



ACTION ITEM

Consideration and Possible Appointment of a Delta Independent Science Board Member

Summary

Dr. Laurel Larsen, the Delta Lead Scientist, will report on the results of the search to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB), and will provide a recommendation for the Council's approval.

Requested Action

Dr. Larsen will make a recommendation to the Council to appoint Dr. Kenneth Rose for membership on the Delta ISB. If appointed by the Council, Dr. Kenneth Rose's term for the Delta ISB will begin on January 15, 2024.

Background

The Delta ISB was created by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Delta Reform Act) to provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta (Water Code Section 85280(a)). The Delta Reform Act specifies the following criteria for Delta ISB members:

The Delta Independent Science Board shall consist of no more than 10 members appointed by the Council. The term of office for members of the Delta Independent Science Board shall be five years. A member may serve no more than two terms (Water Code Section 85280(a)(1)).

Members of the Delta Independent Science Board shall be nationally or internationally prominent scientists with appropriate expertise to evaluate the broad range of scientific programs that support adaptive management of the Delta. The members shall not be directly affiliated with a program or

agency subject to the review activities of the Delta Independent Science Board (Water Code Section 85280(a)(2)).

There is currently an upcoming vacancy on the Delta ISB since Dr. Stephen Brandt will complete his second two-year term on January 14, 2024. During his time on the Delta ISB, Dr. Brandt served as Delta ISB chair from 2017 to 2019, and from 2020 to 2022. He was also instrumental in leading Delta ISB reviews on fish and flows and non-native species, along with many other reviews.

The search to fill Dr. Brandt's upcoming vacancy began with the posting of a recruitment flyer in July 2023, advertising for internationally prominent scientists with expertise in fish ecology to serve on the Delta ISB. Additional desirable experience included working collaboratively from an ecosystem perspective in evaluating the effects of environmental drivers such as restoration, hydrodynamics, or changing climate on fishes. Applications were due on August 18, 2023, and required a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, and a list of five references. Based on this search, three applications were received.

Delta ISB Nomination

Dr. Larsen, with staff from the Council's Delta Science Program and the U.S. Geological Survey, reviewed the three applications and selected all three applicants for interviews based on prior work on panels, publication record, engagement on resource management issues, experience working in complex systems, and the expertise that they would bring to the Delta ISB. Based on the application materials, interviews, and reference checks, Dr. Larsen recommends Dr. Kenneth Rose for the Delta ISB.

Dr. Rose meets all of the criteria specified in the Delta Reform Act. He is the France-Merrick Professor in Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration at the Horn Point Laboratory of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Prior to this position, Dr. Rose was a professor at Louisiana State University and a research staff member at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. His research centers on using mathematical and computer simulation modeling to predict and better understand fish population and food web dynamics in estuaries, lakes, reservoirs, and oceans. He has been a member of multiple steering and advisory committees providing scientific guidance and oversight for the National Science Foundation, the Delta

Stewardship Council's Delta Science Program, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, Dr. Rose served as a member of the National Academy of Sciences' Committees on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta, Evaluating the Effectiveness of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (Fisheries) Stock Rebuilding Plans, Review of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Program, and Effective Monitoring to Evaluate Ecological Restoration in the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Rose has been awarded the Award of Excellence (for lifetime achievement) from the American Fisheries Society.

For more information, please refer to Dr. Rose's curriculum vitae (Attachment 1).

Fiscal Information

Funding for the Delta ISB is part of the current Delta Science Program budget. Delta ISB members are compensated for their time and travel. No additional funding is required for this recruitment.

Compensation for Delta ISB members is set by California Water Code Section 85213 (b):

The council shall contract for the services of the members of the Delta Independent Science Board established pursuant to Section 85280, at an hourly rate of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The council shall increase the hourly rate annually based on inflation and cost of living adjustments.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Dr. Kenneth Rose's Curriculum Vitae

Contact

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