

Agenda Item: Item 7

Meeting Date: November 16, 2006

State of Science for the Bay-Delta System

Summary: The Science Program has prepared an expanded outline for the first State of Science for the Bay-Delta System report to inform decision making and future Delta management. This outline contains an approach and theme for the report and selects topics for expanded consideration. The full report will be prepared for release by December 2007.

Action: The ISB will review and comment on the report outline and document development.

Background: The Science Program is responsible for issuing periodic State of the Bay-Delta Science reports that provide a broad interdisciplinary context and describe relevant scientific information for the Bay-Delta system. Areas of focus for the report include the state of scientific knowledge, state of the system (trends/indicators), recommended future science actions/activities, critical certainties and uncertainties, and specific interrelationships in the system.

Staff had previously developed a very brief outline for the report and more detailed outlines for technical appendices supporting the report. Based upon input provided at the August 2006 ISB meeting staff has focused instead upon developing a more complete outline for the report itself (acknowledging that the technical appendices will still be needed to provide the appropriate foundation for the report). Staff chose a thematic approach centering on water resources management and the consequent responses by human and natural ecosystems.

The State of Science for the Bay-Delta System report will be written by Science Program staff in collaboration with Program Science Advisors, and may include individual ISB members and technical experts from the private, agency, and university communities. Science Program staff will also continue to oversee development of each technical appendix consistent with an ISB-reviewed document outline. Drafting of the Report and the technical appendices may include use of workshops on specific topics to articulate the latest information from emerging scientific efforts.

A draft of the report and compilation of materials for the technical appendices is scheduled for completion in May 2007. The report and technical appendices will undergo independent technical review and revision by August 2007. The "final" report package would then be synthesized, incorporating review comments and including the

Agenda Item: 1
Meeting Date: August 15, 2006
Page 2

technical appendices. The "final" first edition of the report would be reviewed by the ISB by November 2007.

Questions to ISB:

- Does this outline represent a thematically workable and relevant document?
- Is the approach and timeline laid out by program staff reasonable?
- Should the report development still proceed prior to the development of the supporting technical appendices?

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Outline of the State of Science for the Bay-Delta System Report

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