

Agenda Item: 3
Meeting Date: Tuesday August 15th

Open Position: Lead Scientist, California Bay-Delta Authority

The California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA) has responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED). CALFED is a multi-decade, multi-billion dollar cooperative effort of more than 20 state and federal agencies working to improve the quality and reliability of California's water supplies and revive the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem (<http://www.calwater.ca.gov>). CBDA is looking for an outstanding, senior scientist to guide the CBDA Science Program (<http://science.calwater.ca.gov>).

The Science Program was established in August 2000 by the California Bay-Delta Record of Decision. The Science Program is tasked with establishing unbiased and authoritative knowledge directly relevant to CALFED actions and to communicate that knowledge to scientists, agency managers, stakeholders and the public. There are four broad objectives for the Program:

- 1) Provide a comprehensive and integrated scientific context for CALFED activities.
- 2) Ensure continuous advancement of credible scientific information that will guide management decisions and water project operations.
- 3) Establish a framework to identify and articulate areas of scientific uncertainty relevant to key issues both before and after actions.
- 4) Develop strategies to reduce uncertainties and track performance and progress toward CALFED goals.

The Lead Scientist and the Science Program are charged with ensuring application of scientific principles and promoting peer review throughout CALFED to ensure high quality in program planning, implementation and evaluation. The Lead Scientist also nominates and establishes standing boards and independent review panels of experts as part of the independent science review of the entire CALFED Program. The Lead Scientist oversees an approximately \$10-12 million/year program with 11 State positions and 2 Federal positions and is appointed by and reports to the CBDA board of directors (<http://www.calwater.ca.gov/CBDA/NewCBDA.shtml>). The Lead Scientist also identifies, refines and implements the science agenda for the CALFED Program. This includes new science needs and a vision for assimilating the large amounts of scientific data and information generated by the CALFED Program into management decisions. An important part of the job includes developing, leading and sustaining dialogues and public discussions of technical issues among the stakeholder community, managers and directors of implementing agencies and academic researchers.

The Lead Scientist must have exceptional scientific skills, including a strong record of publication in the peer reviewed scientific literature, but also needs experience and expertise in advising upper-level government and policy makers and a knowledge of water and ecosystem

restoration policy. The Lead Scientist also needs to be a skilled communicator of science as well as a willing participant in incorporating that science in policy decisions at all levels.

Qualifications:

- Ph.D. or equivalent experience that includes a natural science background and extensive experience working with natural scientists, engineers, policy makers, agency managers, agency directors, politicians, and stakeholders from many perspectives.
- Evidence of stature in the broad scientific community including invited contributions to workshops, conferences or panels, evidence of scientific leadership, membership in prestigious scientific organizations, awards of merit, etc.
- Experience advising top managers and policy makers and promoting constructive integration of interdisciplinary science in natural resource management, especially in areas relevant to water management and/or ecosystem restoration.
- A strong record of publication in the peer-reviewed literature and other evidence of expertise relevant to the CALFED Program.
- Evidence of the ability to work and communicate well with people from different professional backgrounds and weigh issues in a balanced manner when in an advisory capacity.
- Evidence of ability to work and think across disciplines and experience in working with and advising on complex issues that integrate multiple disciplines.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will be the host agency and the position will be for a multi-year term as an assignment to the USGS from any public, university or nonprofit institution/agency. The Lead Scientist will be working out of the CBDA offices in Sacramento, CA. The salary range is expected to be at a federal grade of GS-15.