



December 14, 2011

Maria Rea  
Sacramento Area Office Supervisor  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, California 95814-4706

Sue Fry  
Mid-Pacific Region Area Manager  
United States Bureau of Reclamation,  
Bay-Delta Office  
801 I Street, Suite 140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mike Chotkowski  
Field Supervisor  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service.  
San Francisco Bay-Delta Fish and Wildlife  
Office  
650 Capitol Mall, 8-300  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Rea, Ms. Fry and Mr. Chotkowski:

**Re: Report of the 2011 Independent Review Panel (IRP) on the Implementation of Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) Actions Affecting the Operations Criteria And Plan (OCAP) for State/Federal Water Operations**

The Delta Science Program is pleased to present the enclosed review report entitled, "Report of the 2011 Independent Review Panel (IRP) on the Implementation of Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) Actions Affecting the Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP) for State/Federal Water Operations." The transmittal of this report fulfills a request from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), and United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) to provide annual independent external review of the implementation of the RPA Actions in the NMFS and the USFWS OCAP biological opinions. The 2011 IRP report is the second of two IRP reports.

The overall goal of this peer review was to inform NMFS and USFWS as to the efficacy of the prior year's actions prescribed by their respective RPAs, with the goal of developing lessons learned, incorporating new science, and making appropriate scientifically justified adjustments to the RPAs or their implementation to support 2012 real-time decision making. The review also addressed how well agencies responded to the previous year's review.

The independent review panel consisted of Dr. James Anderson, Dr. James Gore, Dr. Ron Kneib, Dr. Mark Lorang and Dr. John Van Sickle. These panel members were selected for their expertise and reputation concerning anadromous fish, hydrology, estuarine ecology, hydrodynamics and

---

*"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."*

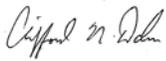
– State Water Code §85054

transport modeling, and environmental statistics. The panel met in public meetings on November 8-9, 2011.

Detailed information on the OCAP Integrated Annual Review Workshop can be found on the Delta Science Program web page (<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/event-detail/3877>). The Delta Science Program was pleased to assist in the process of evaluating the 2011 water year implementation of the RPA Actions through open and transparent peer review.

If there are questions about the 2011 OCAP Annual Review, IRP report, or the overall process, please contact Lindsay Correa, Environmental Scientist for the Delta Science Program, at (916) 445-0092.

Sincerely,



Clifford N. Dahm, Ph.D.  
Lead Scientist, Delta Science Program  
Delta Stewardship Council

Enclosures

Cc: Garwin Yip, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Donna Garcia, United States Bureau of Reclamation  
Jennifer Norris, United States Fish and Wildlife Service