



July 29, 2014

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

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DELTA COUNCIL  
MAILROOM

Dear Dr. Goodwin:

We write to you on behalf of the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Commerce and the California Natural Resources Agency to request that you convene an Independent Scientific Review Panel to review existing information and prepare a summary analysis of the long-term effects – economic, ecological, social, and any other meaningful effects – of continuing the current course of actions relating to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

Many independent scientists have documented the downward trend of various indicators of the Bay Delta ecosystem and its water delivery system over the years, and a number of have made predictions of future trajectories of specified species, water levels, flows, and deliveries in the Delta, and other Delta indicators. We are requesting you to provide a synthesis of prior studies and contemporary scientific understanding of the continuation of status quo management of the Delta.

Rather than an exhaustive analysis, we are seeking a synthesis of existing work such as the U.S. Geological Survey Cascade Project; recent relevant publications of the Public Policy Institute of California; and relevant portions of the draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan, its environmental review document, and supplemental studies. We would like to meet with you at your earliest convenience to develop a scope, budget and timeframe for this effort with the goal of receiving the results from the Independent Science Review Panel as expeditiously as possible.

We look forward to discussing this request with you. Thank you very much for your assistance on this important matter.

Sincerely,

John Laird  
Secretary for California Natural Resources

David Murillo  
Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation

Ren Lohofener  
Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

William W. Stelle, Jr.  
Regional Administrator,  
NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region



**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**  
*A California State Agency*

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August 25, 2014

**Chair**  
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John Laird, Secretary  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Dear Secretary Laird:

Thank you for your request to convene an Independent Scientific Review Panel to synthesize the existing information on the risks facing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

We appreciate the support and responsiveness from your staff and other agencies as we begin to work through the details and scope for this Review Panel.

We will work through Karla Nemeth (Deputy Secretary for Water Policy) and designated points of contacts at US Fish and Wildlife, Reclamation and NOAA Fisheries to keep you informed of the progress and schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [pgoodwin@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:pgoodwin@deltacouncil.ca.gov) or (916) 445-3133.

Sincerely,

Peter Goodwin  
Lead Scientist  
Delta Science Program

cc: Ren Lohofener, Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
David Murillo, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation  
William W. Stelle, Jr., Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region

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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