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CALFED FUNDS PILOT PROJECTS FOR WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Sacramento – The CALFED Bay-Delta Program announced today the funding of seven pilot programs, three urban and four agricultural, that promise to improve water conservation efforts and water use efficiency.

“With water becoming a scarce natural resource, using water more efficiently is one of the key elements of our Program, and we’re pleased to be working on conservation efforts so quickly,” said CALFED acting Executive Director Steve Ritchie.

The total funding commitment for these pilot programs is \$933,000. These pilot projects are an important step toward designing CALFED Incentive Grant programs that can motivate local entities to address multiple benefits through water use efficiency actions.

The goal of CALFED’s Water Use Efficiency Program is to accelerate the implementation of cost-effective actions to conserve and recycle water throughout the State in order to increase water supplies available for beneficial use, improve water quality, and increase in-stream flows. Savings through reduced water use will be accomplished through incentive-based, voluntary, water use efficiency programs.

The following three urban pilot projects were funded: Chino Basin Urban Water Use Efficiency Project by Inland Empire Utilities Agency for \$125,000; Water Consumption Controller by Municipal Water District of Orange County for \$200,000; and River Park Water Use Efficiency Project by the City of Sacramento for \$150,000.

The following four agricultural projects were funded: Yolo Resource Management Monitoring & Extension by the Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) for \$200,000; Irrigation District Rapid Assessment by Cal Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center for \$35,000; Rapid Canal Seepage Assessment by the Center for Irrigation Technology

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
The Reclamation Board
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Food and Agriculture
Delta Protection Commission

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration

for \$98,000; and West Stanislaus Erosion Control Quantification by West Stanislaus RCD for \$125,000.

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NOTE: See attached sheet for project descriptions.

CALFED FUNDED PILOT PROJECTS FOR WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Urban Pilot Programs:

Chino Basin Urban Water Use Efficiency Project - \$125,000

By Inland Empire Utilities Agency

This comprehensive water efficiency-landscape planning process for the Chino Basin will demonstrate how water use efficiencies and multiple environmental/economic benefits can be achieved and quantified through innovative land use planning.

Water Consumption Controller - \$200,000

By Municipal Water District of Orange County

This project proposes expansion of an Environmental Protection Agency grant to quantify non-point source pollution benefits resulting from more efficient residential irrigation scheduling and more environmentally sensitive landscape maintenance. CALFED funding will allow for monitoring of run-off from applied water, expanding water sampling to include toxins and pathogens, expanding education and outreach activities, and providing further statistical analyses of collected data.

River Park Water Use Efficiency Project - \$150,000

By the City of Sacramento

This project will target the River Park neighborhood in Sacramento for an intensive survey of customers, emphasizing a positive approach to meter installation and water conservation. The baseline survey will include questions regarding chemicals applied to landscapes and green waste management as well as water use practices. The City will offer incentives to accelerate progress.

Agricultural Pilot Projects:

Yolo Resource Management Monitoring & Extension - \$200,000

By the Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Funding will provide additional monitoring of an existing water use efficiency program. The Yolo County RCD Total Resources Management Project has been recognized as successfully implementing actions that integrate water conservation and water quality objectives.

Irrigation District Rapid Assessment - \$35,000

By Cal Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center

This project will develop a process to rapidly assess the potential for water supplier system renovation. The project promises to provide a tool that will assist potential agricultural cooperators to participate in CALFED's Incentive Grant program.

Rapid Canal Seepage Assessment - \$98,000

By the Center for Irrigation Technology)

This project would test the ability of new technology to rapidly measure

canal seepage rates. This technology could vastly increase the capacity of water suppliers to determine their potential to improve delivery efficiency.

West Stanislaus Erosion Control Quantification - \$125,000

By West Stanislaus RCD

This project would allow the RCD to work with growers to reduce on-farm erosion and to quantify regional effects of sediment reduction actions.

For more information, contact Margaret Gidding, Public Information, at (916) 654-7137.