



News Release

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Delta Science Program Seeks New Lead Scientist *Dr. Cliff Dahm Ends Appointment Term Amid Praise*

SACRAMENTO – The Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) and the U.S. Geological Survey are seeking an internationally recognized aquatic or ecosystem scientist to become the Lead Scientist of the Delta Science Program. The program's current head, Clifford Dahm, Ph.D., is retiring from his 3-year appointment to the post.

"There are few greater challenges at the interface between aquatic science and policy than to assist with the conundrum that is the California Delta," said outgoing Lead Scientist Cliff Dahm.

Dahm, an internationally recognized expert in aquatic ecology, biogeochemistry, climatology, and restoration biology, is a full time professor of biology at the University of New Mexico. He started his career as Lead Scientist under the CALFED Program and maintained the position when the DSC began operations in Feb, 2010.

During his tenure as Lead Scientist, Dahm has overseen a scientific staff of 14 who have provided the scientific basis used in the development of the Delta Plan, a comprehensive management plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that will guide state and local agencies to help achieve the coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.

"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

Dahm also helped establish the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB). This group of nationally recognized scientists is mandated by the Delta Reform Act of 2009 to provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta.

“Dr. Dahm has been an invaluable asset to the Delta Stewardship Council,” said the Council’s Chair Phil Isenberg. “His leadership role and extensive background in water issues have had a fundamental impact in the development of the Delta Plan. Bottom line, he’s made our job much easier.”

The Lead Scientist leads the Delta Science Program and its \$5-10 million/year program. The individual will be the principal liaison between the Science Program, the Delta ISB, and the DSC and will work with these groups to develop the science agenda for the Delta that will support the Delta Plan.

The Lead Scientist is secured through a multi-year appointment with the U.S. Geological Survey with a salary range of \$121,000-\$155,000. For more information on the Delta Science Program, visit this web address: www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program For more information on how to apply for the position, contact Michelle Shouse at mkshouse@deltacouncil.ca.gov