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Sent: Tuesday May 13, 2025 3:58 PM

To: Delta Council ISB <disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov>

Subject: Governor's 2024 Salmon Strategy failed to properly consult all tribes

Dear Delta Independent Science Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft prospectus for the upcoming contaminants monitoring review. We are pleased that this upcoming review can help address the management needs and inform several science actions outlined in the [2022-2026 Science Action Agenda](#), as described in the prospectus. Below are some comments from the Delta Science Program for your consideration.

Focus on review outcomes

We support the current approach of the contaminants monitoring review to focus on a suite of pollutants that are the highest risk to the system. Nutrients and harmful algal blooms, while serious water quality threats, have their own research and regulatory focuses that would split the focus of the review too far. The best approach for this contaminants-focused review is to be clear about what questions the report will answer and what management decisions the report can inform. We support the authors' efforts to work closely with experts in the community to identify the most pressing needs in contaminants for the system.

Recently, the Public Policy Institute of California Water Policy Center (PPIC), in partnership with UC Merced and Secure Water Future, hosted a gathering of the PPIC research network and select policy partners and experts to identify research needs to support California water policy and fill priority gaps. Joaquin Esquivel, the Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, indicated that contaminants of emerging concern are a priority for the State Water Resources Control Board. We recommend reaching out to Chair Esquivel to learn about his organization's needs.

Support for addressing the Grand Challenges

The Delta Science Program released an essay on the [Grand Challenges for Delta Science](#) in November 2024. The contaminants monitoring review will support the work of the Delta Science Program in developing the Delta Science Plan to address the Grand Challenges. In particular:

- Grand Challenge #1: "Scientists and managers must anticipate a world in which environmental conditions and regulations may be fundamentally different from those faced today" will be supported by the review of advanced and emerging

technologies, methods, and approaches which may create novel regulatory tools for more comprehensive understanding of contaminants.

- Grand Challenge #2: “Environmental change is outpacing the traditional pace of science” will be supported through findings of the review on status of constituents of emerging concern and the review of monitoring programs to determine if they are able to give a comprehensive picture of ecological risk of contaminants in the Delta.
- Grand Challenge #3: Flows of scientific information remain decentralized and poorly connected to communities with a vested interest in the Delta” will be supported by the review providing a source of common terminology and, if possible, findings on data availability and access for broad audiences.

We support the Delta ISB’s four goals and believe this report will help move the Delta science community toward better managing contaminants in the system. If you have any questions, please let us know.

All the best, Lisamarie Windham-Myers