risk species and includes increasing the width of the riparian corridor and potentially restoring river meander in the lower Stanislaus River will benefit the Stanislaus River and contribute to ecosystem restoration on the San Joaquin River.

6. Additional Information for Proposals Containing Land Acquisition
Provided within document.

C. QUALIFICATIONS
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Sacramento Realty Office—The Service currently manages over 670 square miles of National Wildlife Refuge System in California. The Service has an ongoing land protection program that covers 16 refuges and wildlife management areas within the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay area. The Realty Office's staff of 8 has over 150 years of combined experience in the areas of realty, appraisal, and environmental protection. The Realty Office, led by Chief Steve Dyer, will coordinate property protection.

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (SFWO)—Prior to acquisition of fee title/easement our External Affairs staff will conduct extensive outreach. External Affairs staff at the SFWO has extensive experience with at-risk species issues as well as land acquisition issues. The largest Fish and Wildlife Service field office in the nation, SFWO is responsible for the recovery and stewardship of more than 200 listed and proposed species, of which 161 occur in the San Francisco Bay and Delta region. The SFWO's staff has well over 200 years of combined experience in ecosystem management, endangered and threatened species conservation and monitoring, and resource negotiation. Under the leadership of Field Supervisor Wayne White, SFWO, will assist the Refuge in administering the project, overseeing contracts, research and monitoring.

San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge—The Refuge staff are extremely qualified to direct the actions involved with establishing and managing the proposed Preserve. Kim Forrest is the project leader for the San Luis NWR Complex, responsible for planning, guiding and administering a large and complex operation in accordance with established management plans, policies , and prescribed objectives. Ms. Forrest has been 26 years with the Service and is currently overseeing the San Joaquin River NWR Riparian Habitat Protection and Floodplain Restoration Project partially funded by CALFED. Dennis Woolington, a supervisory wildlife biologist with the Complex, provides the on-the-ground coordination and oversight of the Restoration Project. Mr. Woolington is also skilled in NEPA compliance and Section 7 consultations.

California Department of Parks and Recreation: The staff of the Four Rivers District of State Parks are ably qualified to direct the acquisition, restoration, and management of the proposed

addition to Caswell Memorial State Park. Christopher Stokes is the North Sector Superintendent, which includes Caswell MSP and is responsible for planning, directing and budgeting for a complex operation at six state parks in accordance with the policies, management plans, and directives. Mr. Stokes has worked for the Department for about 30 years and is familiar with managing large budgets. Joanne Karlton, an Associate State Park Resource Ecologist with the Department, provides oversight of all natural resource issues and projects, coordination with other agencies, and NEPA/CEQA and FESA/CESA compliance. Both Mr. Stokes and Ms. Karlton are currently overseeing habitat improvement projects at Caswell MSP through a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Endangered Species Recovery Program: In 1992, the Service joined with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to establish the Endangered Species Recovery Program (ESRP). This program is directed by Dr. Patrick Kelly, administered by the California State University (CSU) Stanislaus Foundation, and coordinated by Dr. Daniel Williams, Professor at CSU, Stanislaus. The Program's planning area encompasses the San Joaquin Valley. Since 1992, program biologists have conducted intensive ecological studies on twelve federally-listed species, including the brush rabbit and the woodrat. Research underway includes defining geographic ranges and estimating population numbers, monitoring population trends, identifying environmental factors that influence those trends, assessing potential habitat management strategies, and measuring range-wide genetic population diversity and structure. Drs. Williams and Kelly, and Laurissa Hamilton are authors of the *Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan for the Riparian Brush Rabbit* (2002). ESRP will provide qualified and permitted staff; Laurissa Hamilton has over 10 years of experience trapping, handling, and monitoring brush rabbits and woodrats. Ms. Hamilton is pursuing her doctoral degree by conducting research associated with this project. Other handlers will be trained to Service minimum qualifications. ESRP is covered for proposed activities by federal permit TE-023496 and CDFG Scientific Collector's Permit #9537 and 9538.

Sacramento River Partners: Sacramento River Partners (SRP) is a not for profit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural resources of the Central Valley. SRP is composed of a team of experienced professionals with expertise in riparian ecology, floodplain management, and applied restoration techniques. SRP has restored over 1,000 acres of riparian habitat for Federal and State agencies and private landowners. SRP authored, and is currently implementing, the Pre-restoration Plan for the West Units of the San Joaquin River NWR under the direction of Senior Restoration Ecologist, F. Thomas Griggs, Phd.

D. COST

1. Budget - See budget and justification on web forms.

2. Cost-Sharing - Funds for other aspects of brush rabbit and woodrat recovery implementation which are directly related to this proposal (i.e. captive breeding program - $550,000 annually) are being funded on a cost-share basis (Service, BOR, DWR, CDFG, CVPIA). CDFG has just received $60,000 for implementation of Safe-Harbor Agreements from federal Section 6 funding.

E. LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

The Service has established outreach and public involvement guidelines for land protections that

are being followed. Briefings occur in one-on-one meetings, group meetings, or by mailing. The Service maintains an extensive mailing list which includes local landowners, county and local governments, agencies, news media, and other organizations. One public scoping meeting has been held. The public will have opportunities to comment on any NEPA/CEQA documents. The Service anticipates that some local landowners, levee districts, or elected officials will have issues or concerns. Anticipated issues include economic effects of converting agricultural land to habitat; constraints on activities due to presence of endangered species; and downstream flood protection.

The Refuge is active in its outreach in Stanislaus County. They host quarterly "Community Forums" and send out "Refuge Update" newsletters to inform neighbors, stakeholders, the Community Planning Director, and agencies of actions being considered for the Refuge. Field trips and on-site meetings allow the local governmental agencies to see first hand the value of the Refuge. The Refuge has worked closely with the ACOE to determine third party impacts from proposed actions. When adjacent landowners have expressed concerns about certain actions proposed, the Refuge has modified plans to address their specific concerns. The Stanislaus County Farm Bureau has expressed concerns about land being withdrawn from agricultural production to accomplish Refuge habitat restoration objectives.

F. COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Service cannot agree to a standard clause requested for State funded projects. The Terms and Conditions for State Proposition 204 Funds, Section 3, states "Performance Retention: Disbursements shall be made on the basis of costs incurred to date, less ten percent of the total invoice amount. Disbursement of the ten percent retention shall be made either: (1) upon the Grantee's satisfactory completion of a discrete project task (ten percent retention for task will be reimbursed); or (2) upon completion of the project and Grantee's compliance with project closure requirements specified by CALFED (ten percent retention for entire project will be disbursed)". The Services's authorization to enter into agreements with non Federal entities was changed in FY 2000. Our FY2000 Appropriations bill authorizes the Service to enter into contracts with State agencies when advance payment to the Service is not possible. In accordance with the requirements imposed by Congress in the FY2000 Appropriations bill and report language, the Services Director must approve a project when advance payment is not possible and certify that payments will be made in full by the State within 90 days after the Service issues an invoice.

Specifically, the 10% retention clause cannot allow timely payments for the following reasons: In our Federal Financial System (FFS) accounting program, a periodic invoice (either quarterly or monthly depending on the terms of the contract) is automatically issued from our finance center based on actual expenditures of the Service on a project. Invoices include a payment due date on the invoice and when payment is not received in full by that due date, the system automatically shows the unpaid balance as delinquent. Depending on how delinquent the payment is, interest, penalty and administrative charges may also accrue. With 10% retention withheld on each invoice, the 10% retention amount then causes applicable invoice record in FFS to be partly delinquent and remain delinquent until the project or individual tasks identified in the contract are completed and the retention is released.

The Service's Finance Center must report to the Department of Treasury if the Service is owed funds by any entity. Therefore, when accounts remain delinquent due to the 10% retention of payments owed the Service, that delinquency continues to be reported to Treasury. The Service has previously entered into agreements with the State of California that do not contain the 10% retention clause. We have asked the States Deputy Attorney General to provide clarifying guidance to the Department of Water Resources that is general in scope, which can also be applied to contracts related to the CALFED program. Our offices will continue to work with the State closely on State funded projects. If the State is not satisfied with the work performed by the Service, the State project manager should contact the Service's project manager to correct the performance problem. If needed, upon notification interim billings can be canceled until the State is satisfied with the Services performance. We can comply with all other State and Federal standard clauses.

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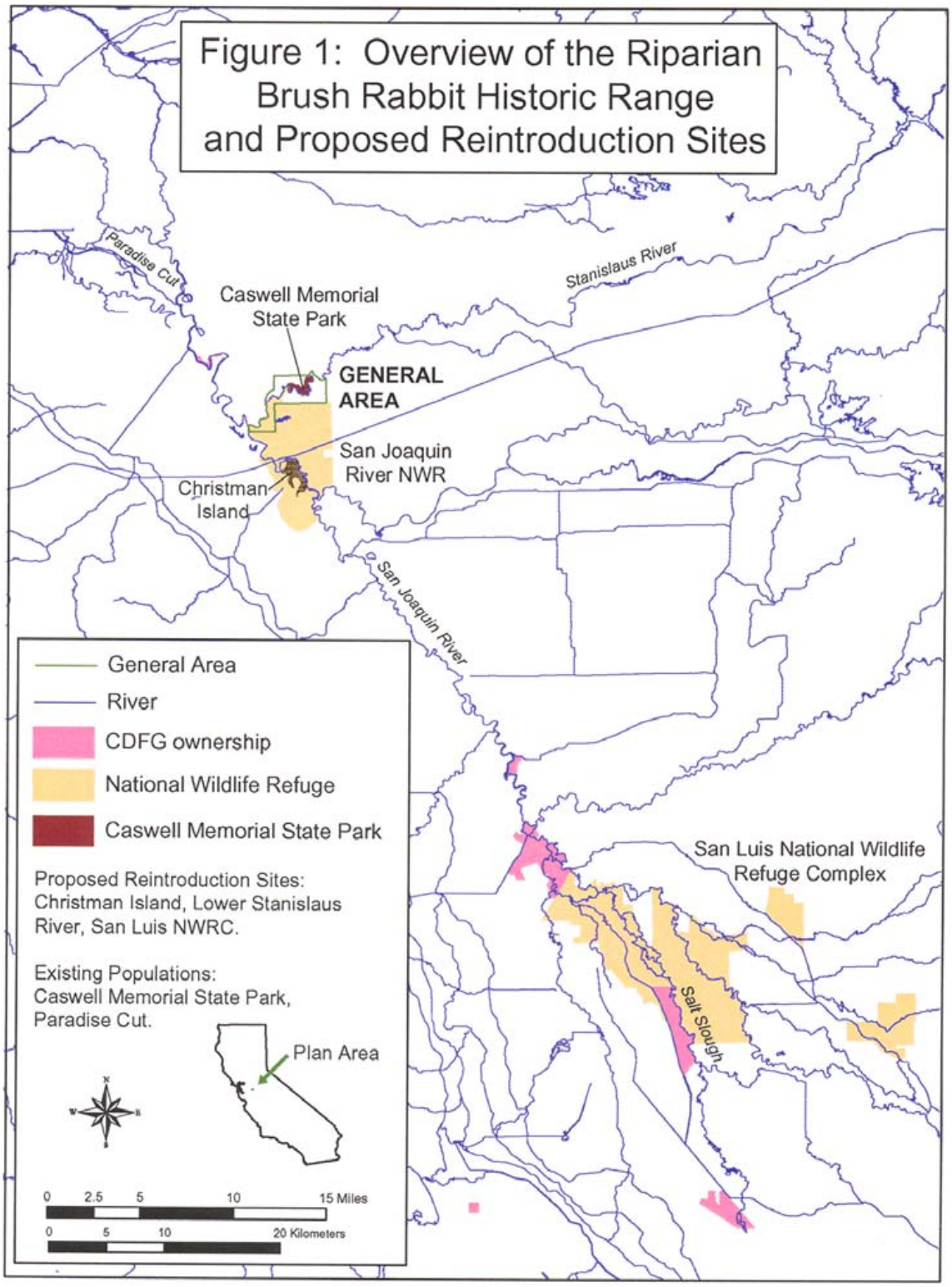
Figure 1: Overview of the Riparian Brush Rabbit Historic Range and Proposed Reintroduction Sites
Paradise Cut
Stanislaus River
Caswell Memorial State Park
GENERAL AREA
San Joaquin River NWR
Christman Island
San Joaquin River
San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Salt Slough
General Area
River
CDFG ownership
National Wildlife Refuge
Caswell Memorial State Park
Proposed Reintroduction Sites: Christman Island, Lower Stanislaus River, San Luis NWRC.
Existing Populations: Caswell Memorial State Park, Paradise Cut.
Plan Area
0 2.5 5 10 15 Miles
0 5 10 20 Kilometers

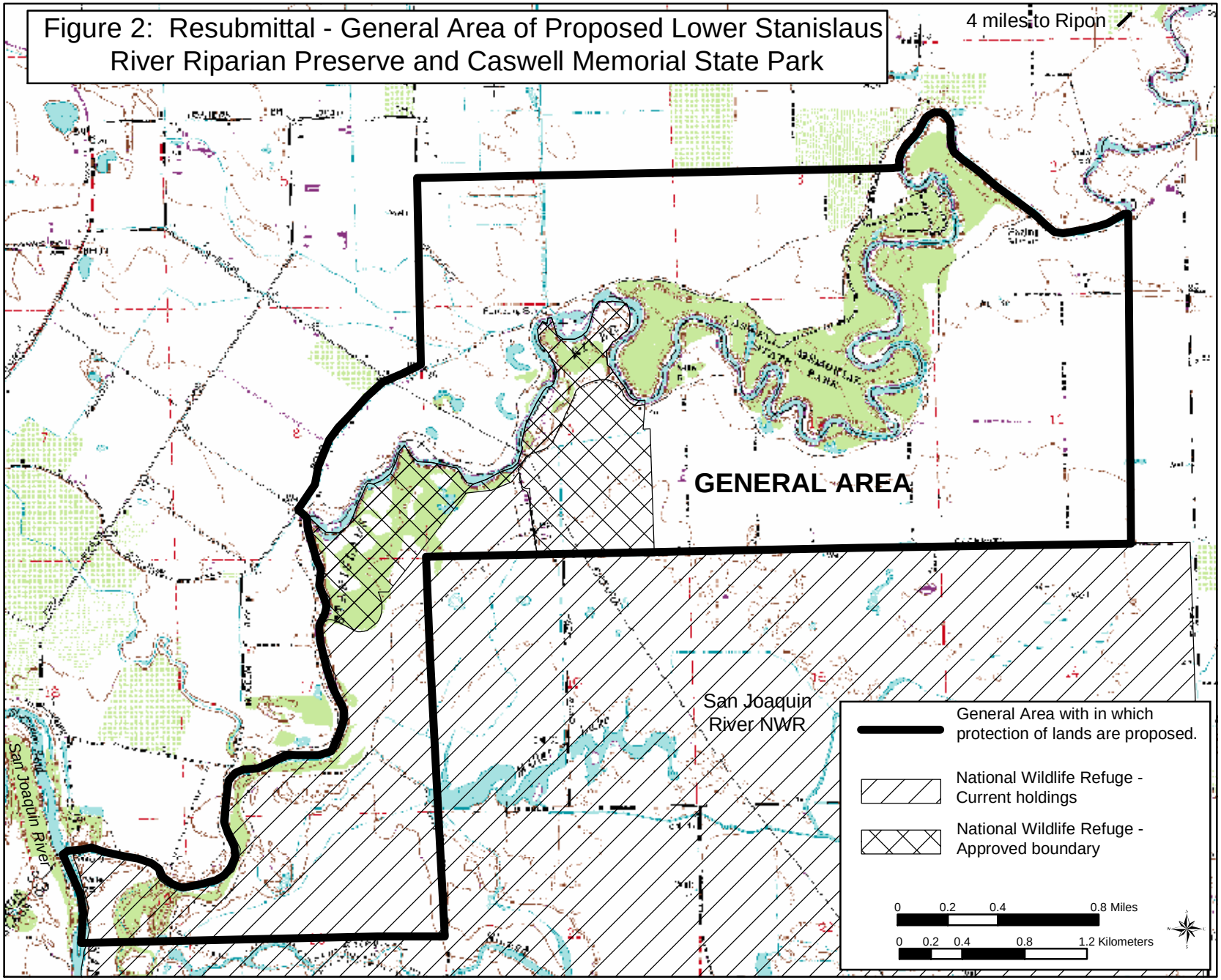

Figure 2: Resubmittal - General Area of Proposed Lower Stanislaus River Riparian Preserve and Caswell Memorial State Park

Table 1. At-risk species that could benefit from the proposed Lower Stanislaus River Riparian Preserve

Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Federal Status**
At-risk species to benefit from Riparian Restoration		
Riparian brush rabbit	*Sylvilagus bachmani riparius*	E
Riparian (San Joaquin Valley) woodrat	*Neotoma fuscipes riparia*	E
Sacramento splittail	*Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*	T
Central Valley spring-run chinook	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	T
Central Valley fall-run chinook	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	C
River lamprey	*Lampetra ayresi*	SC
Pacific lamprey	*Lampetra tridentata*	SC
Kern brook lamprey	*Lampetra hubbsi*	SC
Central Valley steelhead	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*	T/CH
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	T
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	T
Swainson's hawk	*Buteo Swainsoni*	State-listed
American peregrine falcon	*Falco peregrinus anatum*	D
Little willow flycatcher	*Empidonax traillii brewsteri*	CA
Least Bell's vireo	*Vireo bellii pusillus*	E
Bank swallow	*Riparia riparia*	State-listed
Lewis' woodpecker	*Melanerpes lewis*	SC
Rufous hummingbird	*Selasphorus rufus*	SC
Yellow-billed cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus*	C
Greater western mastiff-bat	*Eumops perotis californicus*	SC
Small-footed myotis bat	*Myotis ciliolabrum*	SC
Long-eared myotis bat	*Myotis evotis*	SC
Fringed myotis bat	*Myotis thysanodes*	SC
Long-legged myotis bat	*Myotis volans*	SC
Yuma myotis bat	*Myotis yumanensis*	SC
At-risk species to benefit from Agricultural Buffer		
Aleutian Canada goose	*Branta canadensis leucopareia*	D

Mountain plover	*Charadrius montanus*	PT
Greater sandhill crane	*Grus canadensis tabida*	State-listed
Western burrowing owl	Athene cunicularia hypugaea	SC
Ferruginous hawk	*Buteo regalis*	SC
White-tailed kite	*Elanus leucurus*	SC
White-faced ibis	*Plegadis chihi*	SC
At-risk species to benefit from associated Wetlands		
Southwestern pond turtle	*Clemmys marmorata pallida*	SC
Northwestern pond turtle	*Clemmys marmorata marmorata*	SC
Giant garter snake	*Thamnophis gigas*	T
California red-legged frog	*Rana aurora draytonii*	T
Tricolored blackbird	*Agelaius tricolor*	SC
California tiger salamander	*Ambystoma californiense*	C
Conservancy fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta conservatio*	E/PCH
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta lynchi*	T/PCH
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	*Lepidurus packardi*	E
California linderiella fairy shrimp	*Linderiella occidentalis*	SC
Midvalley fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta mesovallensis*	SC

E=Endangered, T=Threatened, PT=Proposed Threatened, CA=Candidate,
SC=Species of Concern, D=Delisted, PCH=Proposed Critical Habitat

Table 2. Comparison of the proposed Lower Stanislaus River Preserve to preserve-selection criteria.

Meets	Criteria	Explanation	How the preserve meets criteria
✔	meets purposes of the Endangered Species Act	provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species depend may be conserved. Ecosystem protection and restoration also meet CALFED Strategic Goal 1, objective 3 to enhance and conserve native biotic communities and Goal 2, objectives 1, 6 & 8 to rehabilitate natural processes.	the proposed preserve does not currently meet this criteria, however, if full-scale restoration is considered feasible then this site provides an excellent opportunity to meet the purposes of the Act
✔	meets riparian brush rabbit recovery needs as well as contribute to the needs of other at-risk species	preventing the further decline of listed species as well as limiting future listings are goals of the Act. Will help meet CALFED Strategic Goal, objective 2, by contributing to the recovery of riparian brush rabbit and woodrat and other at-risk species	the proposed preserve has been highlighted as an area needed for riparian brush rabbit recovery for many years. This will provide the second of three needed release sites for the captive-bred rabbits. Riparian woodrat already exist in this area and their habitat will be enhanced through this proposal. Other at-risk species which may benefit are listed in Table 1.
✔	within historic or current range	the rabbits historic range was thought to be riparian forests along portions of the San Joaquin River and tributaries from at least Stanislaus County <u>to</u> the Delta. Recent discoveries indicate that there is a population <u>in</u> the Delta.	the proposed preserve properties are directly across form the main population of riparian brush rabbits (and woodrats) at Caswell Memorial State Park
✔	within historic riparian community (based on Kuchler 1977)	the soil type is likely to support restoration actions.	the proposed preserve is within the Riparian Forest designation

Meets	Criteria	Explanation	How the preserve meets criteria
✔	site is not contiguous with other release sites	separate locations lower the probability that all populations experience the same stochastic natural or anthropomorphic event	the first release site is on the San Joaquin River, this proposed preserve is on the Stanislaus River, and although across from the existing Caswell population, the preserve design will afford greater protection from such events
✔	suitable riparian habitat exists or potential to restore to suitable riparian habitat is high	current conditions within the rabbits historic range are grim, no area with 500-1,000 acres of contiguous habitat exists. Will help meet CALFED Strategic Goal 4, objective 2, restoring large expanses of riparian habitat to support recovery actions and rehabilitate native processes	3 of the properties within the proposed preserve area (Gallo, Buffington, Wendt) have been surveyed and have patches of wild rose, wild grape, blackberry, valley elderberry, valley oak, currants, stinging nettles, poison hemlock, box elder, cottonwoods and willows. The same vegetation is anticipated on adjacent properties
✔	presence of potential predators is low or ease of which they can be controlled is high	releasing the riparian brush rabbit into unfamiliar habitat will put them a great risk of predation. Nest boxes, escape structures and temporary enclosures will minimize, but not eliminate, this risk	cursory surveys indicate the presence of black rats, skunks, and other potential predators within the proposed preserve. Additional surveys are planned. Some predator control is anticipated
✔	minimal impact on other at-risk species from restoration or release activities	to avoid or minimize the projects adverse environmental impacts the mitigation strategies described in Appendix A to the CALFED ROD will be incorporated, as appropriate	full implementation of this proposal is anticipated to assist in recovery of multiple at-risk species, however, there may be short-term direct or indirect negative impacts to at-risk species. Cursory surveys indicate presence of riparian woodrat. Additional surveys for other at-risk species will be conducted to determine appropriate minimization measures.

Meets	Criteria	Explanation	How the preserve meets criteria
✔	landowners willing to consider selling fee title, conservation easements, or safe-harbor agreements	Service policy is to acquire land or interests in land from willing sellers.	4 or 6 landowners have expressed interest, the remaining 2 are being contacted
✔	¼ acre vegetated refugia above 200 year flood level exists, or potential to construct is high	¼ vegetated acre is minimum requirement for the release of a captive-bred cohort (20 rabbits). Vegetated levees can provide this function. Flood refugia must protect above 100 years (we have received 4-100 year flood events in the last 10 years, severely affecting the riparian brush rabbit)	the Buffington property may have suitable refugia; or the existing levee could be raised and expanded by bringing in fill as was done for the San Joaquin River NWR refugia mound.
✔	the potential for wide riparian corridor with successional growth stages exists	Although initial actions will not need to meet this criteria, later full-scale ecosystem restoration will require that this criteria exist. Will help meet CALFED Strategic Goal 4,objective 2, to restore large expanses of riparian habitat and sufficient connections	historically this area appears to have had a wide riparian corridor. We are anticipating protecting enough land to restore successional riparian habitat, however, this will ultimately depend on the negotiations with the landowners
✔	within federal ownership	federal ownership provides management and protection benefits. Utilizing land already in federal ownership minimizes the impact the agricultural community (a CALFED Program Implementation Commitment)	30% of the proposed preserve currently in ACOE flowage easements, a portion of the proposed preserve in conservation easement with the Refuge (Gallo), additional acres within the approved Refuge boundary, however, this does not provide enough acreage for stated multiple objectives.
✔	potential for federal ownership is high	see “within federal ownership”	the proposed preserve is within or adjacent to the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, the Refuge has expressed interest and is pursuing expansion

Meets	Criteria	Explanation	How the preserve meets criteria
✔	contiguity with other floodplain land dedicated or available for restoring ecological processes	will help meet CALFED San Joaquin Region priorities 1, 2, and 6	the proposed preserve is within or adjacent to the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. Coordination with other agency and local programs is planned.
✔	compatible land use buffer exists or high potential to secure buffer exists	buffer from incompatible land uses such as suburban development is essential. Newborn rabbits are highly susceptible to attack from domestic or feral cats and dogs.	we plan on utilizing existing agricultural land use for a buffer from incompatible uses. Agricultural practices, such as rodent control may require modification.
✔	loss of agricultural land is minimal	will help meet CALFED Program Implementation Commitment and Strategic Goal 4, objective 4, maintaining open space buffers and managing lands in a wildlife friendly way	To meet project objectives and multiple CALFED Goals some loss of agricultural land is anticipated (<450 acres). Minimization measures will be incorporated.
✔	will improve understanding of at-risk species	will help meet CALFED San Joaquin Region Priority 4 and Multispecies Conservation Strategy Study Needs for At-Risk Species, which include gaining information on reintroduction techniques	research and monitoring are an integral part of this proposal. This will result in substantial improvement in knowledge about reintroduction of brush rabbits. This knowledge can then be used in establishing the other populations that are required, as well as managing the San Joaquin River NWR and the Caswell populations.

Phase 2 Re-submittal - Budget for 2003, 2004 and 2005

Task No.	Task Description-Land Protection	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel Cost	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead	2132080	TOTAL
A1	Protection Shortfall Phase 1/realty											2132080
2	Lease/Easement Negotiations/refuges (1 year)	520	81.25	42250					42250	14		48165
3	Property security/refuges (3 years)	390	81.25	31687.5				14000	45687.5	14	2132080	52083.75
		Subtotals	162.5	73937.5	0	0	0	14000	87937.5			2232328.8

Task No.	Task Description-Land Protection at Caswell	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel Cost	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
B1	Appraisals/cdpr-local			0			20000		20000	10		22000
2	Title, escrow, deed/cdpr			0			15000		15000	10		16500
3	Prop. Surveys/cdpr-local			0			40000		40000	10		44000
4	Contaminant Level 1/cdpr			0			10000		10000	10		11000
5	Negotiations, closing, CEQA, reviews/cdpr			0			40000		40000	10	1090000	44000
6	Acquisition/cdpr			0								1090000
7	Property security/cdpr (2 years)	80	35	2800				15500	18300	10	1090000	20130
		Subtotals	35	2800	0	0	125000	15500	143300			1247630

Task No.	Task Description-Data Collection	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel Cost	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
C1	Recon. veg. surveys/srp			0			10000		10000	4.5		10450
2	Hydrology study/srp			0			30000	100000	130000	4.5		135850
3	SJRNWR census & monitoring/esrp (3 years)			0			1017994.4		1017994	4.5		1063804.1
4	Caswell Census/esrp (3 years)			0			75033.2		75033.2	4.5		78409.694
5	LSRP surveys, habitat assessment/esrp (3 years)			0			29777		29777	4.5		31116.965
6	Coordination/refuges (1 year)	520	81.25	42250					42250	14	0	48165
		Subtotals	81.25	42250	0	0	29777	0	72027			1367795.8

Task No.	Task Description-Planning	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel Cost	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
D1	Draft Restoration & Mngmt/srp			0			30000		30000	4.5		31350
2	Draft R&MP consulation/esrp			0			15755		15755	4.5		16463.975
3	Draft R&MP review/refuges	80	81.25	6500					6500	14		7410
4	Draft R&MP review/sfwo	80	81.25	6500					6500	20		7800
5	Final R&MP/srp			0			15000		15000	4.5	0	15675
		Subtotals	162.5	13000	0	0	60755	0	73755			78698.975

Task No.	Task Description - Implementation at LSRP	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel Cost	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
E1	Refugia at Buff. & Gallo/srp (35,000 per mound)			0			245000		245000	4.5		256025
2	Plant Propagation (50 acres)/srp			0			40000		40000	4.5		41800
3	Planting/srp			0			35000		35000	4.5		36575
4	Maintenance (1 of 3 years)/srp			0			75000		75000	4.5		78375
5	Aleutian C. goose restoration (170 acres)/refuges			0			85000		85000	14		96900
6	Fish Screen/refuges-local			0			50000	75000	125000	4.5		130625
7	Pump Acq. & rehabilitation/refuges-local			0			40000		40000	4.5	0	41800
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	570000	75000	645000			682100

Task No.	Task Description - Implementation at Caswell	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel Cost	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
F1	Campground fencing/local-cdpr BOR funding			0			0	0	0			0
2	Non-native removal/local-cdpr BOR funding			0	0	0	0		0			0
3	Wildfire protection fire hydrant & generator/cdpr-local			0			25000	5500	30500	10		33550
4	Refugia at Caswell expansion/srp			0			140000		140000	10		154000
5	Plant Propagation (50 acres)/srp			0			40000		40000	10		44000
6	Planting/srp			0			35000		35000	10		38500
7	Maintenance (1 of 3 years)/srp			0			75000		75000	10		82500
8	Orchard Removal/srp			0			25000		25000	10		27500
9	T&E monitoring of impacts/esrp SFWO funding			0			0		0			0
10	Oversight, environmental compliance/cdpr	920	35	32200					32200	10	0	35420
		Subtotals	0	502500	0	0	340000	5500	345500			380050

Task No.	Task Description - Permanent Landowner	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel Cost	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
G1	Refuge expansion docs/refuge Completed in-kind	0									0	0
		Subtotals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0

Task No.	Task Description - Environmental Compliance	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel Cost	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
H1	Draft NEPA & CEQA/sfwo-refuges or local			0			40000		40000	4.5		41800
2	Scoping & outreach/sfwo-refuges	55	81.25	4468.75		6000			10468.75	20		12562.5
3	Final NEPA & CEQA/sfwo-refuges or local			0			15000		15000	4.5		15675
4	ESA Compliance/sfwo-refuges	320	81.25	26000					26000	20	0	31200
		Subtotals	162.5	30468.75	0	6000	55000	0	91468.75			101237.5

Task No.	Task Description - Project Management	Labor Hours	Salary/Benefits	Personnel Cost	Travel	Expendables	Services/Consultants	Equipment	Subtotal	Overhead		TOTAL
I1	Oversight/sfwo	320	81.25	26000					26000	20		31200
2	Oversight/refuges (3 years)	3120	81.25	253500				15000	268500	14	0	306090
		Subtotals	162.5	279500	0	0	0	15000	294500			337290

	Phase 2 TOTAL	6427131

Progress on Phase 1
Habitat Acquisition for Riparian Brush Rabbit and Riparian Woodrat
FY 01 CALFED Grant # ERP-01-N11
Re-submittal

Phase 1: We planned to acquire the parcel(s) within two years of funding allocation. Although contracting delays have set us back, some progress, with in-kind services or utilizing current contracts, can be reported. Our initial completion date for Phase 1 was December 2002. We will not meet that date.

Task A. Initial landowner contact has occurred and an appraisal is underway for Mrs. Buffington's property. Negotiations will begin immediately upon receipt of appraisal. Title reports have been obtained. It has been determined that relocation of the landowner will not be necessary.

Task B. Acquisition will likely be fee title as this is the landowners preference.

Task C. As we do not yet have the properties secured, no land management security tasks have been completed.

Task D. Two properties, Wend and Buffington, have been surveyed for riparian brush rabbits and riparian woodrats under an existing contract between the Endangered Species Recovery Program and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Task E. We have been providing CALFED with quarterly reports.

Phase 2: A few of the actions that had been proposed in Phase 2 have begun.

1) We have contacted other landowners in the area to determine their willingness to participate in this program. Initial contact with Mr. Wend, Mrs. Buffington and Mr. Gallo has been positive. Mr. Pelluca expressed interest at the public scoping meeting. And Mr. Brocchini is considering the proposal. Lake Bottom Farms has not yet been contacted.

2) We have completed the refuge expansion documents. This secures a permanent landowner, the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge.

3) We have begun the NEPA/CEQA process. Agency and public scoping has occurred, some documents are complete and if further NEPA/CEQA are required we have accumulated the material for completing the draft documents.

4) We have begun reintroduction at the 1st of 3 needed reintroduction sites. Monitoring is providing us with necessary information for appropriate restoration and reintroduction at the location to be funded with this CALFED grant.