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September 12, 2006

California Bay-Delta Authority
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear California Bay-Delta Authority Members:

Scientific Review of CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Activities

The CALFED Independent Science Board (ISB) is charged with advising the Bay-Delta Authority on the application and effectiveness of science practices across the Bay-Delta program. As part of our charge, the ISB is evaluating how programs receive input and review from the scientific community.

As the state implementing agency for the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP), the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) recently assumed the primary role in ERP implementation including grant approval and management. In the past, ERP had an active science board that assisted the program in examining the application of science in program activities. The ERP Science Board provided scientific advice on program direction and priorities as well as more specific technical reviews. Its activities ensured scientific rigor and transparency in the program. That board has not met since spring, 2005. Although not officially disbanded, there are currently no members of the board under contract.

Given the importance of this board in reviewing program activities and products, the ISB seeks to know how DFG and the other ERP implementing agencies (USFWS and NOAA Fisheries) envision accomplishing the function of an independent scientific advisory board for the ERP. The ERP's Draft 2007 Program Plan does not offer any insight in this regard. My fellow ISB members and I would appreciate hearing the plans for providing this important, science-based insight and advice for the ERP in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Mount, Chair
CALFED Independent Science Board

cc: Joe Grindstaff, CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Ron Ott, CALFED Science Program
Ryan Broddrick, DFG
Steve Thompson, USFWS
Rodney McInnis, NOAA Fisheries