

**CALFED Bay-Delta EWP Panel Review
Selection Panel Review Form**

Applicant Organization: The CALFED Environmental Water Program

Proposal Title: Environmental Water Program Pilot Flow Augmentation Project:
Concept Proposal for Flow Acquisition on Lower Clear Creek

Overall Recommendation: Proceed with development of a full proposal with the following conditions:

- Specifically address and respond to each reviewer's comments within a Response to Comment section of the full proposal.
- Ensure that riparian ecology expertise is included on the full proposal development team and that hypotheses related to riparian effects are coordinated with the members of the Selection Panel.

The Selection Panel also recommended that the Ecosystem Restoration Program ensure that riparian ecology expertise is included in the peer review of the full proposal and that the ERP Implementing Agency Managers work to develop support for this project at the executive level of the Project and Management Agencies.

Explanation of Rating: The panel supported the proposed concept of flow augmentations on lower Clear Creek of sufficient magnitude, duration and frequency to reactivate fluvial geomorphic processes, and recommended that the EWP proceed to develop a full proposal for the project. Several panel members commented that the concept proposal was well developed and could serve as a model for future restoration proposals. The panel members complemented the reviewers, both technical and related program, for their level of effort in critically reviewing and providing excellent comment on the proposal. The panel agreed that the authors should take into account all of the comments provided and that the full proposal should include a response to comments section that specifically addresses and responds to each of the comments.

As the proposal is further developed, appropriate attention should be paid to opportunities to affect Clear Creek's riparian habitats as well as its channel. The current proposal's hypotheses regarding riparian vegetation may not be appropriate for the proposed high flow experiment and should be reconsidered. The panel questioned whether or not sufficient riparian ecology expertise was included on the proposal development team and noticed an absence of such expertise on the peer review panel. More thoughtful consideration of the project's potential affects on riparian habitats may create opportunities to sharpen attention to this issue, including perhaps a conclusion that riparian restoration benefits are not significant enough to warrant a large scale assessment of them. The EWP, therefore, should ensure that the appropriate expertise is included on the full proposal team and will coordinate the revision and/or removal of riparian hypotheses with the selection panel. Further, the ERP will ensure that there is sufficient riparian ecology expertise included in the review of the full proposal.

Panel members agreed that a project of this nature will require active support at the executive level of both the Management and Project agencies, and recommended that ERP Implementing Agency Managers initiate an effort to develop that support.