



California  
Water  
Research

March 18, 2022

Via email to [disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov)

Steve Brandt, Chair, and members  
Delta Independent Science Board  
715 P Street, 15-300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Comments on presentations at March 10, 2022 meeting**

Dear Chair Brandt and Delta Independent Science Board members,

This letter is to express the hope that the Delta ISB will submit the presentations at the March 10, 2022 meeting to Maven's Notebook for transcription and posting. There was a lot of good information there.

I posted some of my comments on the presentations on the California Water Research blog, together with some references for further reading. Here are the links to the blog posts:

**A brief history of the water wars — comments to the Delta ISB**

<https://cah2oresearch.com/2022/03/14/a-brief-history-of-the-water-wars-comments-to-the-delta-isb/>

**California Environmental Flows Framework — comments to the Delta ISB**

<https://cah2oresearch.com/2022/03/14/california-environmental-flows-framework-comments-to-the-delta-isb/>

**On the Voluntary Agreements — comments to the Delta ISB**

<https://cah2oresearch.com/2022/03/14/on-the-voluntary-agreements-comments-to-the-delta-isb/>

With respect to historic contexts, I wanted to also offer some insights on why I think this is important from Cambridge psychiatrist Hisham Ziauddeen.

Ziauddeen synthesized the work of several brilliant women on how power operates across hierarchies of caste, gender, sexuality, ableness and class: Isabel Wilkerson, Kate manne, Ijeoma Oluo, and Angela Saini. I find his synthesis to be helpful in thinking about how power operates across hierarchies in California water as well.

With respect to determining the frame of reference, Ziauddeen said:

...this is arguably one of the most important aspects of power i.e. the ability to determine the frame of reference for all considerations. This allows the control of all discussion, negotiation and scrutiny.

This can include determining the legal and social framework for the society, the frame within which matters will be considered i.e. who, when and what will be included and excluded.

...

An important way in which this is implemented is in the ahistoric framing of discussions i.e. we are where we are now, we don't need to consider how and why we got here and who got us here.

In my experience, environmental and fishing experts cite historic context that is well known within that community, but not well understood outside the community. So I wanted to thank the Board for the opportunity to provide some of that historic information for the Board's consideration.

I am working on transcribing my comments on how power operates in California water to the Delta Stewardship Council at the October 28, 2021 meeting, as well as my comments to the Delta ISB at the end of the March 10 meeting, and will provide those when I am finished. They are also based on Hisham Ziuaddeen's synthesis.

Finally, I wanted to express my gratitude to the new board members for diving in and learning about the complex regulatory landscape of California water.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Des Jardins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Deirdre Des Jardins, Director  
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