

Letter to Delta ISB members re SB 821 and next steps



October 13, 2021

Via email to disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov

Dear Delta ISB members,

I am writing to you in your capacity as appointed officers of the state of California. When you were appointed as members of the Delta Independent Science Board, you were given both the right and the duty to carry out the statutory mandate for your office. (Govt Code § 1001.) That includes a fiduciary responsibility to the DISB as an independent board. (Wat Code § 85280(a).)

This email is to congratulate you on the restoration of compensation for the critically important work of the DISB members. Governor Newsom signed SB 821 on Thursday, October 7, 2021, after lobbying by a diverse group of stakeholders, and many calls to the Governor's Office. The [Delta Counties Coalition](#), the [Delta Protection Commission](#), and [a broad coalition of environmental, fishing, climate, and social justice organizations](#) all wrote letters urging the Governor to sign SB 821.

These were the goals that our team identified for our advocacy campaign:

- (1) Show that the DISB is supported by a diverse group of stakeholders
- (2) Restore compensation as much as possible
- (3) More support within the administration so that the ISB is less vulnerable to internal politics.
- (4) More transparency in budget for DISB (and generally treating the DISB as an independent, standing state board, rather than as a science panel convened by the DSC.)

We've had some major victories in the first three goals, and we now have a large, diverse coalition that supports the DISB. The fourth goal is going to require more work but is important for creating a better DISB administrative process and for stakeholders to be able to track what is going on and provide support before an administrative issue develops into a major crisis.

We want to thank all of you for your exceptional professional dedication and service during this difficult past year and look forward to a renewed and strengthened Independent Science Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Des Jardins", with a small mark above the final letter.

Deirdre Des Jardins, Director
California Water Research
(831) 566-6320
ddj@cah2oresearch.com