

# Final Selection Panel Review

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EVALUATION OF GIANT GARTER SNAKE RESPONSE TO CALFED'S ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ACCOUNT PROGRAM: ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT FOR WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FARMING

United States Geological Survey

***Applicant amount requested: \$1,187,367***

***Fund This Amount: \$1,187,367***

The Selection Panel likes that the proposal is tied to Environmental Water Account (EWA) and wildlife friendly agriculture/working landscapes, and that the proposal is highly responsive to this PSP. The proposal provides information that the agencies want and need relative to the Biological Opinion for the EWA and recommended funding the project with revisions. The PIs are well-qualified and experienced, and the proposal has an excellent data management approach.

The proposal should be revised to more clearly connect the evaluation to agricultural management actions. The proposal should also be revised to ensure that the deliverables include peer-reviewed articles of journal quality and deliverables such as maps and journal articles should be described in the schedule. (Recognizing that publication takes time beyond the scope of the grant, the proposal should establish that there is sufficient funding for journal articles.) The deliverables should spell out that the data and products are made available to CALFED agencies. The proposal should be revised to include clearly written hypotheses, and not just objectives. The Selection Panel is concerned that there is a limited pool of expertise on Giant Garter Snake, and recommends and requires that the applicants ensure sufficient staffing and resources are applied to the proposal. This study depends on managed wetlands yet to be created by another proposal. The applicant would need to specify how this project is viable notwithstanding the restoration on CWA study sites that may not be funded.