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Agenda Item: 14-6A (3)
Meeting Dates: April 13 and 14, 2005

JOINT MEETING WITH BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO AN ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR CONTINUATION OF BATTLE CREEK ANADROMOUS SALMONID MONITORING PROGRAM

Summary: This resolution would recommend to the Resources Agency that it approve an amendment to an existing grant agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide \$699,629 in additional funds and a 12-month time extension for the "Battle Creek Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring Program" (01-N45). This would bring the total funding for the grant from the Ecosystem Restoration Program to \$3,033,314.25. The project that this amendment will support is described in Attachment 1.

Recommended Action: The California Bay-Delta Authority adopt the attached Resolution 05-04-04.

Background

In February 2001, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was awarded a grant from Proposition 204 by the California Resources Agency to monitor juvenile and adult populations of salmon and steelhead on Battle Creek to assess the effects of CALFED restoration activities. This contract includes all of the biological and environmental monitoring that was required in the Memorandum of Understanding (Section 7.3) for the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project (Restoration Project), a high priority for the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP). The contract was fully executed in August 2001, and is managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation under Agreement 4600001469 with the Resources Agency, for which the California Bay-Delta Authority acts as management and fiscal agent.

This amendment request includes a one-year time extension from June 30, 2006 to June 30, 2007 and an increase in budget of \$699,629 (30 percent of the current contract) to continue monitoring while long-term funding is obtained. The operation of the rotary screw traps would be extended through June 2005 and report production and review would be completed in June 2007. This amendment would prevent a lapse in funding and monitoring.

Battle Creek provides unique and significant habitat restoration opportunities for the threatened winter- and spring-run Chinook salmon. ERP has provided \$28 million for the Restoration Project, and additional funding for construction activities is planned to be brought to the Authority for consideration in August 2005. The monitoring activities included in this amendment request are essential for adaptive management of the Restoration Project.

This request has been reviewed, and recommended for approval, through the Ecosystem Restoration Contract Amendment workshop and is now being brought to the Authority for its recommendation to the Resources Agency based on the level of the requested funding increase. Funds for amendments to grant agreements of this type are encumbered as contingency funds in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation contract. No new commitment of Proposition 204 funds is required for this amendment.

This project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Guidelines Section 15306: Information collection of basic data, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Attachment 1 further describes the project and how it helps achieve the Ecosystem Restoration Program's goals.

Fiscal Information

Funding Source: Proposition 204 (Resources Agency) - No new commitment of Proposition 204 funds is required for this amendment.

Term (with recommended 1-year time extension): July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2007

Total Amount of Additional Recommended Funding: \$699,629

Total Funding Amount (with recommended increase): \$3,033,314.25

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Ecosystem Restoration Project Description
Resolution 05-04-04

Contact

Dan Castleberry
Deputy Director for Ecosystem Restoration

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ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Applicant Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Proposal Title: Battle Creek Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring Program

Recommended Additional Funding: \$699,269

Recommended Time Extension of Grant Agreement: 12 months

General Project Description:

CALFED is providing more than \$28 million for the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project (Restoration Project), of which this salmonid monitoring project is a component. The monitoring activities included in this request are essential for adaptive management of the Restoration Project.

The Battle Creek Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring Program (BCASMP) monitors juvenile and adult populations of salmon and steelhead to assess the effects of CALFED restoration activities. This program operates two rotary screw traps and a barrier weir and conducts snorkel and kayak surveys on Battle Creek. The following 11 elements are being determined for spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead in Battle Creek: (1) number of adults returning; (2) timing of adult migration; (3) age, size and gender of returning adults; (4) timing of spawning; (5) location of spawning; (6) weight and condition of juveniles; (7) timing of juvenile emigration; (8) size of emigrating salmonids; (9) number of juveniles produced; (10) potential limiting factors at various life stages; and (11) genetic analysis of tissue samples.

The monitoring work under this project has been useful to the adaptive management efforts of the CALFED-funded Interim Flow Project Science Team (IFST). IFST meets regularly and discusses the data generated by the project. The monitoring has resulted in many beneficial actions including: (1) increasing flows in the South Fork of Battle Creek in 2002 through the present; (2) reducing the potential impact of barrier weir operations on threatened and endangered species by (a) running the trap for more hours of the day, which allows more fish to pass, b) shifting trap operations to peak passage periods, and c) shifting trap operations to hours of cooler water temperatures; (3) detecting fish in places where they should not be, thereby improving future PG&E operations; (4) identifying temporary passage barrier in North Fork and suggesting experiments to improve fish passage; (5) identifying increased spring-run Chinook salmon mortality from predation, poaching, thermal stress, false attraction, and entrapment; (6) collecting tissue samples for genetic baseline analysis essential for future analyses; (7) providing data leading to the closure of the barrier weir during August to prevent fall-run Chinook salmon hybridizing or competing with spring-run

Chinook salmon; (8) not detecting any significant winter-run Chinook salmon population or production in Battle Creek; (9) measuring impacts on water temperatures and salmonids, and assisting in fish rescues associated with the PG&E Coleman Powerhouse operations and the construction of a new tailrace barrier; and (10) documenting the success of the CALFED Interim Flow Project.

This amendment was reviewed and recommended for approval at the Ecosystem Restoration Program Amendments Workshop on November 19, 2004.

Additional Background Information for this request:

This amendment request includes a one-year time extension from June 30, 2006 to June 30, 2007 and an increase in budget of \$699,629 (30 percent of the current contract) to continue monitoring while long-term funding is obtained. The operation of the rotary screw traps would be extended through June 2005 and report production and review would be completed in June 2007. This amendment would prevent a lapse in funding and monitoring.

The California Bay-Delta Authority may approve needed additional funding for the Restoration Project as early as August 2005. The Authority would then contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to implement the Restoration Project. USBR would then contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to perform portions of the Restoration Project monitoring that are very similar to the BCASMP work. Accounting for all of this, a new contract could be in effect around April 30, 2006, resulting in a lapse in monitoring of 13 months, if this amendment is not approved. The requested increase in funding and time would prevent such a lapse in monitoring. If a lapse in funding were to occur, it may take at least 18 months after new funding is secured, to re-hire and train staff for the program.

This contract includes all of the biological and environmental monitoring that was required in the Memorandum of Understanding (Section 7.3) for the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project, a high priority for the Ecosystem Restoration Program of CALFED.

While BCASMP monitoring provides important baseline data for the Restoration Project, the current primary purpose of the data is to guide the adaptive management of stream flows under the CALFED-funded Interim Flow Project. Without the data, adaptive management would be limited and performance of the Interim Flow Project would not be properly evaluated.



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CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 05-04-04

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO AN ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR CONTINUATION OF BATTLE CREEK ANADROMOUS SALMONID MONITORING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program presents a comprehensive vision for improving and increasing aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improving ecological functions in the Bay-Delta ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, those State and Federal agencies with CALFED Program restoration funds have coordinated their efforts to solicit for and select the best projects to implement the Ecosystem Restoration Program, with assistance of the staff from the California Bay-Delta Authority; and

WHEREAS, the California Bay-Delta Authority has a fiscal management agreement with The Resources Agency to administer Proposition 204 Agency-funded projects to implement the Ecosystem Restoration Program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment for continuation of the Battle Creek Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring Program constitutes an eligible project for purposes of receiving Ecosystem Restoration Program funds from the applicable funding source; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment meets the objectives of the CALFED Program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment would facilitate the continuation of an ongoing project which is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Guidelines Section 15306; and

WHEREAS, approval of this proposed amendment shall be conditioned upon each grantee complying with all applicable laws and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California Bay-Delta Authority hereby recommends to the resources Agency that it approve an amendment to an Ecosystem Restoration Program grant agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for continuation of the Battle Creek Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring Program (01-N45), as follows:

- 1-year time extension;
- \$699,629 additional funding, subject to availability of appropriated funds

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Authority held on April 13 and 14, 2005.

Dated: _____

Jamie Cameron-Harley
Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority