

Dear (ngo leaders):

The Delta Independent Science Board (DISB) will shortly be undertaking a review of scientific activities related to Delta habitat restoration and how restoration can be adaptively managed in the context of climate change.

The DISB (currently nine members with backgrounds in ecology, biology, biogeochemistry, geology, and economics) was established under the Delta Reform Act of 2009. The Act requires the DISB to provide "oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta through periodic reviews of each of those programs" such that "all Delta scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs are reviewed at least once every four years" (§85280 (a)(3)).

Rather than proceed program by program, we will structure the reviews around scientific issues inherent in the Act's co-equal goals of water reliability and ecological health. We expect this integrative approach will prove to be more beneficial for all involved.

Our first thematic review will focus on habitat restoration activities and on how adaptive management and climate change are incorporated into these activities. The habitats of interest range from aquatic through wetlands and water-riparian interfaces to uplands. The restoration efforts to be considered include past, ongoing, or planned projects.

This first review will begin with a briefing of the Board by upper level management from state and federal agencies during the morning of August 16 and select "sample" site visits with agency staff that afternoon. We look forward to being briefed by NGO leaders on the morning of August 17. Attached are examples of the questions we are interested in pursuing.

In addition, to become further informed regarding habitat restoration activities in the Delta, Board members will actively seek out and be in the audience for presentations on habitat restoration at the Bay-Delta Science Conference on 16-18 October 2012.

Taking an adaptive management approach to our reviews, we will use what we have learned from these initial steps and work with Delta Science Program staff to determine how best to complete this thematic review in November and December.

Thank you in advance for your help. We look forward to engaging with you and your colleagues on the science of habitat restoration, climate change, and adaptive management.

Sincerely yours,

Richard B. Norgaard

Chair