



## DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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December 14, 2010

Maria Rea  
Sacramento Area Office Supervisor  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, California 95814-4706

Mike Chotkowski  
Regional Environmental Officer  
United States Bureau of Reclamation,  
Mid-Pacific Region  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Mary Grim  
Acting Field Supervisor  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service.  
San Francisco Bay-Delta Fish and Wildlife  
Office  
650 Capitol Mall, 8-300  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Rea, Ms. Grim and Mr. Chotkowski:

**Re: Independent Review Panel's Final Report for the Water Year 2010 Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP) Integrated Annual Review Workshop**

The Delta Science Program is pleased to present the enclosed review report entitled "Report of the 2010 Independent Review Panel (IRP) on the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) Actions Affecting the Operations Criteria And Plan (OCAP) for State/Federal Water Operations." The transmittal of this final report fulfills a request from the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior of the United States to provide independent external review of the implementation of the RPA Actions in the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) OCAP biological opinions.

The overall goal of this peer review was to inform NMFS and USFWS as to the efficacy of the prior year's actions prescribed by their respective RPAs, with the goal of developing lessons learned, incorporating new science, and making appropriate scientifically justified adjustments to the RPAs or their implementation to support 2011 real-time decision making.

The independent review panel consisted of Dr. James Anderson, Dr. Ron Kneib, Dr. Stacy Luthy, and Dr. Pete Smith. These panel members were selected for their expertise and reputation concerning anadromous fish, estuarine ecology, native fish biology and ecology, and hydrodynamics and transport modeling. The panel met in public meetings on November 8-9, 2010.

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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."*

– State Water Code §85054

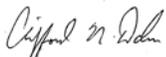
Detailed information on the OCAP Integrated Annual Review Workshop can be found on the Delta Science Program web page

([http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta\\_science\\_program/events/workshop\\_OCAP\\_2010.html](http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta_science_program/events/workshop_OCAP_2010.html)). The

Delta Science Program was pleased to assist in the process of evaluating the water year 2010 implementation of the RPA Actions through open and transparent peer-review.

If there are questions about the OCAP Integrated Annual Review Workshop, independent review panel report, or the overall process, please contact Lindsay Correa, Environmental Scientist for the Delta Science Program, at (916) 445-0092.

Sincerely,



Clifford N. Dahm, Ph.D.  
Lead Scientist, Delta Science Program  
Delta Stewardship Council

Enclosures

Cc: Dan Castleberry, United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jennifer Norris, United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
Garwin Yip, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Donna Garcia, United States Bureau of Reclamation