

Bay-Delta - Delta Flow Proceeding Focus group

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Date: 1/21/2010 10:16 AM
Subject: Delta Flow Proceeding Focus group

I make this comment as a scientist who has worked in the Bay as Executive Director of the San Francisco Estuary Institute and knows the work of everyone you recommend. I now work for a public agency that is unaffected by these deliberations.

The group recommended to provide guidance on Delta flow needs comprises the usual group of scientists who have locally published on the Delta. It seems reasonable for the Board to use these scientists. However, their selection compounds a basic problem in human nature—they are all friends and colleagues or have ex-student/professor relationships that will make it difficult to incorporate new ideas. This standard problem of human nature is why most such processes include some outsider or other interest group that will bring another perspective. Science works best when there is disagreement and debate among professionals that allows the development of new ways to test conclusions.

I strongly recommend you add an outside voice to the process that can test the certainties and uncertainties in the opinions you hear. I would ask Cliff Dahm for suggestions.

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