

## **Delta Independent Science Board Reappointments and Nomination to Fill Vacancy**

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**Requested Action:** The Delta Lead Scientist, Dr. Peter Goodwin, will seek Council approval to appoint six existing Delta Independent Science Board members whose terms end on August 31, 2015, and make a nomination to fill an existing vacancy with Dr. Joy Zedler.

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### **Recommendation**

Dr. Goodwin will make a recommendation to reappoint the six Delta Independent Science Board (ISB or Board) members whose terms end on August 31, 2015 and make a nomination to fill the current Board vacancy.

### **Background**

The Delta ISB was created as part of the Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Water Code section 85280(a)) to provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta and to provide independent science advice about the Delta Plan (Water Code section 85308(a)). The Act specifies the following criteria for Delta ISB members:

The Delta Independent Science Board shall consist of no more than 10 members appointed by the council. The term of office for members of the Delta Independent Science Board shall be five years. A member may serve no more than two terms. (Water Code Section 85280(a)(1)).

Members of the Delta Independent Science Board shall be nationally or internationally prominent scientists with appropriate expertise to evaluate the broad range of scientific programs that support adaptive management of the Delta. The members shall not be directly affiliated with a program or agency subject to the review activities of the Delta Independent Science Board (Water Code Section 85280(a)(2)).

### **Delta Independent Science Board Term Reappointments**

Six of the nine current Board members have five-year terms that expire on August 31, 2015: Dr. Brian Atwater, Dr. Elizabeth Canuel, Dr. Tracy Collier (Chair), Dr. Richard Norgaard (past-Chair), Dr. Vincent Resh and Dr. John Wiens. All six are willing and available to serve a second term.

The Delta Reform Act did not specify an initial staggering of Board member terms. However, the Lead Scientist along with several Council and Delta ISB members have recognized that having multiple term appointments expire at the same time could be detrimental to retaining the momentum and effectiveness of the Board. A natural turn-over of Board members has been occurring every 2 – 3 years, providing some staggered

succession of membership. Options for providing additional staggering will be discussed at the June 11-12, 2015 Delta ISB meeting for consideration as part of the Delta ISB Operating Guidelines.

Curricula Vitae are attached for all Board members nominated for reappointment.

### **Delta Independent Science Board Vacancy**

The vacancy on the Delta ISB was created by the resignation of Dr. Judy Meyer effective December 31, 2014.

The search to fill the vacancy began in January 2015 and consideration of candidates started on February 15, 2015. A recruitment flyer advertising for a world-class scientist with an expertise in estuarine ecology was posted on the Delta Stewardship Council website and the vacancy was also announced via the Delta Stewardship Council email reflector. In addition, nominations and applications were solicited from individuals by Delta Stewardship Council and Delta Science Program staff.

A short list of applicants was developed, interviews were conducted by phone using a standard list of questions and reference checks were conducted. Based on the outcome of this process, Dr. Goodwin is nominating the following individual:

Dr. Joy Zedler, Aldo Leopold Professor of Restoration Ecology, Retired. Botany Department and Arboretum, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

Dr. Zedler would replace Dr. Meyer effective upon Council appointment. She is nationally and internationally regarded as a premiere wetland ecologist and a pioneer in her field. Her extensive scientific career has emphasized estuarine ecology, evaluating restoration effectiveness, and assessing effects of hydrological alterations at the landscape level. Dr. Zedler's expertise will complement the disciplines currently represented by other members of the Board.

Additional information about the qualifications of the nominee can be found in her Curriculum Vitae, attached.

### **List of Attachments**

- Attachment 1: Curriculum Vitae, Dr. Brian Atwater
- Attachment 2: Curriculum Vitae, Dr. Elizabeth Canuel
- Attachment 3: Curriculum Vitae, Dr. Tracy Collier
- Attachment 4: Curriculum Vitae, Dr. Richard Norgaard
- Attachment 5: Curriculum Vitae, Dr. Vincent Resh
- Attachment 6: Curriculum Vitae, Dr. John Wiens
- Attachment 7: Curriculum Vitae, Dr. Joy Zedler

### **Contact**

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**Agenda Item: 9**  
**Meeting Date: May 28, 2015**  
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