

Memorandum

Date: February 25, 2013

To: Dr. Richard Norgaard, Chairman
Independent Science Board
Delta Science Program
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento CA 95814

From: **Department of Water Resources**

Subject: February 12, 2013 Draft Review of BDCP Chapter 7

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to comment on your draft review of the proposed governance structure for BDCP, as laid out in the December 12, 2012, administrative draft of Chapter 7. While we believe that some of your concerns will be more fully addressed by the forthcoming section 3.6 of Chapter 3 (Adaptive Management Program), you have raised a number of good points. We will continue to reflect on those recommendations and would welcome the opportunity for further discussion once section 3.6 is available for your review. In the meantime, we would like to offer the following thoughts.

We strongly agree that BDCP implementation will not be successful unless its science and adaptive management programs are fully integrated with, not just coordinated with, the Delta Science Program and other related science programs. How best to do so while maintaining the independence of the Delta Science Program is something we will continue to discuss with you and other members of the Delta science community. Similarly, we welcome the opportunity to integrate our science with that of the Delta Science Plan currently under development, and look forward to working with the Delta Science Program on the development of its science plan.

We likewise acknowledge the need for independent science review of many aspects of BDCP implementation, including by the Delta Independent Science Board. It is also our hope that we will be able to rely at least partly on the facilitation services of the Delta Science Program, which has already provided independent review panels during the planning process and on the preliminary Effects Analysis. Having said that, this may not be the only option we will use for independent science review. We look forward to more discussion with you on this point.

We understand the concerns raised about the proposed role of the Science Manager and the Adaptive Management Team, which go to the important distinction between science and management. In our view, there is a critical need for a management link between the scientists and the policymakers who will ultimately make the management decision. That link is intended to be provided by the Adaptive Management Team, the members of which must all be well-versed in the science but also capable of serving the synthesizing “polymath” function and be able to translate for the decisionmakers. Chapter 7 does not really address the science part of this equation, which we agree needs much close attention.

Again, thank you for considering these comments as you finalize your current review memo. We look forward to working with you much more closely on these issues in the coming months.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark W. Cowin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark W. Cowin
Director
(916) 653-7007