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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:

Performance Measures for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

At the August meeting of the CALFED Independent Science Board (ISB) we were updated on progress toward setting performance measures for CALFED program elements. As outlined in the Governor's 10-Year Action Plan for the program, the development of performance measures is a specific responsibility of the implementing agencies. Working with the agencies, CALFED Science Program staff have developed a framework and phased process for selecting and implementing performance measures, including review and approval by the ISB. Some progress has been made in the area of water quality; however, the ISB is concerned about the lack of progress in selecting these measures for the rest of the program.

It is the view of the ISB that performance measures are crucial to the CALFED mission because they are necessary to judge or document progress toward CALFED goals in a consistent and scientifically rigorous way. In addition, performance measures are needed to support decisions to modify, abandon, or expand projects. Finally, performance measures are essential for adaptive management, a fundamental tenet of the CALFED Program. Failure to develop performance measures has been criticized repeatedly by the legislature and in program reviews by KPMG and the Little Hoover Commission.

Time is of the essence because many significant decisions must be made over the next two years and suitable performance measures are critical to those decisions. The CALFED Science Program staff and the ISB will work with the implementing agencies to develop a suitable set of performance measures, and it is critical that the implementing agencies give this process high priority.

We are sure you appreciate the need for – and the significance of – a scientifically based program evaluation. The ISB looks forward to working with your staff to expedite development and implementation of performance

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measures. Please feel free to contact Ron Ott or Lauren Hastings of the CALFED Science Program staff if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Mount', written over a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Jeffrey Mount, Chair
CALFED Independent Science Board

cc: Joe Grindstaff, CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Ron Ott, CALFED Science Program
CALFED Implementing Agencies