

Agenda Item: Item 2

Meeting Date: February 22, 2007

Update on *State of Science for the Bay-Delta System Report*

Summary: In preparation for End of Stage 1 decisions, the Science Program is preparing a *State of Science for the Bay-Delta System* report. The institutional process for completion of the report has been finalized and an Editorial Board has been nominated to help guide the report development. Incorporating recommendations from the ISB, the Science Program has begun identifying subject matter experts to author report chapters. Chapter Authors will be guided by Technical Editors and the Editorial Board in content development. Jana Machula will act as Managing Editor for the report. The full report will be prepared for release by December 2007.

Action: This is an informational item only.

Background: In the summer of 2006, the Science Program embarked on an extensive effort to compile, synthesize and communicate the current scientific understanding of Bay-Delta ecosystem. The first product of this effort, *State of Science for the Bay Delta System* (SOSBDS), is slated to be completed in December 2007. The SOSBDS is expected to become an ongoing, iterative synthesis, with periodic updates and content that evolves with the evolving issues in the Delta. The first edition will focus on the science most relevant to the upcoming CALFED Program End of Stage 1 decisions and the Delta Visioning process. The report will incorporate the most current understanding of system structure and function, of Bay-Delta system services, of drivers or demands on these services, and of how management actions have influenced both services and the system as a whole. The goal is to have the report be recognized as the most authoritative assessment of Bay-Delta science.

At the November 2006 ISB meeting, Science staff presented an organizing principle (water resource management) and an outline for the SOSBDS report and received insightful feedback from the Board on approach, focus topics, and organizational structure for this effort. Additionally, Science staff has met with and received valuable input from ISB member Dr. Richard Norgaard. Dr. Norgaard shared the experience and lessons learned from his participation on the Millennium Assessment (MA) project, including recommendations to shift the current SOSBDS approach to a multi-participant process aimed at increased collaborative input. The Lead Scientist and the Science staff have carefully considered this recommendation, and will incorporate a multi-participant approach consistent with the tight timelines for the project. The Science Program will follow a streamlined SOSBDS process (outlined below) that incorporates multi-participant communication at each level (multiple communicating authors for each

report, multiple communicating editors, Editorial Board), and will incorporate other ideas from the MA approach and additional participants time permitting. With future editions, it is expected that a fully developed multi-participant, collaborative approach will become a dominant feature of the SOSBDS process.

SOSBDS Process: The development of the SOSBDS report will be guided by a small Editorial Board (EB) that will provide the timely and expedient feedback this effort will require. The EB will be comprised of the Lead Scientist, Mike Healey, and the Managing Editor for the SOSBDS Report, Jana Machula. Additionally, the Lead Scientist has proposed that Dr. Norgaard (ISB member and advisor to the process in its early stages) and Dr. Michael Dettinger, (expert on climate change effects on hydrology and one of the Science Program Advisors) to join the EB. The EB will provide content guidance and ensure report cohesiveness. Science staff has been identified as Technical Editors for chapters or parts of chapters. These Technical Editors are currently identifying and contacting potential report authors (Chapter Authors). Each Chapter Author will work closely with his/her Technical Editor and work in communication with other authors to develop content for the section or chapter assigned. Technical Editors will work closely with Chapter Authors to guide content development ensuring scientifically and thematically relevant product. Technical Editors will meet frequently to share information as chapters develop and will serve as the primary link between the EB and the Chapter Authors.

The initial direction to Chapter Authors will be based on the general outline previously presented to the ISB, including ISB recommendations; however, it is expected that the specific content development will actually occur through collaboration and discussion among the Chapter Authors, Technical Editors and the EB.

The ISB will be the primary level of scientific review for this first version of the SOSBDS. Although each chapter will also receive outside review, given the tight deadline for this report, the ISB will play a key role in ensuring a high scientific standard. With an EB and process in place, the Science Program expects to complete selection of Chapter Authors in the next month and hopes to provide drafts of report sections/chapters to the ISB at the June 2007 meeting. The report chapters will undergo external independent review and the final report will be presented for ISB review at the November 2007 ISB meeting.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Diagram of the State of Science for the Bay-Delta System Report Process

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