



ACTION ITEM

Delta Independent Science Board Reappointment

Summary

The Delta Lead Scientist, Dr. Laurel Larsen, will ask the Council to consider reappointing Delta Independent Science Board Member Dr. Thomas Holzer, whose first term is coming to an end in January 2023.

Requested Action

Dr. Laurel Larsen recommends that the Council reappoint Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) Member Dr. Thomas Holzer, whose first term is coming to an end on January 2, 2023. If reappointed, Dr. Holze's second five-year term would be from January 3, 2023, to January 2, 2028.

Background

The Delta ISB was created by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Delta Reform Act) (Water Code sections 85000, et seq.) to provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta (Water Code Section 85280(a)). Delta ISB members are appointed by the Council (Water Code section 85050). Notwithstanding being appointed and administered by the Council, members of the Delta ISB are not employees of the Council and exercise their scientific judgment and perform Delta ISB functions independently from the Council (Water Code section 85280(a)(4)). The Delta Reform Act specifies the following criteria for Delta ISB members:

The Delta Independent Science Board shall consist of no more than ten members appointed by the Council. The term of office for members of the Delta Independent Science Board shall be five years. A member may serve no more than two terms (Water Code Section 85280(a)(1)).

Members of the Delta Independent Science Board shall be nationally or internationally prominent scientists with appropriate expertise to evaluate the broad range of scientific programs that support adaptive management of the Delta. The members shall not be directly affiliated with a program or agency subject to the review activities of the Delta Independent Science Board (Water Code Section 85280(a)(2)).

The Council appointed Dr. Holzer on November 16, 2017, and his term started on January 2, 2018. During his tenure on the Delta ISB, Dr. Holzer played a significant role in the Delta ISB's [water supply reliability review \(https://bit.ly/3SKbxCL\)](https://bit.ly/3SKbxCL), which was presented to the Council in June 2022, and is now leading a review on subsidence reversal. Prior to his service on the Delta ISB, Dr. Holzer, now an emeritus scientist, served at the United States Geological Survey from 1975 to 2016 and held an appointment as a consulting professor at Stanford from 1994 to 2016. His areas of expertise are in earthquake-induced liquefaction, including evaluating hazards and risks of liquefaction, and land subsidence caused by groundwater withdrawal. Based on his qualifications and contributions to the Delta ISB, Dr. Larsen recommends reappointing Dr. Holzer for a second term. If reappointed, his second term will be from January 3, 2023, to January 2, 2028. For additional information on Dr. Holzer's qualifications, please see his curriculum vitae (Attachment 1).

Fiscal Information

Funding for the Delta ISB is part of the current Delta Science Program budget. Delta ISB members are compensated for their time and travel.

Compensation for Delta ISB members is set by Water Code Section 85213 (b):

The council shall contract for the services of the members of the Delta Independent Science Board established pursuant to Section 85280, at an hourly rate of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The council shall increase the hourly rate annually based on inflation and cost of living adjustments.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Dr. Thomas Holzer Curriculum Vitae

Contact

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