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Photo Courtesy of Jeff Peters, Jones & Stokes



Photo Courtesy of Department of Water Resources Environmental Services Office

Introduction

We all depend on the Bay-Delta. The Bay-Delta system provides drinking water for 22 million people. It supports California's trillion-dollar economy, including its \$27 billion agricultural industry. Its levees protect farms, homes, and infrastructure. It is the largest estuary on the west coast—home to 750 plant and animal species—and it supports 80% of the State's commercial salmon fisheries. For these reasons, sound management of the Bay-Delta Watershed is critical to the State and its inhabitants. Such a valuable resource needs to be well protected and cared for. The health and future of the Bay-Delta watershed depend not only on the success of the Bay-Delta Program, but also on the contribution of every local community, landowner, and stakeholder connected to it. This includes residents in the watersheds of the Sierra Nevada, northern California, Bay Area, Delta, San Joaquin Valley, and cities and communities in Southern California. That is why the Watershed Program strives to build and enhance the capacity of communities to better manage their watersheds—because their watersheds directly affect the health of the Bay-Delta.



Overview of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED Program) was initiated in 1998 with the mission of developing and implementing a long-term comprehensive plan to restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. The Program addresses four interrelated resource management objectives concurrently:

- water supply reliability
- water quality
- ecosystem restoration
- levee system integrity

Launched in the summer of 2000 with the signing of the Record of Decision (ROD), the Program sets forth a 30-year plan to address these objectives. The Plan identifies 11 major program elements, each designed to operate in complementary fashion to meet the objectives:

- Water Management
- Storage
- Conveyance
- Water Use Efficiency
- Water Transfers
- Environmental Water Account
- Drinking Water Quality
- Watershed
- Levee System Integrity
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Science

Overview of the Watershed Program

The Watershed Program was officially established in March 1998, at the urging of stakeholders, to work with the community at a watershed level to help achieve the overarching goal of the CALFED Program to restore ecological health and improve water management. The underlying premise of the Watershed Program is to help integrate a watershed approach into the CALFED Program as a whole. The Watershed Program recognizes that in order to weave a common theme of a watershed approach into all of the CALFED Program elements, as well as to implement an effective and meaningful Watershed Program, broad involvement and dedicated participation by a diverse group of stakeholders is needed. By empowering a diverse set of stakeholders to collaborate and work with the CALFED Program, invaluable partnerships are created that help attain maximum benefits for the Bay-Delta Watershed and its communities.

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 the CALFED Program, and to promote collaboration and integration among local watershed programs. Although it recognizes the importance of project implementation, the Watershed Program also acknowledges that watershed management comprises more than just projects. It includes such varied issues as land use decision-making, development of watershed assessments and management plans, monitoring, education and outreach, and capacity building.

Implementing Agencies

After the ROD was signed in 2000, 20 Federal and State agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a framework for long-term implementation of the Watershed Program Plan. The MOU named the following agencies as “management agencies” with primary responsibility for Watershed Program Plan implementation:

- CALFED Bay-Delta Program
- California Department of Water Resources
- State Water Resources Control Board
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

With the creation of the California Bay-Delta Authority in 2003 (Senate Bill 1653-Costa), the following four additional agencies were designated “implementing agencies” for the Watershed Program, and the California Bay-Delta Authority assumed a new role of Program oversight and coordination:

- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Resources Agency
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Initial Implementation

The first major implementation action of the Watershed Program began in 2000 with the release of a Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP). The purpose of this action was to solicit, identify, and fund a set of local activities designed to “demonstrate the value and contributions of watershed management using a community-based and locally led approach to achieving the goals of the CALFED Program.” Stated priorities for this first year action were to:

- build local community capacity to assess and effectively manage watersheds that affect the Bay-Delta system;
- develop or refine watershed assessments and plans; and
- design, develop, and implement specific watershed conservation, maintenance, and restoration actions.

At the request of stakeholders, the PSP application was designed as a two-step process. The first step requested concept proposals from local communities and watershed groups. The concept proposals were brief descriptions of the proposed activity, what the activity would accomplish,

and its relevance to the CALFED Program goals and objectives. The Watershed Program received 161 concept proposals. A team of agency representatives and professional experts in various fields reviewed the concept proposals and invited 104 applicants to submit full proposals. A total of 83 full proposals were received, and ultimately 53 were selected for funding.

Evaluation Criteria

The criteria used to evaluate concept proposals and select the 53 funded proposals included:

Concept Proposals

- The degree to which the concept emphasizes the importance of community involvement and support.
- The level to which the project contributes to the goals and objectives of the CALFED Program.
- The level of agreement with the first-year priorities of the Watershed Program.

Full Proposals

- The level of ability and experience to conduct the project and administer funds.
- The degree to which the project will address multiple CALFED Program objectives.
- The degree to which the project will help the Watershed Program define and illustrate relationships between watershed processes, watershed management, and the goals of the CALFED Program.

After a set of full proposals was recommended for funding, reviewers assessed the set to ensure that the following criteria were met:

- Does the set of proposals represent a balance of diverse watershed activities that demonstrate potential to improve the Bay-Delta system?
- Does the set of proposals represent a variety of watershed settings (such as forested, agricultural, urban, mixed, snow-based or rainfall-based hydrology, etc.)?
- Does the set of proposals represent a diverse geographic distribution?

Purpose and Organization of This Document

The purpose of this document is to highlight the 53 projects that were funded by the Watershed Program in 2001 and to illustrate their contributions to the goals and objectives of the CALFED Program. Project descriptions are organized by region (Sacramento Valley, Delta, Bay, San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California) and contain the following information:

- name of applicant,
- project title,
- award amount,
- watershed,
- region,
- project purpose,
- project goals,
- legislative and congressional districts,
- benefits to the CALFED Program,
- project overview, and
- contact information.

Supplemental tables identifying projects and legislative districts, and projects funded by the Watershed Program in 2002, are also included.

We hope you enjoy this catalog and find the project descriptions useful and informative.

Program Regions

