



December 19, 2016

Ms. Diane Riddle  
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Riddle:

**Re: Independent Peer Review of the Sacramento Water Allocation Model (SacWAM)**

The Delta Science Program is pleased to present the enclosed review report entitled, "Independent Peer Review of the Sacramento Water Allocation Model (SacWAM)." The transmittal of this report fulfills a request from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to facilitate a peer review of the model created by the State Water Board and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) to assess revisions to instream flow and other requirements in the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (2006 Bay-Delta Plan).

The overall goals of this peer review were to assure transparency and receive independent scientific review of the robustness of SacWAM for applications related to the phased update of the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan. The review highlighted the challenges and importance of accurately modeling the complex water distribution system for water planning and management purposes, especially during low flow conditions. The independent peer review report provides short-term (prior to use in Phase II) and long-term recommendations for additional work to improve the model, post-processing, and documentation.

The independent review panel consisted of Dr. Joshua Viers (Chair), Dr. William Fleenor (Co-lead Author), Dr. Sam Sandoval-Solis (Co-lead Author), Dr. Laura Condon, and Ms. Deanna Sereno. These panel members were selected for their expertise and reputation concerning watersheds, water resources planning, modeling, hydrodynamics, and California water operations. The panel participated in a training session with SEI on Oct. 7, 2016 and met in public on Oct. 19, 2016.

More information about the review, including a video of the public meeting, is posted on the Delta Science Program web page: <http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/event-detail/13662>.

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*"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

If there are questions about the independent review panel's report or the review process, please contact Nicole Stern, Environmental Scientist, Delta Science Program, at (916) 322-6545.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cliff Dahm".

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

Enclosure

cc: Karen Niiya, State Water Resources Control Board  
Matt Holland, State Water Resources Control Board  
Scott Ligare, State Water Resources Control Board