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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Dr. John Callaway  
Delta Science Program  
Delta Stewardship Council  
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2 November 2018

### **Request for Independent Science Panel for the Delta Mercury Control Program: Review Final Phase 1 Control Study Reports and Provide Scientific Advice for the Program Goals**

On behalf of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB), I would like to request that the Delta Science Program (DSP) conduct a two-part independent assessment of the Delta Methylmercury Control Program (DMCP), comprised of a review of the Phase 1 Methylmercury Control Studies and development of recommendations for future implementation of the DMCP.

The first part of the request is a review of the final reports for the DMCP Phase 1 Control Studies. These ten reports will contain results and conclusions from methylmercury control studies, propose methylmercury control plans, and evaluate the feasibility of attaining waste load allocations associated with the program. The final reports will be submitted by various entities subject to the DMCP and will address methylmercury discharges from wastewater, urban storm water runoff, and dredging. The focus of the first part of the independent review would be to evaluate the scientific validity of the studies' results and conclusions, the effectiveness of proposed control plans, and the completeness of the projects according to previously approved work plans. Due to two sets of deadlines for the reports, this component of the review will be conducted during two different time periods.

The second part of this request is for the independent science panel to provide scientific recommendations to inform future actions and science needs for the CVRWQCB to consider when it revises the DMCP. The reviewers would utilize the results of the Control Study reports, other background information, and the current state of mercury science to develop the recommendations. After identifying data and information gaps that still need to be addressed for mercury and methylmercury controls, the independent science panel would provide recommendations for further studies and implementation plans and advise on the priority of those proposed actions.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Jennifer Fuller at (916) 464-4646 or [Jennifer.Fuller@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Fuller@Waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original signed by Adam Laputz*

Adam Laputz  
Assistant Executive Officer