

# Summary Explanation of CALFED Watershed Program Needs For Review of Consolidated RFFP Projects

*The CALFED Watershed Program is looking for a set of projects that will help implement the Program Plan. The Program desires creative partners who can contribute to meeting the obligations and commitments described in the Watershed Program Plan and Record of Decision (ROD) for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The Program Plan goals and objectives are to support the four major goals of the overall CALFED Bay-Delta Program:*

- ✓ Improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species.
- ✓ Reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta water supplies and the current and projected beneficial uses dependent on the Bay-Delta system.
- ✓ Provide good water quality for all beneficial uses.
- ✓ Reduce the risk to land use and associated economic activities, water supply, infrastructure, and the ecosystem from catastrophic breaching of Delta levees.

**See below for a description of the specific objectives of the Watershed Program**

## **Primary areas of interest for the CALFED Watershed Program\*:**

- ✓ Enhancing watershed community capacity to assess and effectively manage watersheds in the Bay-Delta system
- ✓ Developing or refining watershed assessments and plans
- ✓ Designing, developing and implementing discrete watershed conservation, maintenance, and restoration activities

## **Successful applicants will demonstrate:**

- An understanding of watershed context and connections for their chosen work
- Awareness of related activities underway or planned by others in their watershed community
- Ability to contribute to achieving one or more CALFED Program objectives, *in addition to* Watershed Program objectives
- Understanding and use of the Program's Principles of Participation (see below)
- Strong sense of partnership and collaboration with other diverse interests

## **Desired attributes:**

- Ability to describe the technical aspects of their work adequately
- Capacity to develop appropriate budgets for intended work
- Ability to include and/or plan for appropriate levels of sound science
- Ability to describe success and a means of measuring it
- Potential to measurably further the Program Plan implementation

## **Experience:**

- Demonstrated experience to conduct the project and administer funds
- OR
- Reasonable expectation of success given other qualifications of the applying parties

## **Location:**

Applicants must describe how they will help implement the Watershed Program Plan, *regardless of physical location.*

## **Funding range:**

\$100,000 - \$5,000,000 depending on qualifications, fund source limits, and proposal adequacy

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**NOTE: In the two prior solicitations, the Program was unable to find enough high quality applicants to expend all funds available. The Program would like to reverse this trend by assisting applicants with reasonable concept proposals to develop full proposals that better meet Plan implementation needs.**

## CALFED WATERSHED PROGRAM PRINCIPLES OF PARTICIPATION

*The Watershed Program seeks partnership projects that:*

- ✓ Are community based
- ✓ Collaborate and are consistent with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program implementation
- ✓ Address multiple watershed issues
- ✓ Are coordinated with and supported at multiple levels
- ✓ Provide for ongoing implementation
- ✓ Include monitoring protocols
- ✓ Increase learning and awareness

(see the Watershed Program Plan at [www.baydeltawatershed.org](http://www.baydeltawatershed.org) for more detail)

## CALFED WATERSHED PROGRAM PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of the Watershed Program are to provide assistance – both financial and technical – for watershed activities that help achieve the mission and objectives of CALFED, and to promote collaboration and integration among existing and future local watershed programs.

- ✓ Facilitate and improve coordination, collaboration, and assistance among government agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups
- ✓ Develop watershed monitoring and assessment protocols
- ✓ Support education and outreach
- ✓ Integrate the Watershed Program with other Program elements
- ✓ Define the relationship between watershed processes and the goals and objectives of CALFED
- ✓ Implement a strategy that will ensure support and long-term sustainability of local watershed activities

Notes to applicants:

- ✓ *The Watershed Program funds available are specifically for **implementation of the Program Plan**. The strength of each proposal will be its effectiveness in achieving the purposes of the Plan.*
- ✓ *Some proposals may not have a direct water quality connection, yet may have great benefit to the Program.*
- ✓ *The Program will provide applicants with positive suggestions to improve their proposals, including some information on which elements of the proposals need to be expanded and/or explained in a full proposal application to facilitate adequate review.*
- ✓ *Special workshops may be established to help with applicant proposals. Times and places will be sent to all applicants who have been requested to submit a full proposal.*

For questions or more information, please contact John Lowrie, Program Manager (916-445-5011) Dan Wermeil (916-445-5398), or Dennis Bowker (707-253-8295).