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**Sent:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 10:04 AM

**To:** Delta Council ISB <[DeltaCouncilISB@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:DeltaCouncilISB@deltacouncil.ca.gov)>

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**Subject: Public comments at 6/24/21 Delta Stewardship Council meeting regarding DISB funding**

Dear Members of the Delta Independent Science Board,

In case you were unable to attend the Delta Stewardship Council meeting last week, I want to let you know that Regional San and other stakeholders provided public comment in support of the DISB and encouraging the Council's efforts to resolve the DISB's funding issues.

I've provided a copy of Regional San's comments, and the link to the recording of the meeting is here: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2021-06-24&target=>

All the best,

Lisa

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## **Delta Stewardship Council Public Comments by Regional San re: Delta Independent Science Board Funding**

**For DSC meeting, June 24, 2021**

**Drafted by Lisa Thompson with comments from Christoph Dobson and Terrie Mitchell**

Good morning Chair Tatayon and Council Members!

My name is Dr. Lisa Thompson and I am the Chief Scientist for Regional San, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District. We serve about 1.6 million people in the Sacramento region and we discharge the majority of our treated wastewater to the Sacramento River, with the remainder used in recycled water projects. We take our role as environmental stewards very seriously and we have a keen interest in the health of the Delta ecosystem and in the availability of relevant, unbiased science to assist the Delta community in managing and improving the environment.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with Regional San's comments regarding the funding of the Delta Independent Science Board, or ISB.

Before I begin, in the interest of full disclosure, I should mention that Dr. Robert Naiman, a new member of the ISB, was my post-doctoral supervisor.

Regional San has been closely following the activities of the ISB for over 7 years and we have a staff scientist who regularly attends ISB meetings. We have participated in ISB activities through surveys, interviews, workshops, and providing comments on ISB documents that are made available for public review.

We have greatly appreciated the role that the ISB has played in improving the quality of Delta science, and there are three main reasons for this. First, the ISB's activities support putting the One Delta, One Science concept into action. The ISB makes an effort to consult with a wide range of stakeholders on the scientific needs of managers when designing and conducting its reviews. Most of the ISB members are not part of the Delta community, but they put a lot of effort into becoming knowledgeable about the current state of Delta research studies and management. They bring extraordinary levels of experience and expertise gained in a wide range of ecosystems and scientific disciplines.

Second, the ISB improves future scientific efforts by providing an unbiased reality check on the current state of the science, and encouraging new work to fill in the gaps it has identified in its reviews.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, the activities of the ISB improve the tone and quality of science in the Delta. Just knowing that the ISB will be reviewing the scientific topics of its choice encourages people to make management arguments and decisions based on the best available science (not just the most convenient or most popular science).

The ISB should be funded in a manner commensurate with its important role in the Delta, and the members of the ISB deserve to be compensated for their time, effort, and enthusiasm in keeping with their level of expertise. We encourage the Delta Stewardship Council to make every possible effort to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. Too much hangs in the balance, in terms of issues like climate change, water and land management, and native and non-native species management, for the quality of Delta science to backslide now.

Thank-you very much for all the work you do for the Delta, for your attention today, and for any efforts you are able to make to ensure the adequate funding of the ISB.