



INTERAGENCY ECOLOGICAL PROGRAM

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March 7, 2008

To: CALFED Independent Science Board

From: Perry Herrgesell, Chair
Interagency Ecological Program Coordinators

Subject: Moving IEP into the future

U.S. Bureau of
Reclamation

Department of Water
Resources

Department of Fish
and Game

National Marine
Fisheries Service

U.S. Geological
Survey

State Water Resources
Control Board

U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service

U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency

U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers

The Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Coordinators are delighted at the interest the Independent Science Board (ISB) has taken in helping us improve the program. The attendance of ISB members in our recent conference at Asilomar hopefully gave them a better overview of the program. It also gave IEP Coordinators and staff the opportunity to start to discuss with them specific ways the program might accomplish the more general goals and objectives being outlined in the ISB's draft letter. We hope to continue these discussions with the help of ISB members and the help of CALFED Science advisors in the coming year.

The program has evolved in the last few years to better respond to the needs of our participating agencies. For example, in our POD investigations we have made heavy use of academic researchers and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. We have also created a Lead Scientist position for the program. Clearly this is an era of change for IEP; meeting new demands while maintaining our irreplaceable long-term monitoring programs.

Because of the POD, our policymakers are now acutely aware of the need for the IEP to stay abreast of the scientific issues that affect agency activities, as evidenced by their support of the changes that have been made to the program in recent years. To make your involvement as productive as possible here is a sample of questions with which your experience might help us. It is not a comprehensive list, but we hope you can get a sense of where we would most value your help.

1. Are the DRERIP models a suitable framework to represent what we know and don't know? Are they a useful tool to help formulate research and management needs? If not, can you propose an alternative?

2. How do we integrate monitoring and research across the areas we work in and those that for institutional reasons we leave to others, including academic scientists?



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3. Can you recommend specific monitoring programs/changes that would improve our ability to deal with expected future conditions (zebra mussels, levee collapse, climate change, etc.)?

4. Are there agency monitoring and research programs elsewhere that you believe provide good examples for the conduct of "anticipatory" agency science?

The IEP Coordinators are happy to address questions about the program, and welcome ISB members participation and advice to IEP activities. We have appreciated Paul Smith's stimulating contributions, including his attendance at our annual workshop this year at Asilomar. We welcome continued engagement by more of the ISB.

Sincerely,

Perry Herrgesell, PhD
Chair, Interagency Ecological Program Coordinators