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# DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

*A California State Agency*

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July 3, 2015

Ms. Jessica Pearson  
Executive Officer  
Delta Stewardship Council  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Gary Bardini  
Deputy Director  
California Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Ms. Pearson and Mr. Bardini:

## **Re: Independent Review Report on the Delta Levee Investment Strategy Methodology**

The Delta Science Program is pleased to deliver the enclosed independent scientific review report titled, "Methodology and Scientific Basis to Support the Delta Levee Investment Strategy". The transmittal of this report fulfills the request from the Delta Stewardship Council and the California Department of Water Resources to provide independent external scientific review of the Delta Levee Investment Strategy (DLIS) Methodology consisting of five technical appendices.

The goal of the DLIS Methodology Scientific Review was to assess early in the project if the approach taken in the DLIS Methodology is relevant, transparent, credible, robust, and sufficiently sensitive to quantify and prioritize the assets and risks associated with the economic, environmental, and social attributes of all Delta islands and tracts. You may wish to use the results of this review and the recommendations to refine the methodology which, in turn, will be used to generate outputs from the decision-support tool to inform decision-makers as they consider updates to the Delta Plan and a final report for the DLIS project.

The independent review panel consists of Dr. James Mitchell (chair), Dr. Kenneth Rose (lead author), Dr. Nathalie Asselman, Dr. John Bolte, Dr. Susan Cutter, Dr. Martin McCann, and Dr. Ari Michelsen. These panel members were selected for their expertise and reputation in the fields of geotechnical/seismic engineering, integrated modeling, flood management/hydrology, environmental/land use change, human and social issues, integrated risk management, and economics. The panel met publicly on May 19-20, 2015.

Detailed information on the DLIS Methodology Review can be found on the Delta Science Program web page (<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/events/science-program-review/delta-levees-prioritization-methodology-peer-review>). The Delta Science Program was pleased to assist in the process for evaluating the DLIS Methodology through this open and transparent peer

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*"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."*

– CA Water Code §85054

review. If there are questions about the DLIS Methodology Review, independent review panel report, or the overall process, please contact Jiro Ariyama, Environmental Scientist at (916) 445-5398 or [jiro.ariyama@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:jiro.ariyama@deltacouncil.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Rainer Hoenicke, Ph.D.  
Deputy Executive Officer, Delta Science Program  
Delta Stewardship Council  
Enclosure

Cc: Dan Ray, Chief Deputy Executive Officer  
Cindy Messer, Deputy Executive Officer, Planning Division  
Dave Mraz, Chief Principle Engineer, DWR  
Eric Nichol, Executive Policy Advisor, DWR  
James Mitchell, Chair, Independent Scientific Review Panel