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State Agencies

- The Resources Agency:
- Department of Water Resources
- Department of Fish and Game
- Delta Protection Commission
- Department of Conservation
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- California State Parks
- The Reclamation Board
- California Environmental Protection Agency:
- State Water Resources Control Board
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Department of Health Services

Federal Agencies

- Department of the Interior:
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Geological Survey
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Agriculture:
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Department of Commerce:
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Western Area Power Administration

November 18, 2009

CALFED Science Program Acknowledgement of Proponent's Response to Science Review of the Two-Gates Project

On August 6, 2009, the CALFED Science Program coordinated an independent expert panel to review the 2-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project. The independent panel completed a "Science Review of the Two-Gates Project" on September 29, 2009. On November 15, 2009, the CALFED Science Program received a response to the science review from the project proponents, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. These products are posted on the Science Program's [2-Gates Review Page](#).

We thank the project proponents for responding to the six concerns and six recommendations of the independent review panel. In their response, the project proponents note that the design and optimal operation of the 2-Gates Project for the adult phase of delta smelt are based on the best available understanding of cues that influence pre-spawning migration behavior in winter and spring. Refining our understanding of the link between turbidity and upstream migration behavior of adult delta smelt is a critical scientific need. Ideally, this information will be a high priority science study that begins this winter and assists project design and operation.

Many of the more detailed responses to comments and recommendations are found in the draft Environmental Assessment and appendices, which are publicly available, but other details will be found in the Biological Assessment and appendices that are not yet released.

We are pleased that the proponents intend to engage the CALFED Science Program for ongoing data review and evaluation, hypotheses testing and refinement, and improvements to the adaptive management plan. We stand ready to provide staff expertise, peer-review, or organize topical workshops regarding the science supporting the project.

If you have any questions about the report, the response, or the process used to produce the review report, please contact Rebecca Fris at (916) 445-5031.

Sincerely,

Clifford N. Dahm
CALFED Lead Scientist