

**Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2002**  
**February 4, 2002**

I Program Title. Agriculture Waterfowl Incentive Program - CVPIA Section 3406 (b)(22).

II Responsible Entities

|         | Agency | Staff Name     | Role            |
|---------|--------|----------------|-----------------|
| Lead    | USFWS  | Dale Garrison  | Project Manager |
| Co-Lead | USBOR  | Robert Shaffer | Project Manager |

III Program Objectives for FY 2002.

The program objectives are enumerated below. The source documents for these objectives are noted and their relationship to the CALFED Program Ecosystem Restoration Program Implementation Plan. The program objectives have been cross-referenced against the actions the program will undertake in FY 2002 in Section VI below.

A. Provide high quality habitat for wintering and breeding waterfowl and other water birds, on agricultural fields within the Central Valley Project (CVP) Service Area. This involves an emphasis on providing waterfowl in habitat in core areas near existing blocks of seasonal wetlands, thus allowing easy access by waterfowl to supplemental food sources and reducing the threat and intensity of avian disease outbreaks. It also will emphasize providing habitat that is created upon a diverse mix of current crops.

B. Enhance CVP water supplies in the course of providing this waterfowl habitat

C. Promote and enhance a productive relationship between the agricultural and wildlife communities. This includes providing waterfowl habitat in such a way that it is fully incorporated within the day-to-day farming operation of the program participant, without negatively impacting that operation.

D. Monitor wildlife use on enrolled fields.

#### IV Status of the Program.

Interim Guidelines for the Waterfowl Incentive Program were finalized in May of 1996, with a Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact published in September of that year. A Program Manager was hired to run the program in October of 1996. The first program announcement was mailed out in May of 1997 and have been sent out each spring since that time. Proposals are reviewed each summer to determine if they meet basic program criteria, including an evaluation of the water source used to provide the waterfowl habitat and assuring that it not impact anadromous fish populations.

The program, in operation since 1997, has increased in enrolled acreage and landowner interest each year, if not in funding. Enrolled acreage has increased from 22,000 in 1997, 40,000 in 1998 to 53,000 in 2000. This acreage increase was made possible (despite no increase in year-to-year program funding) because farmers were willing to accept lower per-acre incentive costs. Program participants, primarily rice farmers in the Sacramento Valley, have realized the multiple benefits that can result from enrolling namely high quality waterfowl habitat that supplements existing wetland complexes on nearby National Wildlife Refuges, State Wildlife Management Areas and private duck clubs. Waterfowl use has been tremendously diverse with mallards, northern shovelers, pintail, Canada geese, white-fronted geese and Tundra swans using these flooded agricultural fields in abundance. Up to 40,000 birds have been documented on 80 acre enrolled units, and tens of millions of bird-use days tracked on enrolled fields over the course of an entire winter.

Although especially attuned to rice farming practices, the program has also attracted corn, wheat, alfalfa and barley farmers as well. Unfortunately, program funding has not been able to match landowner interest with only \$500,000 allocated in FY01 for a program that was approved for up to \$2,000,000 in incentives each year. This funding short fall becomes especially important in a year such as FY01 - many farmers who normally would rely on the use of groundwater to flood their fields throughout the winter months find that they cannot afford to do so because of the tremendous increase in energy costs over recent months. The result is that thousands of acres in the Sacramento Valley will remain dry over the winter of 2001-02 because there is not sufficient funds to help all those farmers in need.

#### V FY 2001 Accomplishments.

Accomplishments include the monitoring of past years projects and the funding of FY01 projects. Most of the program interest was by Sacramento Valley rice farmers, who, by participating not only provided valuable waterfowl habitat, but also succeeded in accomplishing their own rice straw decomposition. Tens of millions of bird-use days were recorded on participating properties in FY00 and FY01 with up to 40,000 birds recorded using individuals fields at any one time. Waterfowl habitat created in this program is critical to the feeding and resting needs of many species of wintering waterfowl, particularly as it provides a quality habitat supplement to that

existing on nearby refuges and private duck clubs. At the end of FY01, incentives for flooding during the winter 2001-02 were awarded to 50 eligible landowners who agreed to create approximately 31,000 acres of habitat on agricultural lands for the benefit of wintering waterfowl and the enhancement of CVP water supplies.

## VI Tasks, Costs, Schedules and Deliverables.

### A Narrative Explanation of Tasks.

- 1 Program Management. Monitoring of winter flooded agricultural fields from beginning of January through the end of March. Development of Annual Accomplishment Reports for program. **Estimated Cost = \$0.00**
  - 1.1 Program announcement and solicitation of proposals in April through news releases, notices to water districts, Farm Bureaus and local Department of Agriculture offices, and meetings with individual landowners. **Estimated Cost = \$0.00**
  - 1.2 Review proposals, select lands for participation in the program and negotiate agreements with landowners. **Estimated Cost = \$ 0.00**
- 2 Incentive Funding
  - 2.1 Reimbursing fifty landowners up to \$35/acre as an incentive for them to provide waterfowl habitat. **Estimated Cost - \$502,500.00**
3. Coordination and Monitoring
  - 3.1 Coordinate flood-up, duration and release of water to provide enhancement to CVP water supplies and assist in meeting CVP commitments.  
**Estimated Cost = \$0**
  - 3.2 Monthly monitoring of enrolled agricultural fields for wildlife utilization and required flooding regimes. This process is coordinated with Ducks Unlimited and has resulted in yearly accomplishment reports of habitat status and bird numbers. **Estimated Cost = \$20,000**

### Additional Funding Needs.

Estimate a shortfall of **\$522,500.00** for Incentive Funds in FY02

B. Schedule and Deliverables.

| # | Task   | Dates    |          | Deliverable   |
|---|--|----------|----------|---|
|   |  | Start    | Complete |   |
| 1 | Program Management   | 10/01/01 | 09/30/02 | Review of proposals and Accomplishment Report writing   |
| 2 | Funding of Cooperative Agreements with Farmers   | 06/01/02 | 09/30/02 | Reimbursement to approximately fifty qualified landowners of up to \$35/acre to offset water costs in creating waterfowl habitat  |
| 3 | Coordination and Monitoring  | 09/01/02 | 03/31/03 | Includes the coordination of flood-up, duration and release of habitat water and monthly monitoring of enrolled fields for wildlife utilization and landowner compliance. Although program is set to sunset in FY 2002, monitoring of lands funded with FY02 dollars will continue through March of 2003. |
| 4 | Additional Incentive Program funding that matches yearly funding levels from FY97 through FY00 | 10/01/01 | 9/30/02  | Provides funding to approximately 50 eligible farmers who would not be able to enroll due to funding shortages  |

Explanatory Notes:

C. Summary of Program Costs and Funding Sources.

| #                    | Task  | Total Cost | Funding Sources |      |          |      |      |      |
|----------------------|---|------------|-----------------|------|----------|------|------|------|
|                      |   |            | RF              | W&RR | Prop 204 |      |      |      |
| 1                    | Program Management                              | \$ 0       | \$ 0            | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| 2                    | Cooperative Agreements with enrolled landowners | \$ 502,500 | \$502,500       | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| 3                    | Coordination and Monitoring                     | \$ 20,000  | \$ 20,000       | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
|                      |   | \$ 0       | \$ 0            | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
|                      |   | \$ 0       | \$ 0            | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
|                      |   | \$ 0       | \$ 0            | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Total Program Budget |   | \$ 522,500 | \$22,500        | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |

Explanatory Notes:

Program Costs and Funding Sources - Additional Funding Needs.

| #                    | Task   | Total Cost | Funding Sources |      |          |      |      |      |
|----------------------|--|------------|-----------------|------|----------|------|------|------|
|                      |  |            | RF              | W&RR | Prop 204 |      |      |      |
| 4                    | Additional funding for Incentive cost- share | \$ 522,500 | \$522,500       | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
|                      |  | \$ 0       | \$ 0            | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
|                      |  | \$ 0       | \$ 0            | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
|                      |  | \$ 0       | \$ 0            | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Total Program Budget |  | \$ 522,500 | \$22,500        | \$ 0 | \$ 0     | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |

Explanatory Notes:

Every year there are several landowners who meet basic program criteria and are eligible, but who do not get into the program because of a lack of program funds

D. CVPI A Program Budget.

| # | Task         | FTE | Direct Salary and Benefits Costs | Contracts Costs | Miscellaneous Costs | Administrative Costs | Total Costs |
|---|--------------|-----|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Program      | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |
| 2 | Incentive    | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 500,000      | \$ 0                | \$ 22,500            | \$ 522,500  |
| 3 | Coordination | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |
|   |              | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |
|   |              | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |
|   |              | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |
|   |              | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |

|  |                          |            |           |          |           |                |           |          |           |               |           |                |
|--|--------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
|  | <b>Total by Category</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>500,000</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>22,500</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>522,500</b> |
|--|--------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|

Explanatory Notes:

CVPI A Program Budget - Additional Funding Needs.

| # | Task       | FTE | Direct Salary and Benefits Costs | Contracts Costs | Miscellaneous Costs | Administrative Costs | Total Costs |
|---|------------|-----|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 4 | Additional | 0.3 | \$                               | \$ 500,000      | \$ 0                | \$ 22,500            | \$ 522,500  |
|   |            | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |
|   |            | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |
|   |            | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |
|   |            | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |
|   |            | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |
|   |            | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 0            | \$ 0                | \$ 0                 | \$ 0        |
|   | Total by   | 0.0 | \$ 0                             | \$ 500,000      | \$ 0                | \$ 22,500            | \$ 522,500  |

Explanatory Notes:

E. Quarterly Obligation/Expenditures.

| #                                    | Task                        | Quarter 1         | Quarter 2         | Quarter 3         | Quarter 4         |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1                                    | Program Management          | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              |
| 2                                    | Develop Incentive Contracts | \$ 125,625        | \$ 125,625        | \$ 125,625        | \$ 125,625        |
| 3                                    | Coordination and Monitoring | \$ 10,000         | \$ 10,000         | \$ 0              |                   |
|                                      |                             | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              |
|                                      |                             | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              |
| <b>Total CVPIA Budget by Quarter</b> |                             | <b>\$ 135,625</b> | <b>\$ 135,625</b> | <b>\$ 125,625</b> | <b>\$ 125,625</b> |

Explanatory Notes:



Quarterly Obligation/Expenditures - Additional Funding Needs.

| #                                    | Task                         | Quarter 1         | Quarter 2         | Quarter 3         | Quarter 4         |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 4                                    | Additional Incentive Funding | \$ 125,000        | \$ 125,000        | \$ 125,000        | \$ 125,000        |
|                                      | Admin Costs                  | \$ 5,625          | \$ 5,625          | \$ 5,625          | \$ 5,625          |
|                                      |                              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              |
|                                      |                              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              |
|                                      |                              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              | \$ 0              |
| <b>Total CVPIA Budget by Quarter</b> |                              | <b>\$ 130,625</b> | <b>\$ 130,625</b> | <b>\$ 130,625</b> | <b>\$ 130,625</b> |

Explanatory Notes:

VII. Future Years Commitments/Actions.

Currently this program is set to sunset in Fiscal Year 2002.