

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
APRIL 5, 2016**

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

DELTA SCIENCE PROGRAM INDEPENDENT PANEL REPORTS OF FACTORS CONTROLLING THE ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF FISH SPECIES IN THE BAY-DELTA ESTUARY

DISCUSSION

The 2009 Delta Reform Act established the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Science Program. Important responsibilities of the Delta Science Program are to synthesize new information and perspectives about Delta related issues, conduct independent scientific peer reviews of new information, and communicate the results of the peer reviews and new scientific findings to managers and the public.

The Delta Science Program has conducted multiple External Peer Reviews in recent years on factors believed to affect the abundance and distribution of fish species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta Estuary. The peer reviews on the effect of interior Delta hydrodynamics and Delta outflow were conducted at the request of the State Water Resources Control Board.

Dr. Clifford Dahm, the Lead Scientist of the Delta Science Program, will review and synthesize key scientific findings, uncertainties, and recommendations of recent external peer reviews on the biological resources in the Bay-Delta Estuary from the Delta Science Program's perspective. This information will help inform development of the Phase II Bay-Delta flow standards for the Estuary.

POLICY ISSUE

None. However, the presentation could inform development of the Phase II Bay-Delta Control Plan

FISCAL IMPACT

None. This is an information item.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None. This is an information item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. This is an information item

<p>State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012. Goal 4 is to comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration and the relationship between water supply and water quality.</p>
