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Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 12:51 PM

To: Brandt, Stephen B. <brandt.disb@gmail.com>

Cc: Delta Council ISB <disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov>; Gwynne Pratt <gtpratt@yahoo.com>

Subject: Update on SB 821 regarding Delta ISB contracts, CWR comment letter

Dear Delta Independent Science Board Chair and members:

Thank you again for your service during this difficult period for the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB.)

California Water Research has advocated that actions taken on Delta ISB funding and compensation be noticed to all Delta Stewardship Council members and the public. Transparency is an extremely important element in California law, as exemplified by the following: "...the Legislature finds and declares that it is the intent of the law that actions of state agencies be taken openly and that their deliberation be conducted openly..." (Government Code section 11120.)

We also have advocated that Delta Independent Science Board be fully informed of actions taken by the Delta Stewardship Council on funding and compensation for the Delta Independent Science Board, as those actions are being taken, not after the fact.

A partial transcript of the discussion of Delta ISB compensation at the May 21, 2021 Delta Stewardship Council meeting is posted on the California Water Research blog at the link below:

Delta Stewardship Council members call for resolution of Delta Independent Science Board funding crisis

<https://cah2oresearch.com/2021/05/31/delta-stewardship-council-members-call-for-resolution-of-delta-independent-science-board-funding-crisis/>

My full statement to the Council at the May 21, 2021 on the need for transparency and formal consideration of the Delta ISB contracts is posted here:

California Water Research calls for formal consideration of Delta Independent Science Board compensation

<https://cah2oresearch.com/2021/06/03/california-water-research-calls-for-formal-consideration-of-delta-independent-science-board-funding/>

To foster transparency going forward, we are sending you this note about SB 821, [Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Delta Independent Science Board](#). SB 821 was amended in the California Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee on June 8, 2021. The bill will be heard by the Committee on June 17, 2021. Reportedly the bill language is subject to change; negotiations with the administration are ongoing.

OUR ANALYSIS

The new language amends Water Code section 85213, regarding contracts by the Delta Stewardship Council, to require the following:

(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 equivalent to that of a Research Specialist V (Class Code 7858) as described in the Department of Human Resources Pay Scale document.

The new language also makes the contracts exempt from the section of the Government Code on Civil Service, which requires approval of pay rates by the California Department of Human Services (CalHR), and the section on the Public Contract Code, which requires approval of contracts by the Department of General Services.

According to the CalHR pay scale, Research Specialist V is about \$60-74 an hour. (Using 40 hrs week x 52 weeks per yr / 12 months = 173.3 hours / month.) This is one of the highest pay classifications for scientists in the California Civil Service. See

Civil Service Pay Scale - Alpha by Class Title - CalHR

https://www.calhr.ca.gov › PS_Sec_15

However, the hourly pay rate is significantly lower than the DSC's current independent scientist contract rate of \$200 per hour, which the Delta ISB members received from FY 2017-2020.

California Water Research sent the attached comment letter on SB 821. Since the letter pertains to your office as Delta ISB members, we cc:ed the Delta ISB chair and members on the letter. We are available to answer any questions about our advocacy for full funding and staffing for the Delta ISB.

Sincerely,

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Deirdre Des Jardins
California Water Research



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