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Randall L. Brown was Technical Advisor and Editor for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Randall L. Brown, Ph.D., one of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta's leading scientific experts, died unexpectedly over the weekend near his home in Fair Oaks.

Dr. Brown was a 34-year biologist for the state Department of Water Resources, establishing its Office of Environmental Services in 1992 and serving as its chief until his retirement in 2000. Since then Brown was a science advisor for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, a collaboration of 25 state and federal agencies to improve water quality, water supply and the environment in the Delta.

“As an originator and advisor to the CALFED Science Program, Randy made significant contributions to the Program since its inception,” said Ronald Ott, Ph.D., CALFED's Deputy Director for Science. “His enthusiasm, insight, and dedication to improving the understanding and communications of science of the Bay-Delta system to other scientists and decision makers will be truly missed.”

Dr. Brown was hired to join CALFED by the program's first lead scientist, Sam Luoma. He developed the quarterly online journal *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, helped plan and implement CALFED's bi-annual science conferences, formed workshops, provided technical reviews, and wrote white papers.

As one of CALFED's most senior and long-term advisors, Dr. Brown's work included providing technical support for the innovative Environmental Water Account program, which provides protection to the at-risk fish species of the Bay-Delta estuary through environmentally beneficial changes in water project operations.

State Agencies

The Resources Agency – California State Parks / Delta Protection Commission / Department of Conservation / Department of Fish and Game / Department of Water Resources / San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission / 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 Land Management / Bureau of Reclamation / Fish and Wildlife Service / Geological Survey /
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**

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Dr. Brown was often quoted describing his love of the outdoors and “a chance to combine a vocation with an avocation” as what led him to – and fueled his passion for – his work.

He began his career with DWR in 1966 as a junior aquatic biologist with the San Joaquin District. He was one of the first environmental specialists to join the Department. Initially he studied ways to remove nitrogen from subsurface agricultural drainage and later became a senior water quality biologist. Eventually he became the chief of Central District’s fish facilities section, then the Bay-Delta Ecological Studies Section, and then the Division of Local Assistance’s Environmental Studies Branch, before retiring as Chief of the Environmental Services Office.

As Chief of Environmental Services, Dr. Brown played a major role in collecting and analyzing data for investigations on the Bay-Delta estuary, helping the Department comply with an array of environmental laws and regulations that affect State Water Project operations and development programs. In addition the studies and data were used extensively by the Department, other agencies and consultants, to prepare environmental impact reports, biological assessments, planning reports, and other documents.

During a career of distinction, Dr. Brown served as editor of the *Early Life History of Fishes in the San Francisco Estuary and Watershed*, published by American Fisheries Society in 2004. He also served as co-Editor in Chief of the online journal *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, the quarterly journal published by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Additionally, he received the UC Davis College of Agriculture’s 1998 Award of Distinction for his work as chief biologist with DWR, as well as coordination of the Interagency Ecological Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin estuary. He was further honored for his 33-year career in public service for carrying out research and implementing fishery habitat restoration, aquatic monitoring and water quality projects and his achievements in getting people to work together towards solutions to Bay-Delta problems.

Services for Dr. Brown are pending.

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The California Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort of more than 20 state and federal agencies working with local communities to improve the quality and reliability of California’s water supplies and revive the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem. The Bay-Delta plan is the largest, most comprehensive water management effort in the nation.