

**Agenda Item: 5a**  
**Meeting Date: October 12, 2006**

## **CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY**

### **CALFED SCIENCE PROGRAM UPDATE**

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**Summary:** An update on recent and upcoming CALFED Science Program activities.

**Recommended Action:** This is an information item only.

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#### **CALFED Science Program Accomplishments**

In its first six years, the Science Program has been involved in an intensive effort to improve the understanding of the Bay-Delta system, as well as improve the application of science in all of the CALFED programs. For more detail on program accomplishments, see staff report for Agenda Item 9, "Program Progress and Development of Performance Measures."

#### **2006 Environmental Water Account (EWA) Review**

The Science Program, in collaboration with CALFED implementing agency scientists, is organizing a comprehensive review of the Environmental Water Account (EWA) program. This public event will be held in Sacramento November 28-30, 2006 and will focus on the contribution of the EWA and other environmental water programs to protecting and restoring delta smelt, Chinook salmon, and steelhead in the San Francisco Estuary and watershed; developing plans for science needs and water allocation priorities for EWA Year 7; and identifying science components and water allocation strategies for a possible long-term EWA program. For more information on EWA and the upcoming review, see the EWA Workshops website:  
<http://science.calwater.ca.gov/workshop/ewa.shtml>.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Biennial CALFED Science Conference**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial CALFED Science Conference will be held October 23-25, 2006 at the Sacramento Convention Center. The conference is centered around the theme "Making Sense of Complexity: Science in a Changing Environment" and will include presentations addressing high priority issues such as pelagic organism decline, levees, mercury, invasive species, climate change, and wetland restoration. In addition to three days of oral presentations, the conference will also feature over 150 poster presentations. Please visit the CALFED Science Conference website for online registration and program and abstract information:  
[http://science.calwater.ca.gov/conferences/sciconf\\_index.shtml](http://science.calwater.ca.gov/conferences/sciconf_index.shtml)

### **2006 Focused Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP)**

The Science Program recently issued its second open call for proposals to address key critical uncertainties affecting resource management in the Bay-Delta system. The 2006 Focused PSP received 35 proposals that address the four priority topic areas:

- Environmental Water
- Aquatic invasive (Exotic) species
- Trends and patterns of population and system response to a changing environment
- Habitat availability and response to change

The Science Program staff is coordinating the peer review phase of the PSP process as outlined at the March 15, 2006 Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) meeting. Funding recommendations are expected by December 2006. For more information on the PSP process, priority topics, and proposal information, please visit:

[http://science.calwater.ca.gov/psp/psp\\_package\\_2006.shtml](http://science.calwater.ca.gov/psp/psp_package_2006.shtml)

### **2006 CALFED Science Fellows Solicitation**

The CALFED Science Program has initiated a third call for proposals for the CALFED Science Fellows program, an innovative program that brings together junior scientists with CALFED Program agency scientists and senior research mentors in collaborative data analysis and research projects relevant to ecosystem management and water supply reliability questions, including analyses of the immense monitoring data collected and maintained by the implementing agencies. The 2006 solicitation resulted in 20 proposals from doctoral graduate students and post-doctoral researchers aiming to address the four priority topic areas identified in the 2006 Focused PSP, as well as specific needs identified by CALFED implementing agencies for the following topics:

- Environmental Water Account (EWA)
- Drinking water quality
- Pelagic organism decline (POD)

For more information on the 2006 solicitation, past and current Fellows and projects, please visit: <http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu/EDUCATION/CALFED/CALFEDIndx.html>.

### **Independent Science Board**

The reconstituted CALFED Independent Science Board (ISB) held its first meeting on August 14-15, 2006. Chaired by Dr. Jeff Mount, the ISB consists of 12 distinguished scientists and engineers with a range of multi-disciplinary expertise. The ISB advises the Authority and BDPAC on the application of science and the effectiveness of science practices across the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Topics of the first meeting included discussion of technical review of ongoing CALFED programs and activities such as the Delta Risk Management Strategy, input regarding the Science Program State of

Science for the Bay-Delta System Report, and an update on development of performance measures. Meeting materials, including ISB recommendations can be found at [http://science.calwater.ca.gov/sci\\_tools/isb.shtml](http://science.calwater.ca.gov/sci_tools/isb.shtml). The next meeting will be in mid-November 2006.

**New Issue of *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science***

The latest issue of the online scientific journal, *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* (Volume 4, Issue 2) is available at <http://repositories.cdlib.org/jmie/sfews/>. The issue covers topics relevant to current resource management questions from assessment of resident fish assemblages in the lower San Joaquin River watershed and Delta in the spring, examinations of the Cosumnes River floodplain, a review of current knowledge of arsenic in ground water to an analysis of environmental decision-making in the CALFED Program.

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