

**CONTRA COSTA
WATER DISTRICT**

1331 Concord Avenue
P.O. Box H20
Concord, CA 94524
(925) 688-8000 FAX (925) 688-8122

June 13, 2006

Directors

Joseph L. Campbell
President

Elizabeth R. Anello
Vice President

Bette Boatman
John A. Burgh
Karl L. Wandry

Walter J. Bishop
General Manager

Ladd Lougee
Research Coordinator
California Bay-Delta Authority
CALFED Science Program
650 Capital Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: CCWD comments on the Science Program 2006 Focused Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) Update

Dear Mr. Lougee:

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the CALFED Science Program Focused PSP for 2006. CCWD agrees with the general direction and the topic areas chosen by the Selection Panel. However, we have identified several points that we request be included the final Request for Proposals (RFP):

- The final RFP should allow for submission of 'cross-cutting' projects - these are projects that address two or more of four the key topics. Although the PSP says that proposals must address 'at least one of the following topics', it also states that the research be 'within the selected topic'. This language may be read as restricting the research to exactly one topic. For example, synthesis of existing information, specified in topic 3, should include synthesis across multiple topic areas. This change then implies that some on the available money be earmarked for such 'cross-cutting' research, unless no suitable proposals are submitted.
- The final RFP should include under 'Questions To Be Addressed' for Topic 3 or 4 a specific question or additional language identifying increased upstream diversions as an important future option that is currently being discussed. For example, significant adverse changes to the Delta ecosystem might occur in the Delta if an isolated facility (a peripheral canal) were built around the Delta.
- The potential adverse effects on the ecosystem of the installation and operation of south Delta and Head of Old River barriers is poorly understood, especially in light of the pelagic organism decline (POD). Other flow barriers in the Delta can also adversely or beneficially impact resident and anadromous species. The words 'barrier' or 'permanent barrier' are not mentioned in the PSP. The RFP should also request research focusing on the impacts of facilities that block or otherwise alter flows.

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CCWD hopes that the final RFP will be widely distributed, and that proposals from academic institutions, in particular those not currently involved in the POD effort, be sought and encouraged to assure a diverse range of ideas are applied to the POD and other ecosystem issues. If you have any questions, please call me at (925) 688-8344.

Sincerely,



Marianne Guerin, Ph.D.,
Associate Water Resources Specialist

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670



phone: (916) 464-3291

fax: (916) 464-4780

FAX TRANSMITTAL PAGE

Date: 6/13/06

To: Ladd Lougee

From: Betty Yee

Sender's Phone: 916-464-4643

Sender's E-mail: byee@waterboards.ca.gov

Number of pages
(including cover): 2

Subject: Recommended Topics for 2006 PSP



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Robert Schneider, Chair



**Arnold
Schwarzenegger**
Governor

Sacramento Main Office

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114
Phone (916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

Ladd Lougee, Research Coordinator
California Bay-Delta Authority
CALFED Science Program
650 Capitol Mall, 5th floor
Sacramento CA 95814

13 June 2006

RECOMMENDED TOPICS, SCIENCE PROGRAM 2006 PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PACKAGE (PSP)

A selection panel convened by the Science Program identified four priority topics as the focus of the upcoming Focused PSP, with roughly \$1-2 million allocated per topic. All proposals must address at least one of the following recommended topics:

- Environmental Water
- Aquatic Invasive (Exotic) Species
- Trends and Patterns of Populations and System Response to a Changing Environment
- Habitat Availability and Response to Change

The selection panel also developed key components and questions to be answered for each topic. We recommend that you consider including the following elements in the key components and questions:

- The aquatic invasive species topic should include the effect of previous management efforts in terms of success in controlling these species and possible unintended impacts to the sensitive Delta environment.
- The habitat availability topic should recognize the entire ecosystem that uses the habitat and the quality of the habitat should reflect its suitability for all species and not just the key species. Recent studies indicate that there are detrimental impacts, such as mercury bioaccumulation, of wetlands on wildlife species. These detrimental impacts should be included in evaluations that determine the quality of habitat. This topic should also allow for evaluating whether previous habitat restoration efforts have been successful in achieving Calfed goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the topics for the proposal solicitation package. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact me at 916-464-4643 or byee@waterboards.ca.gov.

BETTY YEE
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer



Natural
Heritage
Institute

100 PINE ST., SUITE 1550
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111
TEL: (415) 693-3000/ FAX: (415) 693-3178
WEBSITE: www.n-h-i.org
EMAIL: nhi@n-h-i.org

Non-Profit Law and Science for Global Resource Solutions

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Ladd Lougee FROM: Greg Thomas
COMPANY: California Bay-Delta Authority DATE: 6/13/06
FAX NUMBER: 877-408-9310 TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3
PHONE NUMBER: RE: Science Program 2006 PSP
CC: OTHER:

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:



Natural Heritage Institute

100 PINE STREET, SUITE 1550
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111
TEL: (415) 693-3000 / FAX: (415) 693-3178
www.n-h-i.org
EMAIL: nhi@n-h-i.org

Non-Profit Law and Science for Global Resource Solutions

June 13, 2006

Ladd Lougee
Research Coordinator
California Bay-Delta Authority
CALFED Science Program
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Lougee

The Natural Heritage Institute (NHI) wishes to submit the following comments on the recommended topics for the CALFED Science Program 2006 Focused Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP). NHI is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of aquatic ecosystems and the services they provide for human communities. Since its founding in 1989, NHI has been involved in on-the-ground restoration efforts in California Bay-Delta and the resolution of public policy issues regarding California water resources. One example is our work with the Bureau of Reclamation under Cooperative Agreement 99FC200189: "Feasibility Study for Developing a System-wide Conjunctive Water Management Program for the Central Valley of California." We have been the recipient of CALFED grants and our president, Gregory Thomas, actively participates in Steering Committee meetings for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

We would like to propose that the recommended topic **Environmental Water** be expanded to include work on water management tools and techniques to generate environmental flows without reallocating water from existing users. This comment supplements the questions: *What alternative or additional ways to manage water would provide fish protection benefits? How would the benefits of those actions compare to current benefits of environmental water use?* These were proposed in the recommendation of topics document that was posted on the Internet. It is our assessment that one of the best alternative ways to manage water is through reservoir re-operation and groundwater banking.

This position is supported by various CALFED documents, including the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Plan that states:

"There is underutilized potential to modify reservoir operations rules to create more dynamic, natural high-flow regimes in regulated rivers without seriously impinging on the water storage purposes for which the reservoir was constructed. Water releases operating rules could be changed to ensure greater variability of flow,

provide adequate spring flows for riparian vegetation establishment, simulate effects of natural floods in scouring riverbeds and creating point bars, and increase the frequency and duration of overflow onto adjacent floodplains” (page 42).”

The central question in this CALFED position is how the re-operation of reservoirs to recover some of the important ecosystem services associated with high flow events can be accomplished without “impinging on the water supply purposes for which the reservoir(s) was (were) constructed.” NHI’s proposal herein is aimed at responding directly to this question and at the same time addressing some of the research questions that have been put forth in the 2006 Science Program PSP. The proposal is that the following research question be added to the document.

What is the yield enhancement potential of alternative reservoir operations strategies, including strategies that include a groundwater management component? What is the ecosystem restoration potential associated with the increase in yield?

NHI appreciates the opportunity to offer these comments and recommendations. We would be pleased to respond to any questions or provide further details upon request.

Sincerely,



Gregory A. Thomas
President