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P. Joseph Grindstaff,
Director

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

June 4, 2009

CALFED Science Review Process for National Marine Fisheries Service's development of the OCAP Biological Opinion

At the request of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the CALFED Science Program organized three events to assist NMFS in their preparation of the Biological Opinion (BO) on the Long-term Central Valley Project and State Water Project Operations and Criteria and Plan (OCAP).

First, the CALFED Science Program convened a public workshop including five independent expert panelists on "Temperature Management and Modeling Workshop in Support of an Operations and Criteria and Plan (OCAP) Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion". The April 1, 2008 workshop was a discussion on available tools, management-support alternatives and independent feedback concerning temperature management in the upper Sacramento River and key tributaries. A synthesis report on the workshop was transmitted to NMFS soon thereafter.

Second, a panel of four distinguished experts met in a public forum on August 5, 2008 to review and provide constructive input into the NMFS analytical framework that was to be used to develop the BO. An independent review report was provided to NMFS on the analytical framework on October 31, 2008.

Third, the CALFED Science Program provided independent review by a panel of seven independent experts for NMFS draft BO on listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, and green sturgeon in a public forum on January 9, 2009. This review was of a December 2008 draft of the BO and did not include review of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPAs). The written independent review report was submitted to NMFS on January 23, 2009. The independent review provided useful information and important insight for the team responsible for preparing the BO. The response to the review from NMFS, with detailed communication of points of agreement and disagreement, can be found in NMFS's cover letter and summary of review results and response.

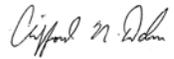
Detailed information on the workshop and the two peer reviews can be found on the CALFED Science Program web page (http://www.science.calwater.ca.gov/events/reviews/review_ocap.html).

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The CALFED Science Program was pleased to assist in the process of developing this BO through open, transparent peer-review of the analytical framework and the draft document and by hosting a workshop on temperature management.

If there are questions about the workshop, peer review panel reports, or the overall process, please contact Rebecca Fris at (916) 445-5031.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clifford N. Dahm".

Clifford N. Dahm
CALFED Lead Scientist