



INTERAGENCY ECOLOGICAL PROGRAM

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July 17, 2008

To: Jeff Mount, Chair
CALFED Independent Science Board

From: Perry L. Herrgesell, Chair
Interagency Ecological Program Coordinators

Subject: Moving the Interagency Ecological Program into the Future

This is in response to your April 4, 2008, letter to the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Directors regarding the CALFED Independent Science Board's (ISB) recommendations for moving IEP into the future. The IEP Coordinators and Directors reviewed and discussed these recommendations on June 20, 2008. I have been asked to provide this response to the ISB.

The IEP Directors and Coordinators thank the ISB for its thoughtful and constructive recommendations and look forward to future collaborations and input of this nature. Some of these recommendations are related to activities the IEP already performs, or are actions it could accomplish through its existing governance structure and funding sources. These recommendations include expanding data analyses and publications capabilities; increasing integration and collaboration with other monitoring and research programs within and outside the Delta; strategically analyzing current monitoring efforts, including protocols and locations; and increasing periodic, independent review of program elements and assessing the program's response to those reviews.

To begin addressing the ISB's recommendations, the IEP Coordinators have directed the IEP Management Team to (1) use the ISB's recommendations to help guide the development of the IEP's 2009 workplan and (2) provide a description of how the proposed draft workplan moves the IEP towards addressing those recommendations. The Coordinators will also direct the new IEP Operations Manager and new IEP Lead Scientist to work with ISB members, the IEP Management Team and others to determine what other specific

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*Department of Water
Resources*

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Control Board*

*U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service*

*U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency*

*U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers*

actions IEP can take over the longer term to further address ISB's recommendations in the future.

Other ISB recommendations appear to go beyond the scope of the existing IEP. These include the development of a comprehensive and integrated monitoring program for the Bay-Delta, the expansion of the program to improve the understanding of additional issues and geographical areas of the Bay-Delta and the modification of IEP's funding and governance structure. The IEP Directors believe that the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) process may be an appropriate venue in which to evaluate and address the ISB's recommendations. The Directors have therefore instructed their staffs to forward the recommendations to the appropriate BDCP workgroups for consideration, and to include the IEP Coordinators in the BDCP discussions regarding the BDCP's long-term monitoring needs.

The IEP Coordinators have also agreed to assist the CALFED Science Program design a strategic framework for a more comprehensive monitoring, assessment, and performance measure system for the Bay-Delta. CALFED Science has contracted with Dr. Sam Luoma to help develop this monitoring framework. In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Central Valley and San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are also working to improve regional water quality monitoring and assessment in the Delta, Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley. These agency programs will be also be coordinated with CALFED's monitoring framework effort. The resulting products will inform future discussions regarding the range of potential responsibilities of IEP in a larger Bay-Delta monitoring program. It will also help identify specific changes to IEP structure and funding that might be needed in order to carry out additional responsibilities agreed upon through the BDCP process.

In conclusion, the IEP Directors and Coordinators appreciate the ISB's constructive and thoughtful recommendations on ways to improve and expand the IEP to enable it to develop a more comprehensive information base needed to better manage the Bay-Delta. We will use these recommendations in several venues to determine specific, short- and long-term changes needed to move the program into the future. We will continue to work with the ISB and its individual members as we

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proceed. We also encourage the ISB members to continue attending IEP events and interacting with the individual Coordinators and our staff. We have found these interactions to be particularly useful to improving our understanding of the ISB's perspectives on Bay-Delta science needs and ways the IEP might better help meet those needs. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please call me at (209) 948-7800.

Sincerely,



Perry L. Herrgesell, Ph.D.
Chair, IEP Coordinators

cc: IEP Directors
IEP Coordinators
Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources
Joe Grindstaff, Deputy Secretary for Water Policy and Director
of CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Mike Healey, former CALFED Lead Scientist
Cliff Dahm, CALFED Lead Scientist