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**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR, OR
DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE, ON BEHALF OF THE AUTHORITY, A MEMORANDUM
OF UNDERSTANDING WITH REGARDS TO THE
BAY-DELTA SCIENCE CONSORTIUM
Agenda Item: 8**

Meeting Date: 08-14-03

Summary: This resolution would authorize the Director, or designee, to sign on behalf of the Authority, a Memorandum of Understanding with regards to the Bay-Delta Science Consortium (Consortium).

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 03-08-04.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Authority adopt the attached resolution, which would authorize the Director to sign the Bay-Delta Consortium Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which will continue to foster collaboration and coordination among institutions working on interdisciplinary science in the San Francisco Bay-Delta region.

Background

As one of the most important and impacted ecosystems on the West Coast, San Francisco's Bay-Delta Estuary is the focus of an array of scientific activities. The Consortium was formed to help catalyze increasing cooperation and collaboration among institutions, prevent the overlap of projects and resources, and produce a quality and quantity of science unattainable by institutions working alone.

The complexity of the Bay-Delta system demands multidisciplinary studies. California decision-makers need access to multiple decision management tools. They benefit from understanding how potential actions relate to management goals and how to effectively monitor complex changes resulting from management actions. The Consortium encourages researchers developing new information to work more closely with those managers using the information and making policy decisions.

Because different institutions each offer different expertise and resources, increased collaboration will improve organizational capabilities and efficiency. Agencies have a strong tradition of maintaining excellent monitoring programs. Research institutions excel at answering questions about how the system works. Together, agencies and research institutions can create conceptual models and bridge gaps between science and management.

The Consortium is composed of 14 Federal and State agencies, private institutions, and universities involved with aquatic science research, monitoring, and education in the Bay-Delta system. MOU signatories and Consortium members include:

- Big-Break/Delta Science Center
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Water Resources
- California State University, Hayward
- City of Rio Vista
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Natural Heritage Institute
- PRBO Conservation Science
- San Francisco Estuary Institute
- San Francisco State University, Romberg Tiburon Center
- United States Bureau of Reclamation
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- United States Geological Survey
- University of California, Davis

The governance of the Consortium is set forth in the MOU signed by all Consortium member institutions. The purpose of the MOU is to formalize the working relationship between Consortium member agencies and organizations operating monitoring, research and outreach facilities within the San Francisco Bay-Delta region. The existing MOU expired on June 30, 2003, and the Authority is being asked to join as a signatory in renewing the MOU, to continue fostering collaboration and the practice of interdisciplinary science in the Bay-Delta region.

Fiscal Information

The MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Expenditure of funds, human resources, equipment, supplies, facilities, training, public information, and expertise is provided by each signatory agency to the extent that its participation is appropriate and resources are available.

List of Attachments

Bay-Delta Science Consortium MOU

Contact

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CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 03-08-04

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE, ON BEHALF OF THE AUTHORITY, A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH REGARDS TO THE BAY-DELTA SCIENCE CONSORTIUM

WHEREAS, Bay-Delta Estuary is the focus of an array of scientific activities and a broad range of government, university and private agencies are currently conducting monitoring, research and outreach activities that focus on the health of the Bay-Delta; and

WHEREAS, the Bay-Delta Science Consortium was formed to help catalyze increasing cooperation and collaboration among institutions, to prevent the overlap of projects and resources, and to produce a quality and quantity of science unattainable by institutions working alone; and

WHEREAS, the Bay-Delta Science Consortium is an organization composed of 14 government, university, and private institutions that have joined forces to share scientific information and resources on the aquatic ecosystem of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary and its associated watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the governance of the Bay-Delta Science Consortium is set forth in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by all Consortium member institutions; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the MOU is to formalize the working relationship between Consortium member agencies and organizations operating monitoring, research and outreach facilities within the San Francisco Bay-Delta region; and

WHEREAS, the MOU expired on June 30, 2003, and the Authority has been requested by Consortium members to join as a signatory in renewing the MOU, which would expire June 30, 2006; and

WHEREAS, it would further the goals and objectives of the Authority regarding collaboration and cooperation in the area of Bay-Delta science, for the Authority to join the Consortium by becoming a signatory to the MOU;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California Bay-Delta Authority authorizes the Director, or designee, to execute, on behalf of the Authority, the Bay-Delta Science Consortium MOU, in the form attached to this Resolution.

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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the California Bay-Delta Authority held on August 14, 2003.

Dated:

Heidi Rooks
Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority