



## Delta Independent Science Board

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November 27, 2013

To: John Laird, Secretary, California Natural Resource Agency  
Matthew Rodriquez, Secretary, California EPA  
Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

From: Jay Lund, Chair Elect, Delta Independent Science Board  
Tracy Collier, Chair, Delta Independent Science Board

Re: Science and the California Water Action Plan

The Delta Independent Science Board has a statutory responsibility to independently review scientific efforts that support management of the Delta. We recently commented on the new Delta Science Plan, which we understand your agencies and departments were centrally involved in writing.

The Delta Science Plan demonstrates a new dedication of the State to develop and apply science to support policy regarding some of California's most enduring and difficult problems. The Science Plan provides a framework for bringing together expertise from state, federal, and local agencies with academics and research institutes to develop stronger common scientific information useful for policy and management problems. The Science Plan will integrate and promote scientific understanding and insights in policy and management for the Delta and could be a model for improving the use and development of science for water problems statewide.

Scientific capability and credibility is fundamental for the political, economic, and environmental success of almost all actions in the California Water Action Plan. The new Delta Science Plan provides an unusual opportunity to enhance the scientific basis for policy discussions regarding the Delta and California's water problems generally. We recommend it to you as a model and process to incorporate into and thus strengthen the California Water Action Plan.

If you would find it useful, we would be happy to talk with you individually or collectively about the Science Plan and improving the development and use of science.