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September 12, 2006

Ralph Svetich, DRMS Project Manager
Delta-Suisun Marsh Office
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 94236

Dear Mr. Svetich:

Request for Review of Delta Risk Management Strategy

Thank you for your letter dated July 14, 2006, regarding the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) and review needs of the program. The members of the ISB discussed your request at length and fully recognize the importance of a transparent, thorough scientific review of the results of the DRMS report.

Based on the abbreviated schedule of the DRMS effort and the potential for significant delays associated with NRC reviews, the Board strongly recommends that DWR not seek a review from the NRC. Many members of the Board have participated on NRC review panels and felt that this approach would be inappropriate for your needs. Alternatively, the Board members noted that the CALFED Science Program, with its history of successful independent program reviews, would be best able to handle the effort.

The Board recommends the following to CALFED Science Program staff:

- 1) Working closely with DWR staff, develop a new Scope of Work that establishes a multidisciplinary independent review panel of experts to review the findings of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 DRMS reports. The Board does not feel it is necessary to submit the new Scope of Work for further review to the ISB.
- 2) In order to expedite reviews, the Board recommends that the independent review panel only review Phase 1 and Phase 2 products from the DRMS reports. In addition, members of the independent review panel should receive one or two briefings prior to release of each of these reports so that they are fully apprised of DRMS methodologies and objectives.
- 3) The Scope of Work needs to narrow the charge of the independent review panel. The panel should receive precise summaries of the critical

scientific questions that the DRMS program needs answered. The emphasis of the questions should be on the scientific basis for decision-making. In turn, the panel needs to focus on these questions rather than conducting a broad review of the DRMS effort.

4) The scope of work should specify a well-defined timeline for completion of reviews of DRMS products in order to assure that responses and revisions can be completed in time to support Delta Visioning efforts.

5) The ISB will evaluate and comment upon the independent panel's review and the response of DRMS management to these reviews.

Individual members of the Board will assist the Science Program staff in identifying potential reviewers for this very important effort. Science Program staff should contact ISB members directly for input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Mount', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey Mount, Chair
CALFED Independent Science Board

cc: Joe Grindstaff, CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Ron Ott, CALFED Science Program
Les Harder, DWR
Dave Mraz, DWR
Authority Members