



**EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor**  
**JOHN LAIRD, Secretary for Natural Resources**

April 1, 2014

Dr. Peter Goodwin, Ph.D.  
Lead Scientist, Delta Science Program  
Delta Stewardship Council  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Goodwin,

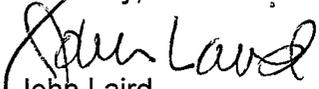
I am writing to extend my appreciation on behalf of the state agencies participating in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) to the Independent Review Panel for their report on the Public Draft BDCP Effects Analysis. This review is an important step in our commitment to scientific rigor in the development of a conservation plan for the Delta.

We have performed a preliminary review of the report and agree that there remain areas in the Effects Analysis that can be improved. We are already working to address many of your concerns. As the science of the Bay-Delta system is constantly improving, uncertainty remains. We must continue to recognize this uncertainty in the application of the best available science. To help address scientific uncertainty in the BDCP, we continue to develop a thorough adaptive management and monitoring program. We appreciate the recommendations from the panel in this area. However, we must ultimately draw conclusions and take action based on our current understanding and interpretation of the best available science notwithstanding the fact that there remains uncertainty.

The panel's report criticized the "vastness" of the Effects Analysis as too long and detailed, and yet also commented that the "sheer scope of the analysis is impressive." We certainly appreciate this perspective, but it must be balanced with the intent of the BDCP as a regulatory document with a specific purpose. The organization of the plan is in a form necessary to provide the information the regulators need to make their findings.

A March 6, 2014 draft letter from the Delta Independent Science Board regarding the interim review of the draft EIR/EIS states, "The current BDCP documents provide a comprehensive assessment of efforts to reverse declines in water reliability and ecosystem health in California. The documents offer thorough descriptions, impressive detail, and probing analyses of a portfolio of potential actions that are to be based on science." We certainly agree and continue our commitment to successfully completing a scientifically-sound and broadly-supported BDCP that helps to advance the co-equal goals of a healthy Delta ecosystem and a reliable water supply for California.

Sincerely,

  
John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources

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