

Response to Public Comments
6/20/06

The Science Program greatly appreciates the involvement and feedback from the public and sincerely values the comments received. A general theme of many of the comments relates to the scope of the Topic List; many of the comments narrow the scope by stressing some important specific items in the topic list or broaden the scope by suggesting topics be more inclusive of other issues of concern. The Selection Panel was charged with addressing this issue of scope and arrived upon the present Topic List as an equitable balance between broad and specific topics. This PSP was designed to be more “focused” than the 2004 Science Program PSP to address criticism and better meet CALFED needs. Broad topics can result in applicants writing proposals that do not address high CALFED priorities thus failing to meet the immediate needs of CALFED agency resource managers while narrow topics can result in the exclusion of otherwise excellent ideas and proposals that address the same high priority CALFED needs.

In response to the public comments the PSP will be altered to:

- 1) make it more clear that we encourage cross-cutting proposals that address more than one topic in the Topic List;
- 2) ensure that a review of previous local invasive species management efforts are not inadvertently excluded from Topic 2 (Invasive (Exotic) Species) by slightly modifying the Key Component bullet number 2 to read “an exploration of invasive control measures or incentive programs successfully used *locally* and elsewhere”.

In general, the Science Program agrees with the importance of all of the specific topics mentioned in the public comments (e.g. barriers, upstream diversions, reservoir operations, etc.) but we feel the issues are already encompassed within our existing, broader Topic List; we do not wish to narrow the scope of our topics for reasons stated above. Similarly, we do not wish to broaden our topics, such as focusing on habitat for all species rather than key species. In short, the Selection Panel feels it has achieved an equitable balance of focus and scope.

In order to make applicants aware of some of these specific and broader concerns of CALFED stakeholders, the public comments and this response will be referenced in the PSP and potential applicants will be encouraged to access and read them.

Thank you again for your interest in the CALFED Science Program 2006 Focused PSP. The Science Program is announcing the PSP to an international audience with advertisements in a host of publications (e.g. ERF, Science, AGU/Eos, L & O, etc.) and dozens of list-serves and web-sites; please assist us by sharing information regarding this PSP broadly. Details and updates can be found at http://science.calwater.ca.gov/psp/psp_package.shtml.

Regards,

Science Program Staff
<http://science.calwater.ca.gov>