



News Release

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Council Appoints New Lead Scientist

Dr. Cliff Dahm Returns to Post He Held from 2008 to 2012

SACRAMENTO – Dr. Clifford Dahm, an internationally recognized expert in aquatic ecology, climatology, restoration biology, and a professor emeritus of biology at the University of New Mexico, was unanimously appointed by the Council on Thursday (Aug. 27) as Lead Scientist.

In making the appointment, Council Chair Randy Fiorini said, “With his broad understanding of water-related science and his background as the former Lead Scientist for the CALFED Bay-Delta Science Program, Cliff will provide crucial knowledge and scientific leadership as we implement both the Delta Plan and the Delta Science Plan.”

“I look forward to the continuing efforts of building a collaborative scientific community with its search for common truths on the many critical issues that face the Delta,” Dr. Dahm said. “The development of *One Delta-One Science* is clearly a project of critical importance to California that is helping set standards of how the best available science can more effectively inform the making of policy.”

Dahm’s appointment was the result of a nationwide search and is effective Sept. 8, 2015. He replaces Dr. Peter Goodwin, an internationally-recognized expert in ecohydraulics (the impact of management on aquatic ecosystems), ecosystem restoration, enhancement of river, wetland and estuarine systems, and a professor of civil engineering at the University of Idaho who served three years in the same post.

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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

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“Providing the science support to the Council was a highlight during my initial tenure because we were able to fund new badly-needed research, invest in some new young investigators, and take leadership roles in the development of parts of the Delta Plan,” said Dahm. “This will be a homecoming for me and a chance to once again work with a group of exciting and energetic people who are highly focused at furthering California’s coequal goals of water supply reliability and the restoration of the Delta’s ecosystem.”

Dahm served as director of the Freshwater Sciences Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program and the Sevilleta Long-Term Ecological Program. A broadly trained interdisciplinary scientist, Dahm has conducted research in the areas of climate change, aquatic ecology, stream water/ground water interactions, microbial ecology, stream and river restoration, biogeochemistry, geomicrobiology, ecohydrology, and evapotranspiration.

A chemistry graduate of Boise State University, Dahm received his master’s degree in chemical oceanography and his Ph.D. in oceanography/aquatic ecology from Oregon State University. Dahm is married to Rhea Graham, a geologist and water resources specialist, and the couple has two daughters, Katharine and Kristina. To review Dr. Dahm’s curriculum vitae, [please click here](#).

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About the Council

Created by the legislature in 2009, the Delta Stewardship Council is composed of members who represent different parts of the state and offer diverse expertise in fields such as agriculture, science, the environment, and public service. Of the seven, four are appointed by the Governor, one each by the Senate and Assembly, and the seventh is the Chair of the Delta Protection Commission. For more information visit <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/>

For more than two years, California has been dealing with the effects of drought. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit [Drought.CA.Gov](#). Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at [SaveOurWater.com](#).