



CALFED Agencies Seek New Grant Requests for Ecosystem Restoration

State and federal agencies carrying out the nation's largest-ever ecosystem restoration program are inviting scientists, conservation groups, water districts and other organizations to apply for funds for projects that improve San Francisco Bay, the Delta, and the Sacramento and San Joaquin river watersheds.

Since 1996, agencies that are part of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program have awarded more than \$335 million in grants for some 323 projects that help achieve ecosystem restoration goals. The projects have ranged from fish ladders that help salmon bypass dams to habitat and water-quality improvements.

CALFED officials in August released a draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan for the Ecosystem Restoration Program. Priorities for 2002 include rebuilding populations of salmon and other imperiled wildlife; restoring salt marshes, riverside woodlands, and other habitats, and improving environmental water quality.

The full plan is posted on the CALFED Web site, <http://calfed.ca.gov>. Also posted is the 2002 Proposal Solicitation Package, which outlines how to apply for funds. The objective of the grant program is to solicit and fund projects that carry out the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program and the CALFED Science Program. Some projects may also be funded through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

New for the 2002 application process is an online system for submitting and reviewing documents. Officials are asking applicants to submit their requests electronically by **3 p.m. PST on Sept. 21. Hard copies of proposals will not be accepted.**

Pre-submittal workshops were held in August in Sacramento, Merced, Fairfield and Chico for potential applicants to ask questions about the implementation plan and learn about the new web-based system.

The first workshop was Aug. 21 in the Resources Auditorium, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento. From the workshop, CALFED staff will provide written

responses to common questions and make those available via the web and e-mail.

For more information on the ecosystem restoration grants, contact Dan Ray of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Grants Office, at (916) 653-0198. ☐

Gov. Davis announces \$54.8 million in grants for water projects

Governor Gray Davis in June announced \$54.8 million in grants and loans to help secure California's water supply through the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The projects raise the state's total CALFED funding this year to more than \$500 million.



"These projects continue the important progress CALFED is making today to address California's water problems," Governor Davis said. "In this year of limited rainfall and low reservoirs, CALFED is proving that it has the balanced set of

solutions that California needs to secure its water supply in the future."

The projects, funded by the Department of Water Resources through the 2000 Water Bond (Proposition 13) and other state funds, range from pilot groundwater storage to installation of ultra-low flush toilets to local watershed planning throughout the state.

"Many of these projects take a far reaching and innovative approach to addressing California's water issues," said Mary D. Nichols, California Secretary for Resources, who unveiled the projects during the CALFED Policy Group Meeting at the Sacramento Convention Center. "Along with the scores of other CALFED projects already underway throughout the state, they make a significant down payment on guaranteeing reliable water supplies across California."

CALFED Director Patrick Wright and Sue Ellen Wooldridge, deputy chief of staff for the U.S. Secretary of Interior, joined Secretary Nichols at a press conference.

“These projects demonstrate that the CALFED

program is delivering on its promise to meet the most pressing water needs of local communities,” said Wright. “For the first time ever, all funds were awarded through a highly competitive grant process to ensure that only the highest quality projects were selected.”

CALFED Bay-Delta Program: Coming To A Town Near You

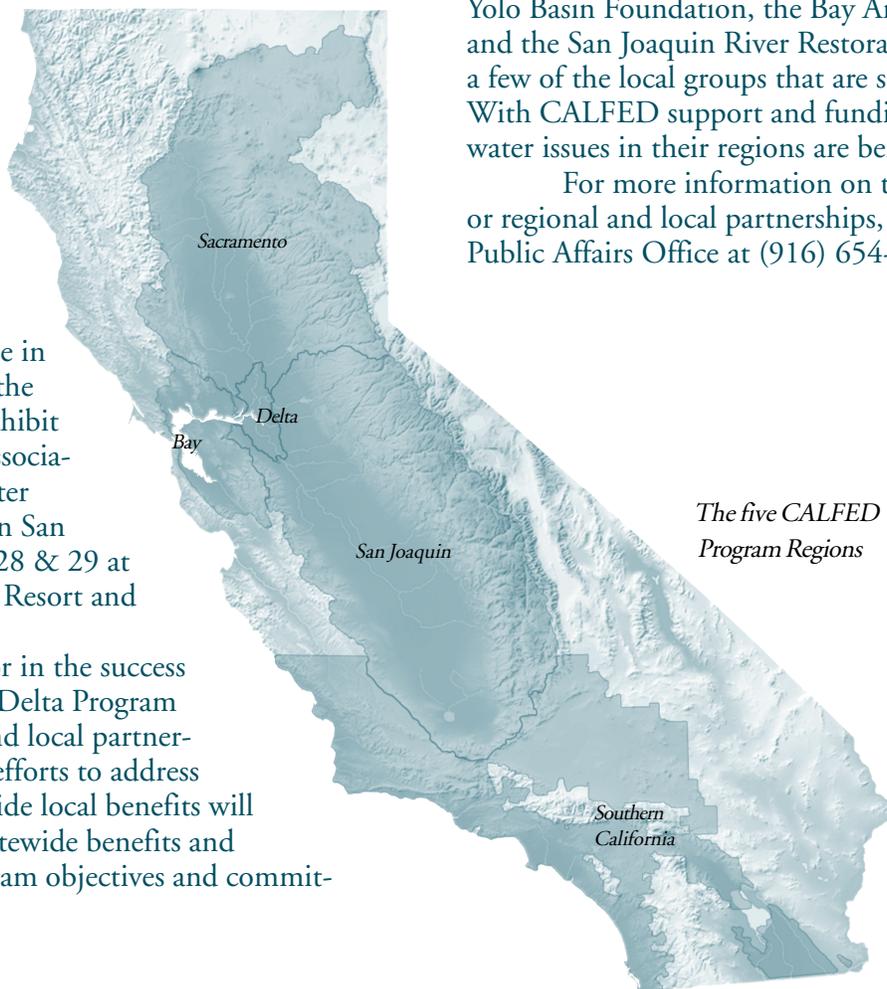
The CALFED Bay-Delta Program intends to have its regional exhibit showcased at two conferences this fall. Your first chance to view the exhibit will be September 13 & 14 at the League of California Cities annual conference in Sacramento at the Sacramento Convention Center.

And for people in Southern California, the CALFED Program exhibit will be at the 2001 Association of California Water Agencies conference in San Diego on November 28 & 29 at the Town & Country Resort and Convention Center.

One key factor in the success of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program focuses on regional and local partnerships. Collaborative efforts to address water issues that provide local benefits will ultimately provide statewide benefits and establish overall Program objectives and commitments.

The Sacramento River Conservation Area, the Sites Reservoir Memorandum of Understanding, the Yolo Basin Foundation, the Bay Area Blending Strategy, and the San Joaquin River Restoration Program are just a few of the local groups that are seizing the initiative. With CALFED support and funding, the most critical water issues in their regions are being addressed.

For more information on the CALFED Program or regional and local partnerships, please contact the Public Affairs Office at (916) 654-7137.



The five CALFED Program Regions

NEWS is a publication of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Public Affairs Office designed to keep the public informed of the CALFED activities. For questions, comments, or to be added to the mailing list, write to 1416 9th Street, Suite 1155, Sacramento, California, 95814, or phone (916) 654-7137.

Director Patrick Wright
Deputy Director Wendy Halverson Martin
Editor Margaret Gidding

CALFED's New Environmental Justice Initiative

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is launching a new effort to make sure CALFED agencies' water-management and ecosystem programs don't hurt low-income or other disadvantaged communities in California. In conjunction with community groups in the Bay Area, CALFED officials met with residents and area leaders at the program's first environmental justice workshop in North Richmond on August 15. San Joaquin residents participated in a second workshop Aug. 29 in Delano, and others will be scheduled in the Delta region, Southern California and the northern Sacramento Valley.

The workshops are helping state and federal officials gather comments from residents about how planned water and environmental projects may affect them. In its Record of Decision, a 30-year strategic blueprint adopted last year, CALFED agencies committed to making sure none of their programs have a disproportionate impact on minority, low-income, Tribal or other populations.

"CALFED agencies rely on individuals in local communities across the state to provide advice and support for implementing program actions affecting their communities, and to incorporate diverse perspectives into these decisions and actions," said Dan Wermiel, the CALFED workshop coordinator. "The workshops represents an opportunity for public participants to get involved and provide input regarding integration of environmental justice in the CALFED program."

CALFED agencies will use testimony from the workshops and other information to devise ways they can integrate environmental justice issues into their ecosystem, water-supply, water quality and levee projects.

About 75 people attended the workshop in Richmond. They expressed a number of concerns about water issues, from the quality of drinking water to how CALFED agencies decide how to spend money on projects.



Many participants also wondered how Bay Area community groups could obtain state and federal funding for local watershed, ecosystem and water-supply improvements.

After the workshops, a new CALFED citizens group, the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, will convene an Environmental Justice Work Group. The work group will use testimony from the workshops and other information to draft recommendations on how CALFED agencies can consider environmental justice issues when they launch ecosystem or water-management projects. ■

Ambitious New Delta Cross Channel Studies

Ron Ott has two words to describe this year's second round of studies on the Delta Cross Channel: Bigger. Better.

Ott, who coordinates the sweeping series of studies on behalf of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, says he will have more people, more boats and more and better equipment for the Cross Channel studies, which will begin in late August.



Under the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Record of Decision, signed in August 2000, scientists have three years to examine how the Cross Channel works and whether it can be operated in a way that maximizes water quality and minimizes impacts to threatened salmon, smelt and other imperiled fish.

The first year's studies, which ended in December, began to provide some answers, Ott says. This year, scientists are refining their questions and sharpening their analytical tools.

"We're going to do it again. Only more intensely. More boats. More people. More nets. More of everything," he says. "Plus much more sophistication than before, to fine-tune those questions."

The Cross Channel, built in 1953 by the federal Bureau of Reclamation, connects the Sacramento River to the Mokelumne River near the town of Walnut Grove. It is designed to ease the flow of Sacramento River water into the central Delta, improving water-quality at the state and federal water projects in the south Delta.

But opening the Cross Channel gates also pulls migrating salmon, smelt and other fish off-track and into the maze of waterways in the central Delta, where they are three times more likely to get lost, eaten by predators or killed by water diversions. ■



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system.

For more information ■ (916) 657-2666 ■ (916) 654-9780 FAX ■ 1-800-700-5752 Information Line ■ <http://calfed.ca.gov>