Geographic Review Panel 4 – San Joaquin River

Proposal number: 2001-F213 **Short Proposal Title:** SJR Oxygen Depletion

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. Meets CALFED goals for at-risk species (fall-run Chinook salmon and Delta Smelt) as well as CALFED water quality program goals. In addition, the proposal meets CVPIA goals of restoring Central Valley streams and AFRP goals with respect to fall-run chinook. Low dissolved oxygen levels in the lower San Joaquin River impact migratory salmonids and likely impact other fishes in the area.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. Apparently, this is an expansion or continuation of a full funding request to complete the "Quantification of DWSC Sources and Mechanisms" that was funded by CALFED in 2000, but it is not clearly stated. "Continuation of the monitoring network program that will be established in 2000 with existing CALFED funds." (Page 4) This proposal is intimately linked to other efforts to restore salmon survival upstream and to other efforts in the SJR basin, such as, DFG fish tagging study, DOC studies by USGS, sediment studies, the SJRMP Real-Time Water quality monitoring network and a tributary nutrient study, and may ultimately help establish TMDLs for the basin.

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. Apparently, the first phase is underway and is on schedule. Based on this, the Panel assumes the project proponents will carry out the other phases in a similarly timely manner, but it is very difficult to assess because both the individual tasks and the proposed results are inadequately described.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. There is a long list of applicants who all appear to be qualified.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). This proposal was developed with the input of the SJR DO Steering and Technical Committees with urban, agricultural, and government stakeholders. Coordination and collaboration with other projects will be required and is planned. (See page 9). These include cities, UCD, DWR, USACOE, DFG and LBL. In addition, four cost share partners are involved. The write-up states that there is broad local support, however it does not expand on or justify this statement.

6. Cost. These costs seem very high for data collection and evaluation, however it is difficult to evaluate. It is also unclear how the current funding request relates to previous CALFED funding received in 1999.

7. Cost sharing. There are minor cost share partners, City of Stockton $50,000, DeltaKeeper $4,200, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board $15,000 and City of Modesto $12,000.

8. Additional comments. It was unclear what the first phase of this program was. This request is for "next phase" funding. What was accomplished in the first phase? The tasks, schedules and budget are very confusing. The Panel is unclear about what has been accomplished, what will be accomplished in 2001 and what the anticipated request will be for the "third year" of this three-year project.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium low

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: This proposal has merit from a regional perspective, because DO depletion in the SDWC is a known problem. However, this proposal is extremely difficult to follow. This is not due to technical or scientific complexity, but due to poor organization and explanations. The Panel is highly supportive of this concept and would give this proposal a higher ranking if we could be confident that this proposed project would make a substantial contribution toward solving this important problem.