

**ITEM 5**

**Lead Scientist Report**

***Information Item***

**California Bay-Delta Authority  
Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee**

**December 14, 2006**

# *Lead Scientist*

- Dr. Michael Healey was appointed as Lead Scientist by Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman
- Secretary Chrisman introduced Dr. Healey at the opening session of the CALFED Science Conference
- Dr. Healey will be on board in January and will serve for one year.

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

- **Making Sense of Complexity: Science in a Changing Environment**
- Over 1200 attendees
- 3-day program with 248 oral and 188 poster presentations
- Major themes emerged
  - Pelagic Organism Decline
  - Mercury
  - Invasive Species
  - Climate Change
  - Wetland Restoration
- Brief presentation summaries (“Presentations at a Glance”) available in January at:  
<http://science.calwater.ca.gov>

# *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*

- The latest issue of the online scientific journal, *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* (Volume 4, Issue 3) is available online at <http://estuariescience.org>
- The issue includes:
  - Flow Convergence Caused by a Salinity Minimum in a Tidal Channel (John C. Warner, David H. Schoellhamer, Jon R. Burau, and S. Geoffrey Schladow)
  - Central Valley Salmon: A perspective on Chinook and Steelhead in the Central Valley of California (John G. Williams)

# 2006 EWA Review

- Comprehensive Technical Review
- Organized by the Science Program along with implementing agency scientists
- Focus of the Review:
  - Contribution of the EWA and other environmental water to protecting and restoring at-risk fish species
  - Science needs and water allocations priorities for EWA for 2007
  - Identifying science components and water allocation strategies for a possible future environmental water program
- Panel Report available January 31, 2007 at:  
<http://science.calwater.ca.gov>

# *DRMS Independent Review*

- Recommended by the CALFED ISB
- Phase 1 (Risk Analysis)
- Phase 2 ( Risk Reduction)
- Science Program working closely with DRMS staff to identify potential panel members and develop scope of work for the panel (*focused charge and schedule*)
- Panel will meet three times in 2007 and complete all reviews by October 2007

# 2006 CALFED Science Fellows

- Received proposals focused on priority topics addressed in the PSP *plus* implementing agencies identified questions
  - EWA, Drinking Water Quality, POD
- Selection Panel, chaired by Dr. Mike Healey, recommended 10 Science Fellow projects for funding
- For CALFED Science Fellows Program information and project description visit CALFED Science Program website:  
<http://science.calwater.ca.gov>

# ***Science Program PSP***

**Results: 35 Proposals Submitted, total \$24M**

7 - Aquatic Invasive (Exotic) Species

8 - Environmental Water

11- Habitat Availability and Response to Change

9 - Trends and Patterns of Populations and

System Response to a Changing Environment

- Technical Synthesis Panel recommended 14 projects totaling \$6M

- Comment Period closed December 6<sup>th</sup>

- Recommendation to the Authority December 14<sup>th</sup>