

Agenda Item: Item 6
Meeting Date: August 14, 2006

National Research Council Requests

Summary: Part of the ISB Charge is to work with the National Research Council (NRC). The Science Program has received requests from Implementing Agencies on obtaining NRC review.

Action: The action needed from the ISB is to review a specific request from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS).

Background: A specific part of the ISB Charge approved on June 15, 2006 is to “work with the National Academy of Science (NAS) and the National Research Council (NRC) board representatives to develop broad questions suitable for outside review by the National Research Council.” Given the broad experience of the Board with NAS and NRC, the ISB is well suited to provide guidance on how to best work with the NRC.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has sent a letter to the National Research Council requesting a proposal on how the NRC would provide review of the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS). DRMS is a program to look at the risks and consequences of those risks to the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta caused by impacts such as subsidence, floods, earthquakes and sea-level rise.

DWR is requesting that the ISB develop a similar proposal for review of the program. Attached are the DWR letter request, Scope of Requested Work for the DRMS review, and DRMS Program summary provided by DWR. The ISB is requested to review the information provided by DWR and provide recommendations on how review could be best accomplished. DWR will be at the meeting to present background on DRMS.

Per the ISB Operating Guidelines, reviews may be conducted by the ISB regarding the application of science within the CALFED Program. Rather than providing detailed reviews of specific products, the ISB will focus on how scientific reviews are being organized and how the information and recommendations from the various reviews are being integrated and utilized. In general, the role of the ISB is one of oversight rather than initiating reviews.

The ISB does not develop proposals to conduct independent technical review. The Science Program, however, has resources to assist in conducting review of large scale programs such as DRMS.

Staff Recommendation: The Science Program staff recommends that the ISB direct the Science Program to further evaluate the request and provide ideas for an independent technical review panel that would review draft and final products. The Science Program would coordinate the review process. The role of the ISB would be to review the recommendations of the independent panel and generally oversee the review process.

Question to ISB:

In regard to DRMS request:

- Is the process laid out by program staff reasonable?

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Letter from Ralph Svetich dated July 14, 2006

Attachment 2 - Scope of Work

Attachment 3 - Summary of Delta Risk Management Strategy

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