

Delta Independent Science Board Report

Summary: Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB or Board) Chair Dr. Tracy Collier will brief the Council on recent activities of the Delta ISB.

Background

Dr. Collier will brief the Council on the Board's public meetings held on November 21-22, 2013, and January 16-17, 2014.

The first day of the Board's November meeting was a joint meeting with the Council. On the second day, the Board's main agenda item was its review of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (BDCP DEIR/EIS). Board members discussed their chapter review assignments, the draft framework they will use for the review, and a list of overarching issues, such as reverse flows, fish screen efficiency, and substituting habitat for flow.

The Board also discussed the 2013 Draft California Water Action Plan (WAP), as requested by Council Chair Phil Isenberg. The WAP mentions the Council and implementation of the Delta Plan, but does not mention the Delta Science Plan (Plan). At the direction of the Board, Jay Lund and Tracy Collier wrote a comment memo to the Secretaries of the California Natural Resources Agency, California EPA, and California Department of Food and Agriculture (Attachment 1) noting that the Plan provides an unusual opportunity to enhance the scientific basis for policy discussions regarding the Delta and California's water problems. The memo recommended that the Plan be used as a model and process to incorporate into. Collier and Lund also offered to talk with the secretaries about the Plan and improving the development and use of science in the WAP.

The Fish and Flows team (Judy Meyer, Joe Fernando, and Jay Lund) discussed progress on their program review. The next step is to collect more information by distributing a short general survey to selected agencies and conducting interviews with small groups of agency representatives.

At its January 16-17 meeting, the Board focused on its review of the BDCP DEIR/EIS. Board members discussed their assigned chapters and review papers generated by other groups including *Panel Review of the Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan*: Prepared for The Nature Conservancy and *American Rivers* prepared by Jeffrey Mount, Ph. D. (Chair), and a report from Walter Bourez about the CALSIM modeling used in the BDCP.

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The Board will meet again on February 24-25 to continue discussing and preparing its comments on the BDCP DEIR/EIS.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Memo from Delta ISB Chair and Chair-elect: Science and the California Water Action Plan

Contact

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