
**IMPORTANT UPDATE –
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM
PROPOSAL DEADLINE EXTENDED TO
OCTOBER 5, 2001**

The deadline for submitting proposals in response to the 2002 CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program Proposal Solicitation Package has been extended until **3 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time on Friday, October 5, 2001**, due to disruptions caused by the attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

This extension may result in adjustments in interim steps in the grant review process, but we do not expect it to postpone final grant award decisions or contracts.



Ecosystem Restoration Program

2002 Proposal Solicitation Package

August 2001



Ecosystem Restoration Program 2002 Proposal Solicitation

Release Date: August 7, 2001

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program agencies through the California Resources Agency, the California Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service request proposals for ecosystem restoration programs and projects to improve the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The objective of the 2002 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) is to solicit and fund actions that implement the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP), Strategic Plan, Multi-Species Conservation Strategy, and Science Program consistent with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's August 28, 2000, Programmatic Record of Decision and to solicit actions that may be funded through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA).

Proposal Due Date: September 21, 2001

Complete proposals must be filed electronically on the Internet at http://www.calfed.water.ca.gov/ecosystem_rest.html by **3:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Savings Time**, September 21, 2001. Proposals received after this date and time will not be accepted.

Notice of Primary Pre-Submittal Workshop in Sacramento, California

August 21, 2001, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Resources Agency Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento

This workshop will include a session on proposal content and format and a demonstration of the web-based submittal process. Shortly after the workshop, CALFED staff will post written responses to common questions in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section on the ERP web site.

Where to Submit Questions for Primary Pre-submittal Workshop:

Questions for the workshop can be submitted in writing until August 17, 2001. Questions submitted by August 17, 2001, will be answered at the workshop. You will not receive a personal reply to your question. Submit questions to:

Via email: calfed@ucdavis.edu or
By fax: (916) 914-2043

New This Year (see Section 1.1)

- Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan and separate 2002 PSP
- Removal of Watershed Topic Area
- Sources of Funds
- Revised Review and Public Comment Processes
- Regional Approach
- Web-based Application



Ecosystem Restoration Program
2002 Proposal Solicitation
August 7, 2001

Notice of Regional Pre-Submittal Workshops in Merced, Fairfield, and Chico

Regional pre-submittal workshops will also be convened to provide additional opportunities to ask questions regarding the 2002 PSP and the new web-based proposal submittal system. All regional pre-submittal workshops will be held in the evening.

Merced: Monday, August 27, 2001
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
UC Cooperative Extension
2145 West Wardrobe Avenue
Merced, CA 95340

Fairfield: Wednesday, August 29, 2001
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Fairfield Community Center
1000 Kentucky Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

Chico: Thursday, August 30, 2001
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Chico Area Recreation and Park District
545 Vallombrosa Avenue
Chico, CA 95926

uuuuu **NEW** uuuuu

Electronic Filing of Proposals

Proposals to the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program 2002 Proposal Solicitation Process (PSP) must be submitted electronically through the web site provided for this service:

http://www.calfed.water.ca.gov/ecosystem_rest.html

Proposals will be accepted through this web site beginning August 22, 2001. Hard copies of proposals will not be accepted.

The web-based submittal process involves 5 steps:

1. **User Registration:** Prior to the submission of a proposal, the individual responsible for submitting the proposal must complete a simple online registration process. Users may register starting August 3, 2001, at the web site shown above.

As part of the registration process, users will choose a username and password enabling future database access (e.g., for proposal submittal). Registration will also facilitate communication between CALFED program staff and registered users. Registration does not obligate the registrant to submit a proposal, but applicants must be registered to submit their proposals.

5 Step Submittal Process

1. User Registration
2. Proposal Preparation
3. Proposal Submittal
4. Proposal Verification
5. Fax Signature Page

2. **Proposal Preparation:** Proposals may be prepared using the word processing software of choice, and must closely follow the instructions provided in Chapter 4 of this PSP. Proposals must be converted to either .PDF or Postscript format prior to submittal. NOTE: Proposal preparation is a separate process from proposal submittal, and must be completed prior to proposal submittal.
3. **Proposal Submittal:** After the proposal has been completed, the file containing the proposal document will be “uploaded” into the CALFED Program Proposal database by the registered user responsible for proposal submittal. Note that Postscript files are converted into .PDF files during the uploading procedure. This process involves: (1) accessing the submittal system online using their username and password; (2) completing the required forms online (Project Information Form, Executive Summary, Environmental Compliance Checklist, Land Use Checklist, Conflict of Interest Checklist, and Budget Forms); and (3) selecting the file containing the proposal document from the registered user’s local disk and uploading it directly into the online database. You must complete all required entries on forms for your proposal to be accepted into the proposal database.

Proposals may be submitted incrementally; you need not complete the process during a single session, and may therefore provide information over multiple sessions as needed.

4. **Proposal Verification:** Once the proposal document has been accepted into the CALFED Program Proposal database, the registered user will be asked to verify the proposal by viewing it directly from the database, and acknowledging that the document was submitted as intended by pressing the Final Submit button.
5. **Fax Signature Page:** The signed signature page must be faxed to (916) 914-2043 by the submittal deadline. This form is available from the website.

The CALFED Program will provide various types of assistance to registered users submitting their proposals: a Primary Pre-Submittal Workshop in Sacramento August 21, 2001, Regional Pre-Submittal Workshops August 28-30, 2001, Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (ERP web site), and Helplines (telephone and email). Details on these forms of help are provided below.

Please review the proposal submittal details and start the proposal submittal process early.

We recommend that you register early into the system and begin filling out the required forms. Registered users will be able to edit their proposals and information provided through on-line forms at any time up until final proposal submission (final proposal submission is accomplished by selecting the Final Submit button on the website).

Individuals willing to serve as peer reviewers for proposals submitted under this PSP are also urged to register on the Internet site at http://www.calfed.water.ca.gov/ecosystem_rest.html Potential reviewers may register beginning August 3, 2001.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on all topics (Responses to pre-submittal workshop questions will be included after the workshop):

Available online at http://www.calfed.water.ca.gov/ecosystem_rest.html, or request a copy from the helplines listed below.

Getting Help

For help with proposal preparation, content, review process or submittal, contact the UC Davis CALFED Proposal Review Office beginning August 22, 2001. Prior to August 22, please submit questions by August 17, 2001, for the Primary Pre-Submittal Workshop on August 21, 2001 (see above). The Review Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. PDT.

Email	calfed@ucdavis.edu
Phone	(866) 752-2434 (toll free), or
Fax	(916) 914-2043

Ecosystem Restoration Program 2002 Proposal Solicitation

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List of Acronyms

ACOE	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
AFRP	CVPIA Anadromous Fish Restoration Program
AFSP	CVPIA Anadromous Fish Screen Program
ASET	Agency/Stakeholder Ecosystem Team
BOR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CVPIA	Central Valley Project Improvement Act
DFG	California Department of Fish & Game
EIR/EIS	Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	Ecosystem Restoration Program
ERPP	Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan
ESA	Endangered Species Act (Federal)
FWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
ISB	Independent Science Board (Ecosystem Restoration Program)
MSCS	Multi Species Conservation Strategy
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFWF	National Fish & Wildlife Federation
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NRCS	National Resource Conservation Service
PSP	Proposal Solicitation Package
ROD	Programmatic Record of Decision for the CALFED Program
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR

This Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) is being released as part of *Year 2* implementation for the CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP). There are several new features to this PSP of which applicants should be aware. These new features are described in greater detail in this PSP:

What's New:

- Separation of Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan and PSP (Section 1.3)
- Removal of watershed topic area (Section 1.3)
- CALFED ERP, CVPIA, and CALFED Science Program coordination (Sections 1.4 & 1.5)
- Sources of funds: Prop 204, Prop 13, CVPIA (Section 1.5)
- Revised proposal review and selection process (Section 2.5)
- Revised public comment process and period (Section 2.5)
- Regional approach to implementation (Section 3.1)
- Web-based proposal submittal process (Section 4.1)

1.2 BACKGROUND ON THE CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM AND THE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED Program) is a cooperative effort of over 20 State and Federal agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities for the Bay-Delta. This cooperative effort has resulted in a long-term, comprehensive plan (Plan) to restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. The Plan has four objectives:

Ecosystem Quality. Improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species.

Water Supply. Reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta water supplies and current and projected beneficial uses dependent on the Bay-Delta system.

Water Quality. Provide good water quality for all beneficial uses.

Levee System Integrity. Reduce the risk to land use and associated economic activities, water supply, infrastructure, and the ecosystem from catastrophic failure of Delta levees.

The CALFED Program released a Revised Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) in June 1999, which analyzed the environmental impacts of the Plan and several alternatives. Following a lengthy public comment period, the CALFED Program released a Final Programmatic EIS/EIR in July 2000. In August 2000, a Programmatic Record of Decision (ROD) was issued for the CALFED Program, reflecting the final selection of the Plan for the Bay-Delta.

The CALFED agencies are now commencing Stage 1 of implementation for the Plan. Stage 1 covers the first seven years of a 30-year effort and builds the foundation for long-term actions. This 2002 Proposal Solicitation Package is being released as part of Stage 1 implementation for the ERP.

The ERP goal is to improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and to improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species. The ERP is a long-term ecosystem restoration program that will be implemented in phases over several decades, and incorporates the use of adaptive management. Adaptive management acknowledges that there is a need to constantly monitor the system and adapt the actions that are taken to restore ecological health and improve water management. These adaptations will be necessary as conditions change and as more is learned about the system and how it responds to these actions. A Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration has also been developed to guide implementation of the ERP.

Applicants desiring additional information on the ERP, the Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration or the ROD can contact the CALFED Program at (800) 900-3587 or (916) 657-2666, or by visiting the CALFED web site at: <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

CALFED Program Implementation Commitments

The CALFED agencies are making numerous commitments to carry out the CALFED Program:

Local Leadership: The Ecosystem Restoration Program is developing a process that will involve local governments and stakeholders in the reviewing and developing annual restoration priorities.

Stakeholder Consultation: The Ecosystem Restoration Program will work with stakeholders through a subcommittee of the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee to acquire stakeholder input into the process for developing and refining the Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan (see also Section 2.5, Public Comment Period). This process will be similar to the role previously filled by the Ecosystem Roundtable during early implementation.

Environmental Justice: The CALFED agencies are committed to seeking fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes, so no segment of the population bears a disproportionately high or adverse health, environmental, social, or economic impact resulting from CALFED programs, policies, or actions. The CALFED agencies will be developing environmental justice goals and objectives for each program area in the Plan.

Projects selected through this PSP will be consistent with this overall commitment and with environmental justice goals and objectives as they develop.

Tribal Consultation: The CALFED Program is continuing to engage Federally-recognized tribal governments in planning and developing projects within their respective tribal jurisdictions.

Land Acquisition: For those proposals involving land acquisition, the ERP will consider: whether public lands are available to achieve the intended purpose; whether acquisition of easements, rather than fee title, would accomplish the intended purpose; and whether the proposed acquisition will create third-party and redirected impacts. Acquisition will be from willing sellers only (see also Section 2.5, Supplemental Land Acquisition Selection Criteria).

Environmental Documentation: All projects that receive funding through this PSP will be evaluated to ensure that the agencies meet their environmental commitments. For those projects subject to NEPA and/or CEQA, environmental documents must tier from the CALFED or CVPIA Programmatic EIS/EIR, depending on the source of funding. Projects funded by CALFED must incorporate applicable mitigation strategies described in Appendix A to the ROD to avoid or minimize the project's adverse environmental impacts. Applicants are encouraged to review the CALFED Programmatic EIS/EIR and Appendix A to the ROD and incorporate mitigation strategies in developing their projects and environmental documents. (Applicants desiring additional information about the ROD can contact the CALFED Program at (800) 900-3587 or (916) 657-2666, or by visiting the CALFED web site at: <http://calfed.ca.gov>.) CALFED Program staff will assist grant recipients and project lead agencies in identifying the necessary environmental review requirements for their projects and necessary mitigation strategies.

Permit Clearinghouse: All projects funded under this PSP will be required to obtain any necessary permits. This will include endangered species incidental take authorizations by tiering from CALFED's programmatic Multi-Species Conservation Strategy (MSCS). If permits are required under Section 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act, they should tier from the programmatic MOUs and Consistency Determination. The CALFED Program staff will assist grant recipients in preparing their permit applications and tiering their endangered species documentation from the MSCS. *Applicants are encouraged to incorporate MSCS conservation measures in developing their proposals and their environmental documents.* A list of MSCS Milestones can be found as Attachment 2 of the Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan. Recipients of grant funds for the ERP will also have access to the CALFED Program's newly established Permit Clearinghouse to assist them in obtaining the necessary permits and approvals to implement approved projects.

1.3 DRAFT STAGE 1 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE ERP

This year the ERP developed a Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan that is a separate document from this PSP. The Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan describes in detail the goals and objectives for ERP implementation during the first seven years of the program. The goals and

objectives are presented within a regional context to clarify the geographic relationships between previously funded and restoration actions and ERP and CVPIA priorities for Stage 1 of the CALFED Program.

Not all of the activities included within the Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan are part of this PSP. Chapter 3 of this PSP describes the areas that the CALFED Program agencies through the Resources Agency, Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will consider for funding proposals. ***Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan prior to developing a proposal for this PSP.*** The Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan is available by calling the CALFED Program office at (916) 657-2666, or at (800) 900-3587 or at the CALFED web site at: <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

Applicants should be aware that the ERP Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan does not incorporate certain watershed actions. The CALFED Program has established a separate Watershed Program to fund capacity-building to assess and effectively manage watersheds that affect the Bay-Delta system; to develop or refine watershed assessments and plans; and to design, develop, and implement specific watershed conservation, maintenance and restoration actions. Information on the Watershed Program is available at the CALFED web site at: <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

1.4 SINGLE BLUEPRINT FOR RESTORATION AND RECOVERY

The CALFED agencies have committed to improving coordination among fish and wildlife restoration programs in the Central Valley. To that end, the ERP Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan incorporates actions to implement the ERP and actions to implement the CVPIA's Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP), Habitat Restoration Program (including components of the Central Valley Project Conservation Program), San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program, Gravel Replenishment and Riparian Habitat Restoration Program, and Anadromous Fish Screen Program (AFSP). CVPIA project proponents are encouraged to submit their proposals to this solicitation. Participating CVPIA programs will consider funding program-appropriate projects solicited through this PSP. For areas of overlap where funding from only CVPIA is being sought, CVPIA program managers may submit project descriptions for concurrent scientific and technical review along with projects solicited through this PSP. The purpose of submitting potential future CALFED Program and appropriate CVPIA projects to concurrent scientific and technical review is to ensure that the best and highest priority projects are implemented and to ensure the most efficient use of funds. For additional information on the CVPIA, visit their web site at <http://www.mp.usbr.gov/cvpia>, and for more information regarding the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program visit the AFRP web site at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/afrp>.

1.5 FUNDING SOURCES FOR THIS PSP

Regarding annual ERP funding, general guidance is found in the ROD which states, “To be successfully implemented, the ERP must have at least \$150 million from dedicated funding sources annually through Stage 1.” The distribution of funds will depend on fund availability, quality of submitted proposals, and potential cost for actions funded outside of this PSP. Funding sources for this PSP could include State and/or Federal funds. Some portion of funding is expected from the Clean, Safe, Reliable Water Supply Act of 1996, also known as Proposition 204; the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act of 2000, also known as Proposition 13; and other State sources. Federal funds may also be available for projects that implement the ERP, depending on whether Congress approves new funding legislation for the CALFED Program in fiscal year 2002. CALFED Science Program funds, either State or Federal, will be used to fund Science Program priorities. Some portion of funding for CVPIA actions is expected from either the CVPIA Restoration Fund or from Federal Water and Related Resources funds.

Projects from this PSP may be funded by:

- CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program
- CALFED Science Program
- Central Valley Project Improvement Act

CHAPTER 2 - 2002 PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PROCESS

2.1 2002 PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

The CALFED Program agencies through the California Resources Agency, the California Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service request proposals for ecosystem restoration programs and projects to improve the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The objectives of this PSP are (1) to solicit and fund actions that implement the ERP, the Strategic Plan, MSCS, and the Science Program and (2) to solicit actions that may be funded through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). Funding provided for this PSP will be directed toward programs and projects that reduce conflicts in the Bay-Delta Ecosystem and focus on the priorities identified in the Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan (refer to Section 3 of this document).

Applicants should submit formal proposals following the instructions and format contained in this announcement. ***Proposals must be filed via the Internet at http://www.calfed.water.ca.gov/ecosystem_rest.html by 3:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Savings Time, September 21, 2001.*** Proposals received after that date and time will not be accepted. Hard copies of proposals will not be accepted. Proposals received by the deadline will be evaluated using the criteria and process described in this PSP, leading to multiple awards in early 2002 depending upon available State and Federal funding.

2.2 WHO MAY APPLY

Any private or public party with an interest in ecosystem restoration may apply. This includes, but is not limited to (1) landowners (2) local agencies (3) private non-profit organizations, (4) private for-profit entities, (5) tribes, (6) universities (7) joint ventures, (8) State agencies, and (9) Federal agencies. Applicants must indicate the category on the Project Information Form (Attachment A).

Limitations on Funding. Projects can be multi-year efforts if necessary and appropriate, but proposal timelines and budgets must not exceed three years. In addition, since funding may be awarded for only a portion of each submitted project, the applicant should clearly show which tasks could be funded separately. When the CALFED Program or CVPIA funds portions of a project, there is no guarantee that the CALFED Program, CVPIA or any other funding source will fund the remaining portions or future phases of that project. Future funding by the CALFED Program or CVPIA will depend on the progress of the project, the nature and extent of competing proposals, ecological priorities, and the funding availability.

Proposals cannot use funds to replace existing funding sources for on-going programs, for political advocacy, or for an applicant's litigation costs. Public agencies and local governments may not use funds to support existing agency requirements or mandates. Proposals that include projects or programs that are regulatory conditions or mitigation requirements for a prior project will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

2.3 GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Generally projects for 2002 CALFED Program and CVPIA funding should be within one or more of the 14 CALFED ERP Ecological Management Zones (“Ecozones”) and must be within the CALFED ERP geographic scope outlined on the maps in Attachment B. Please note that this geographic scope is slightly modified from the scope identified in prior PSPs. The scope encompasses all of the CALFED Bay, Sacramento, and Delta and Eastside Tributaries Regions, and a portion of the San Joaquin Region. All applicants must demonstrate a direct benefit to the CALFED Program and CVPIA priority species and habitats. Proposals for projects outside of the geographic scope identified in this PSP or which do not demonstrate a direct benefit to the CALFED Program and CVPIA priority species and habitats will not be considered for funding.

One exception to the geographic scope will be made to accommodate priority species and habitats for the CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program. The Habitat Restoration Program places priority on San Joaquin kit fox and other species dependent on the grassland, alkali sink, and alkali scrub habitat complex in the Tulare Basin, an area just south of the CALFED ERP geographic scope. Projects that benefit these species and habitats in the Tulare Basin will be considered for funding through the CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program, and applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for these types of projects in response to this PSP.

2.4 CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All applicants and reviewers are subject to State and Federal conflict of interest laws. Failure to comply with these laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, will result in the proposal being rejected and/or any subsequent contract being declared void. Other legal action may also be taken. Before submitting a proposal applicants are urged to seek legal counsel regarding potential conflict of interest concerns that they may have and requirements for disclosure. Applicable California statutes include, but are not limited to, Government Code section 1090 and Public Contract Code sections 10365.5, 10410 and 10411.

Applicants should be aware that all proposals will become public information once the solicitation has closed and CALFED Program staff have determined that they have abided by the mandatory submittal requirements (see Section 2.5). After the proposal due date has past, all complete applications will be available for viewing on the CALFED ERP web site, http://www.calfed.water.ca.gov/ecosystem_rest.html. By submitting a proposal, the applicant agrees to waive any right to confidentiality of the proposal. After the Selection Panel’s initial recommendation is made public, reviews from all levels of the review process will be public information. Proposals may be reviewed and discussed by members of the public under public disclosure requirements. When an applicant signs a proposal and submits it for consideration, the applicant waives any rights to privacy and the confidentiality of the proposal.

Applicants should also be aware that certain State and Federal agencies may submit proposals that will compete for funding. Employees of State and Federal agencies may participate in the review process as scientific/technical reviewers, or geographic reviewers. All individuals who participate in the review process, however, are subject to conflict of interest laws and rules as set forth in Attachment C.

2.5 PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The proposal review process will identify potential ecosystem restoration projects that meet the priorities listed in the Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan. Figure 1 is a flow chart of the proposal review process.

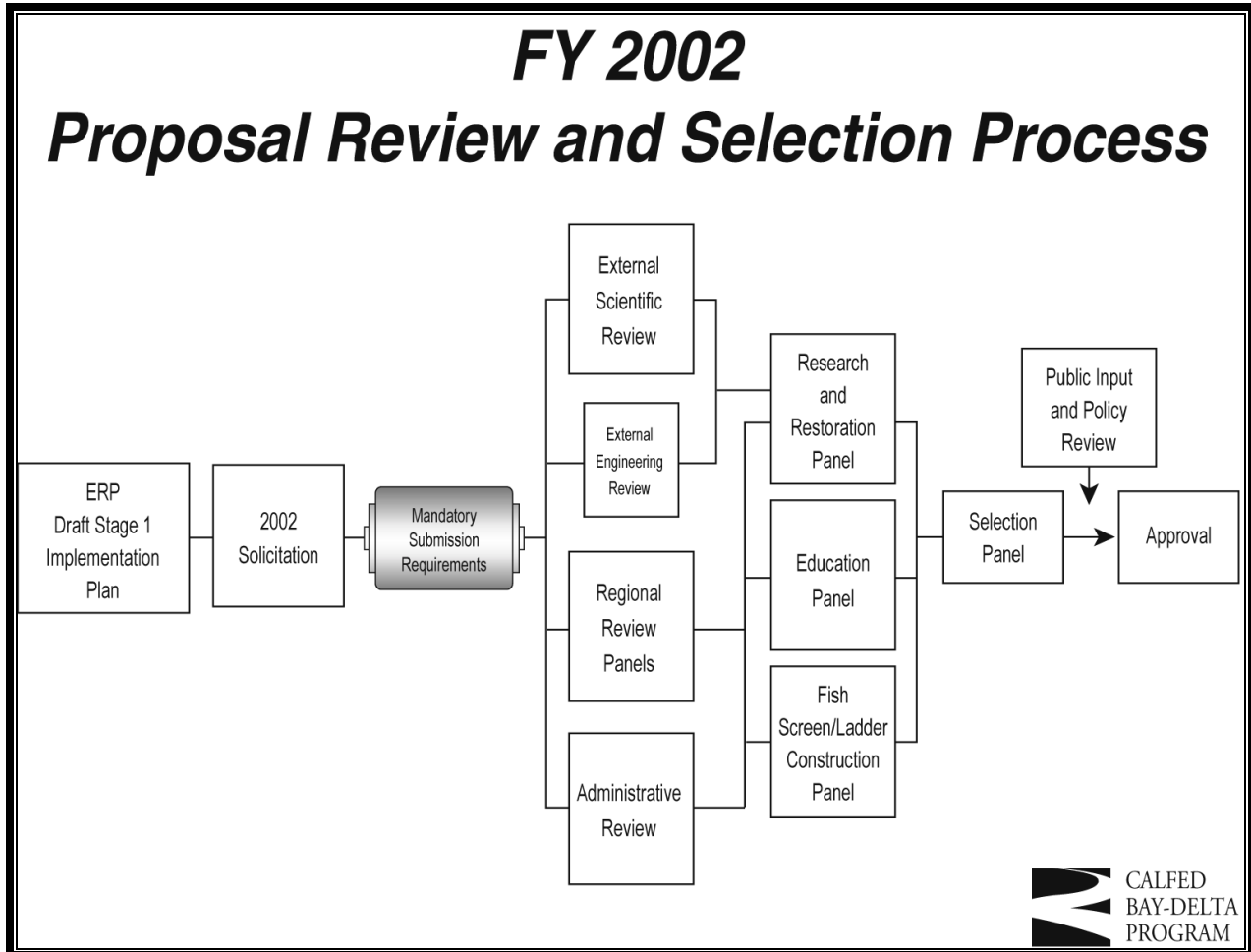


Figure 1. Proposal Review and Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed using a multi-step technical evaluation. The CALFED Program will be relying on many scientific and technical experts to assist in the review of ecosystem restoration proposals. Individual scientific and technical experts assisting with the scientific and technical review and regional review of proposals will represent diverse scientific and technical fields including academic, government, and private interests.

In August 2000 the ROD established the CALFED Science Program, which is responsible for integrating science into all of the CALFED program elements, including the ERP. The Science Program Lead Scientist and Program Manager have worked closely with ERP staff in developing the Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan and PSP, and will recommend reviewers and panelists for all levels of review. The Lead Scientist will serve as non-voting director of the Selection Panel.

Review Process. The following is a discussion of the proposal review process (see Figure 1) and the criteria that will be evaluated at each step of the process.

General Review Process. All complete proposals will undergo Regional Review, Administrative Review and Technical Review (and for research and restoration projects, additional external scientific and engineering review) prior to consideration by the Selection Panel. After receipt, proposals will be sorted into three major groupings, each with a corresponding Technical Review Panel. The *Research and Restoration Panel* will review all research, pilot-scale restoration, and full-scale restoration proposals that may be submitted under a variety of topic areas. Proposals in this group will undergo external scientific and possibly engineering review prior to consideration by the Technical Review Panel. The *Education Panel* will review all environmental education proposals, and the *Fish Screen and Ladder Construction Panel* will review all fish screen and fish ladder construction proposals. (The Research and Restoration Panel will review fish passage proposals that do not involve construction, for example, fish screen research proposals or fish passage barrier removal proposals.) Education and fish screen or ladder construction proposals will be reviewed only by the appropriate Technical Review Panel and will not be subjected to external scientific or engineering review.

Regional Review Panels. There will be four Regional Review Panels based on the four regions outlined in the Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan: Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Delta and Eastside Tributaries, and Bay (which includes Suisun Marsh and San Pablo Bay). Proposals will be separated into the four regions based on the Ecological Management Zones (“Ecozones”) covered by each proposal (see Attachment B). All appropriate Regional Review Panels will review proposals for projects that fall into more than one region. All four panels will review multi-region proposals, which are proposals whose scope is independent of a specific site or sites. Regional Review Panels, consisting of four to seven regional experts, will restrict their evaluation to the following regional criteria:

- Linkages with other restoration activities in that region such as ongoing implementation projects and regional planning efforts;
- Feasibility based on local circumstances (e.g., are there local constraints on the project’s ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner?);
- Applicability to ERP goals, Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan, CVPIA priorities and/or gaps identified in this solicitation within the region; and
- Local involvement.

Comments on technical quality are appropriate but are a secondary output of this review.

Administrative Review. CALFED ERP and CVPIA staff will provide summary evaluation information for each proposal on the following elements:

- Past performance on CALFED Program or CVPIA funded projects (whether request is for next-phase funding or a separate project);

- Next-phase funding (need for continued work is shown and proof of progress is shown in earlier phases);
- Environmental compliance (highlighting potential environmental compliance or access issues);
- Budget evaluation (clarity and consistency); and
- Land acquisition summary (see Section 2.5, Supplemental Land Acquisition Selection Criteria).

External Scientific and Engineering Review. Proposals to be reviewed by the Research and Restoration Panel will first undergo external scientific and possibly engineering review. The Research and Restoration Panel will meet soon after the proposals are received to select appropriate external reviewers for each proposal. All proposals will be sent to three external scientific reviewers, and may be sent to at least two external engineering reviewers if the panel deems it appropriate for specific proposals that include significant engineering components. External independent reviewers will be selected based on their expertise in the subject areas of the proposal.

The *External Scientific Reviewers* will be asked to review proposals based on the following criteria:

- Clearly stated goals, objectives, and hypotheses, and relevance of idea;
- Justification for project, including conceptual model and selection of project type (research, pilot, or full-scale);
- Approach, including study design, information richness, and value of information to decision-makers;
- Technical feasibility and likelihood of success;
- Appropriate performance measures
- Value of products, including accessibility and usefulness to decision-makers and other scientists;
- Capabilities (project team qualifications and track record, adequacy of infrastructure meaning ability of project team to complete the project); and
- Cost/benefit comments (Is the budget reasonable and adequate for the work proposed?).

The *External Engineering Reviewers* will be asked to focus on and evaluate the engineering aspects of the proposal:

- Clearly stated goals and objectives for engineering component of project;
- Justification for proposed engineering solution to problem;
- Engineering approach;
- Engineering feasibility and likelihood of success;
- Post-construction evaluation;
- Capabilities (qualifications and infrastructure); and
- Cost/benefit comments on engineering approach (Is the engineering budget reasonable and adequate for the work proposed?).

Technical Review Panels. The role of the Technical Review Panels is to evaluate and provide unambiguous ratings of each proposal's technical quality to the Selection Panel. The Technical Review Panels will consider all previous criteria and reviews in their overall technical evaluation of the proposals. The evaluation criteria and proposal content requirements specific to each proposal grouping vary somewhat based on the attributes of the different proposal types. The desired end result of these discussions is a panel rating of the technical quality of the proposals, along with clear evaluation statements for each technical review criterion.

Research and Restoration Panel. The majority of proposals likely will fall into this category, which includes all proposals other than environmental education and fish screen and ladder construction. The panel will consist of experienced scientists whose expertise spans the range of topics covered by submitted proposals. The panel will meet first to assign external reviewers, and later to evaluate proposals in light of the external reviews. The panel will evaluate research and restoration proposals on the stated external scientific and engineering criteria, while taking the regional and administrative review criteria and reviews into consideration.

Education Panel. This panel will consist of environmental education experts who will review education proposals on the following criteria while considering the regional and administrative criteria and reviews:

- Clearly stated educational goals, objectives and expected outcomes;
- Justification (including conceptual model, likelihood of success and sustainability);
- Approach (including appropriate curriculum for target audience);
- Linkages and compatibility to existing school, community and stewardship programs (fits into existing curricula, demonstrated learning value);
- Replicability and dissemination of the program or project (how materials produced and project results can be shared and utilized by others);
- Pre- and post-project evaluation components;
- Capabilities (qualifications and infrastructure); and
- Cost/benefit comments (Is the budget reasonable and adequate for the work proposed?).

Fish Screen and Ladder Construction Technical Panel. As part of the continuing coordination between the CALFED Program and CVPIA, the Fish Screen and Ladder Construction Panel will consist primarily of the seven-member CVPIA Anadromous Fish Screen Program Technical Team (AFSP Tech Team) with the addition of one or two non-agency experts in fish screen and ladder construction.

The Fish Screen and Ladder Construction Panel will follow the model currently used by the AFSP Tech Team in making funding decisions for AFSP projects. In addition to evaluating proposals, the AFSP Tech Team provides engineering review and guidance for funded projects for all phases from preliminary design through completion of construction and post-construction engineering evaluation.

While considering the regional and administrative criteria and reviews, the Fish Screen and Ladder Construction Panel will evaluate proposals on the following criteria:

- Diversions taking a greater proportion of flow;
- Location in terms of potential impact on fishery ;
- Implementability (minimal legal, regulatory or technical obstacles);
- Partnerships/Opportunities; and
- Cost/benefit comments (Is the budget reasonable and adequate for the work proposed?).

Selection Panel and Selection Process. The Selection Panel will make recommendations for funding based on the evaluations conducted at all previous levels. The Selection Panel will be comprised of technical and resource-management experts covering a broad range of expertise. ERP staff in conjunction with the Lead Scientist will determine panel membership and consider nominations from the ERP Independent Science Board and the Agency/Stakeholder Ecosystem Team (ASET). Panel membership should be balanced among practicing scientists/engineers and science managers or advisors with expertise in agency and stakeholder concerns. The Lead Scientist, or designate, will serve as a non-voting director for the panel with primary responsibility for assuring that the discussion is balanced, fair and comprehensive. As a body the Selection Panel should be recognized and experienced, well-connected with others in their respective fields, represent different specialties within these fields, and have familiarity with the issues and ongoing activities in one or more of the regions of the Bay-Delta-watershed system.

The Selection Panel will provide a check on earlier reviews, but their primary purpose is to make strategic funding recommendations from among the high quality proposals based on the following criteria (in order of priority):

- Strategic benefit toward accomplishing CALFED Program and CVPIA goals
- Implementation Plan priority
- Next-phase funding
- Ecological benefit
- Information value
- Public support and Implementability

All previous review criteria are embedded within the criteria listed above. The first bullet represents the overall evaluation criterion. The second two are listed to emphasize that proposals meeting them will have a higher priority for funding. The last three bullets are the selection criteria outlined in the Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration. There is overlap among these criteria but they are presented here so that all will be considered and addressed by the Selection Panel.

Land Acquisition Selection Criteria. Proposals that include land acquisition to meet an ERP objective will be subject to additional review criteria. These criteria reflect the commitment made by CALFED agencies in the ROD to minimize the impact of ERP implementation on agricultural land. These criteria are intended to reflect the 2002 priorities for restoration on

publicly owned lands and land already acquired with CALFED Program funds in prior years, over acquisition of new private property. Summary information for these criteria will be compiled by CALFED Program and CVPIA staff and provided to the Selection Panel:

- Willing seller;
- Consistent with county/city general plan or evidence of local government support;
- Prioritize land not mapped as Prime, of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland, or where use remains agriculture;
- Ecological criteria: biological richness, connectivity, historic biological importance, unique habitat opportunity in relation to meeting CALFED or CVPIA goals and;
- Time-sensitive acquisition opportunity.

Public Comment Period. Preliminary recommendations for CALFED Program and CVPIA funding will be initially presented to the public at a publicly-noticed workshop (Figure 2 and Table 1) followed by a public comment period. CALFED Program staff will directly notify applicants, local governments and tribes of the initial recommendation and guidelines for providing comments. Only written comments will be accepted. Applicants will be asked to provide clarification comments only (no new information) and local governments and tribes will be asked to comment on local feasibility concerns.

The Selection Panel will meet again after the public comment period to consider written comments on technical aspects and local feasibility. The Selection Panel may revise its preliminary recommendation based on comments received. The Panel's final recommendation will be presented at a second publicly noticed workshop and then move forward to subsequent levels of policy review.

The CALFED member agencies, acting through the CALFED Policy Group, will make final CALFED funding recommendations to the Secretary for Resources, Director of the Department of Water Resources and the Secretary of the Interior. For the CVPIA programs considered in this process, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service members of the CALFED Policy Group will consider the recommendations of the Policy Group. They will coordinate their decisions to finalize the CVPIA Annual Work Plans with the other members of the Policy Group, consistent with the definitions and processes described in the Implementation Memorandum of Understanding included as Attachment 3 to the CALFED ROD.

Decisions are final when approved by the appropriate individual. Upon final decision, projects selected for funding will be posted on the CALFED website at calfed.ca.gov and outside Room 630 of the Resources Building, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA. Protests must be filed with the Ecosystem Restoration Program Manager, Room 1151 of the Resources Building, within 5 working days of the posting.

ERP Timeline for 2002 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP)

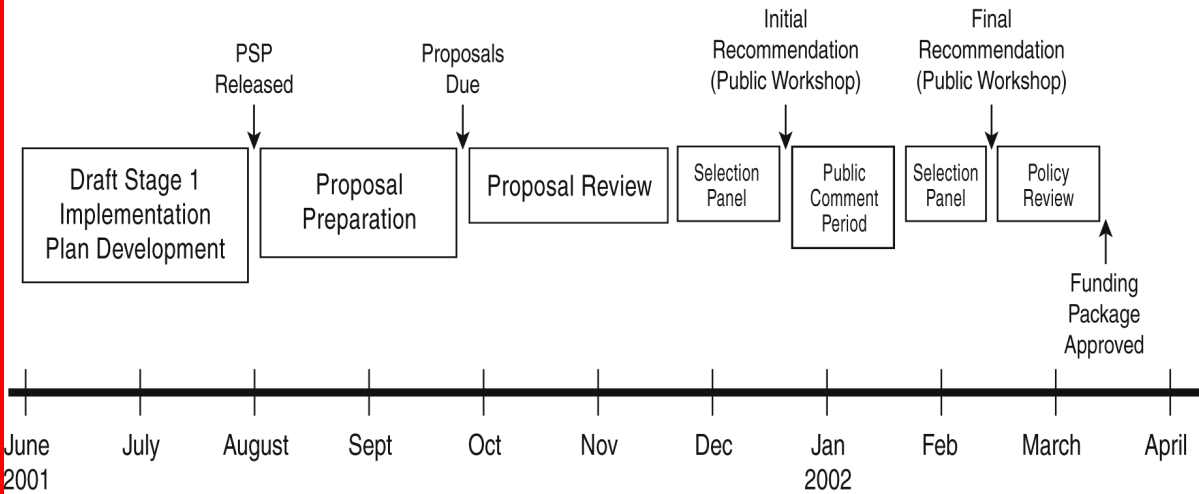


Figure 2. Proposal Review and Selection Timeline

**Table 1. 2002 Ecosystem Restoration Program PSP
Key Dates***

August 6, 2001	PSP Available to the Public - will be posted on web at (http://www.calfed.water.ca.gov/ecosystem_rest.html).
August 6, 2001	Applicant web site registration open.
August 17, 2001	Last day to submit questions for the Pre-Submittal Workshop.
August 21, 2001	Public Pre-Submittal Workshop, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Resources Agency Auditorium, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento.
August 22, 2001*	Web site available to accept proposals.
August 28-30, 2001	Regional Pre-Submittal Workshops (Merced, Fairfield, Chico).
September 21, 2001	Proposal submittal deadline at 3:00 p.m. PDT.
Mid-December, 2001	Proposal review complete, Selection Panel presents initial recommendations in Public Workshop, Public Comment Period begins.
Mid-January, 2002	Public Comment Period ends, written comments due.
February 2002	Selection Panel considers written comments and provides Final Recommendation to Policy Group in Public Workshop.
February/March 2002	CALFED Policy Group makes Final Recommendations to funding entities.
March 2002	Secretary for Resources and/or Secretary of the Interior approve CALFED Program funding package. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalize CVPIA Annual Work Plans.

* = Subject to change, please contact the CALFED Bay-Delta Program office at (916) 657-2666 to confirm exact dates.