



CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

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P. Joseph Grindstaff,
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State Agencies

- The Resources Agency:
- Department of Water Resources
- Department of Fish and Game
- Delta Protection Commission
- Department of Conservation
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- California State Parks
- The Reclamation Board
- California Environmental Protection Agency:
- State Water Resources Control Board
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Department of Health Services

Federal Agencies

- Department of the Interior:
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Geological Survey
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Agriculture:
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Department of Commerce:
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Western Area Power Administration

August 31, 2007

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INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF DRMS PHASE 1

As requested by the Department of Water Resources and recommended by the Independent Science Board (ISB), the Science Program assembled a panel of independent experts to review the DRMS Phase 1 report. The Independent Review Panel (IRP) was chaired by former Lead Scientist, Johnnie Moore, of University of Montana and included Rich Adams, Ph.D., Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR; Bob Gilbert, Ph.D., University of Texas; Katharine Hayhoe, Ph.D., Texas Tech University & ATMOS Research & Consulting; W.F. Marcuson III, Ph.D., P.E., American Society of Civil Engineers; Arthur Mynett, Sc.D., Delft Hydraulics; Deb Neimeier, Ph.D., P.E., University of California, Davis; Kenny Rose, Ph.D., Louisiana State University; and Roy Shlemon, Ph.D., Roy J. Shlemon, and Associates, Inc. The panel received the draft DRMS Phase 1 report June 29, 2007, met in Sacramento, CA for discussion on August 2-3, 2007, and submitted the attached review to the Science Program on August 23, 2007.

Regrettably, the draft Phase 1 report originally scheduled for completion in mid-April 2007 was completed over two months late (see original schedule in the draft Scope of Work presented to the ISB at their November 2006 meeting at http://science.calwater.ca.gov/sci_tools/isb_archive_06.shtml).

Consequently, the IRP was not able to conduct its review before DRMS completed the draft Phase 2 report. As a result, Phase 2 has not been able to benefit from the review of Phase 1. Despite the late arrival of the Phase 1 report, the IRP was able to complete its review quickly. Nevertheless, given the tight deadlines governing processes such as Delta Vision which hoped to make use of both DRMS Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports, we felt compelled to have the review discussed by the CALFED ISB before the authors of Phase 1 were able to respond to the review comments.

Ralph Svetich
Les Harder
August 31, 2007
Page 2

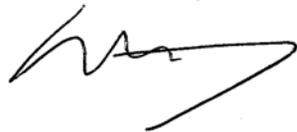
As you will see, and this will be reinforced by the ISB, the IRP details a number of serious concerns about the Phase 1 report. These concerns relate to transparency of approach, methodology, unexplained changes in methodology, and incomplete analyses. We hope that the authors can address these criticisms, particularly those identified as Tier 1, which are the most serious. If the authors of the report disagree with the IRP assessment in any of its particulars, we would like them to document why they feel the IRP assessment is incorrect.

As the ISB has scheduled another discussion of the Phase 1 report for a meeting to be held in late September 2007, it is important that the DRMS authors respond to the Tier 1 criticisms prior to that meeting detailing how they intend to address the concerns of the IRP, or demonstrating why the criticisms are invalid. The ISB has agreed to evaluate and comment upon both the review and the response of the authors to the review.

I would like to commend DWR for its desire to open this important document to independent peer review. I sincerely hope that it will be possible for the authors of the report to address adequately the substantive criticisms of the IRP as to do so will make the Phase 1 report and its analysis much more useful in the ongoing planning for Delta management. Although the IRP did not address positive aspects of the report, it is clear that the authors attempted a very complicated analysis that has never before been completed on a project of this scale. Although the outcome, given time constraints, has some serious flaws, the authors have assembled an impressive base of information and many of the individual analyses are useful in their own right.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-0463 or email Michael.Healey@calwater.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael Healey
CALFED Lead Scientist

cc: Johnnie Moore, Chair DRMS Independent Review Panel