Donna Matrazzo
The Writing Works

19300 NW Sauvie Island Rd.
Portland, OR 97231
(503) 621-3049
matrazzo@msn.com

U.S. Geological Survey
California Bay-Delta Authority, CALFED Program

"DELTA REVIVAL : Restoring a California Ecosystem"

Final Script

"DELTA REVIVAL :
Restoring a California Ecosystem"

This script sample includes only pages 18 through 24

To see the complete 48-page script, contact me at matrazzo@msn.com

---

beginning with Page 18, Scene 72:

cut to:
72. The diver jumps overboard from the boat.

73. The camera dives underwater.

74. UNDERWATER. Point of view of the diver, moving underwater. Maybe the water is a little bit murky -- perhaps inside Frank's Tract during summer. We see a few fish and other creatures amid submerged vegetation (like the invasive plant Egeria) that is obviously clogging the waterway. Perhaps encounter a bridge piling or sunken debris coated with barnacles. Overall, giving an intriguing feeling of a "damaged ecosystem."

SFX: Background sounds--the diver's breathing, water gurgling UP AND UNDER

SAM LUOMA: (voiceover) "CALFED's mission is to restore the ecological health of the San Francisco Bay and Delta ...
... and improve water management.

The focus is centered on critical wildlife populations, especially native fish.

Part of CALFED's program calls for restoring 40- to 55,000 acres of wetlands.

This is an immense and important program, on the scale of restoring the Everglades.

It's one of the largest, most ambitious public investments ever made to restore a damaged ecosystem."

dissolve to:
A SEQUENCE OF SCENES THAT CREATES A FEELING OF COMPLEX, SOPHISTICATED RESEARCH. SCIENTISTS ARE OUT IN THE FIELD, USING FASCINATING-LOOKING INSTRUMENTS, INTERCUT WITH INTRIGUING LABORATORY WORK AND CAPTIVATING COMPUTER ANIMATION. PERHAPS THERE IS SOME SYNC SOUND OF SCIENTISTS' DIALOGUE WITH EACH OTHER

For example:

75. An intricate-looking piece of equipment being hoisted up from underwater.

76. Bill Sobczak working on a boat, turning dials and checking readouts on a complex instrument.
Fade on and off:
Bill Sobczak, Aquatic Ecologist

BILL SOBCZAK: (on camera)
"CALFED's program is a bit daunting for environmental scientists, because this is a true test of the science of ecology.

Can we apply its principles to meet the public goals for restoring an ecosystem?

We don't know.
There is no recipe to follow.

77. Scientists in "bunny suits" are working in a clean lab.

78. A flashy computer animated display of a water movement across a habitat tract.

And the immense size of the sites proposed for restoration ... like a thousand acres at North Bay ... is larger than anything done in the past.

78. Scientists in a boat working with intriguing-looking measurement instruments and gear.

79. Container drums with data and notations marked on top.

Ecosystem restoration is a young science,
no more than two decades old.

People think ecology is simple:
Go out and count birds.

80. Scientists in a refrigerated lab; see the thermometer and them dressed accordingly.

81. A computer readout that looks bewilderingly complicated.

People say,
'Hey, this isn't rocket science.'
Actually, this is harder
than rocket science.

83. A large sextagonal metal device being lowered into the water.

84. A scientist at a lab table, with a multitude of sample bottles.

We knew the principles of mechanics
two hundred years ago.
We don't have any fundamental laws of ecology.

85. Scientists on a boat working at night in the dark.

86. Scientists at work around a table on a boat crowded with computers and instruments.

Here you have Physics,
Chemistry and
Biology working together.
It's an incredibly difficult
science."

SFX: Computer keystrokes, mouse clicks
and other sounds

dissolve to:
A MONTAGE OF FASCINATING COMPUTER DISPLAY IMAGES ON LISA'S MONITOR, CLICKED ON, ONE AFTER THE OTHER

87. A multicolored animated topographic map image of a 7,000 acre area. The screen clicks onto another display.

LISA LUCAS: (VOICEOVER)
"We're finding that you can't
just think,
Let's turn 7,000 acres of the
Delta into a thriving shallow
water habitat.

cut to:
88. A medium shot of Lisa using the computer mouse and clicking onto other displays and samples of information. Maybe she has two computers at her desk (as someone we interviewed did) and as she works pulls up information on both and studies it.
Fade on and off:
Lisa Lucas, Engineer

LISA LUCAS: (on camera)
The key isn't,
'What kind of landscapes are beneficial?'

The key is,
'What are the processes?'
What is actually going on in nature
that needs to be recreated?

89. A computer display clicks on of another location, with multicolors as different indicators.

90. Another computer display clicks on, perhaps one with different colors and locations for concentrations of particular species of wildlife.

LISA LUCAS: (VOICEOVER)
... Because unless you know that, you might turn an island into a shallow lake ...
with the intention of creating a habitat for native fish ...

91. Another display clicks on, with perhaps a fancy background behind a bevy of statistics.

92. Another animated computer display clicks on, something that looks almost sci-fi, like nothing an ordinary person would ever see. (John Burau has wonderful animation showing a circulation pattern around a scour hole where big fish like striped bass prey on salmon smolts.)

... and end up creating something that would turn out to be harmful for the fish.

quick-cutting:
93. One intriguing instrument being lowered into the water.

94. A extraordinary-looking instrument being raised on a post.

95. An instrument perhaps being dragged behind a boat.

96. Another interesting instrument being raised from the water.

We have to learn how these ecosystems work before we blindly go out and make more of them."

MUSIC: An enticing piece UP AND UNDER

dissolve to:
97. Jan Thompson is tromping through mud, or waist-deep in waters choked with algae.

NARRATOR: (voiceover)

ONE WAY TO UNDERSTAND

CALFED'S CHALLENGES ...

AND EXCITING

DISCOVERIES...

98. An extreme close shot as Jan picks up a handful of mud or green plants with evident arthropods.

... IS TO EXPLORE ONE

SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH

PROJECT.

99. A stylized, artistic shot that has an air of mystery about it, perhaps an unusual pattern of water rippling, aglow with sunset colors. Or an extreme closeup of an unusual-looking plant so that it looks amazing but unidentifiable, or a macro-image of the feathers of a bird. Or a combination of such images.

THE ACTUAL TITLE OF THIS

PROJECT IS *"Transport,*

Transformation, and Effects of

Selenium and Carbon in the Delta:

Implications for Ecosystem

Restoration."

LET'S JUST CALL IT:

"UNRAVELING THE

MYSTERIES OF THE DELTA'S

ECOSYSTEM."

To see the complete 48-page script, contact me at matrazzo@msn.com