

Scientists named to Delta Panel

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SACRAMENTO -- The Delta Stewardship Council has appointed 10 scientists to the Delta Independent Science Board as required by legislation signed into law last November.

“The future policy decisions we will be discussing and adopting into the Delta Plan need to be based on sound science,” says Council Chairman Phil Isenberg. “Having access to a talented independent science board allows the Council to fully evaluate the complex ecological issues facing the Delta.”

The Delta ISB reports to the full Council and will provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through periodic reviews of each program. By law, these reviews must be scheduled to ensure that all Delta scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs are reviewed at least once every four years.

The 10 members of the science panel were recommended by Council Interim Lead Scientist Cliff Dahm, in consultation with former CALFED Science Board Chairman Jeff Mount, and Mr. Isenberg. The members will serve five-year terms and may serve no more than two terms.

Named to the panel are:

- Brian Atwater, geologist, U.S. Geological Survey (since 1974) and affiliate faculty, University of Washington, Seattle (since 1986). He is known for using coastal geology to help identify and define earthquake and tsunami hazards in the Cascadia region of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California. He is a member of the National Academy of Science.
- Elizabeth Canuel, professor, Department of Physical Sciences, School of Marine Science, College of William & Mary, Gloucester Point, Va.. Her major research interests include the biogeochemistry and cycling of organic carbon in aquatic and sedimentary systems, with emphasis on applications of lipid biomarkers, stable isotopes, studies of sediment diagenesis, and influence of humans on the carbon cycle in coastal ecosystems.
- Tracy Collier, science advisor, NOAA Oceans and Human Health Program, Silver Spring, Md, (recently retired). He has been recognized for his service in the Hurricane Katrina Emergency Response in New Orleans.
- Mike Healey, professor emeritus, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. He is recognized as an expert on the ecology of Pacific salmon and as an expert in the design of resource management systems. He served as the CALFED Lead Scientist and advisor to the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force.
- Edward Houde, professor, University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science, Solomons, Md. He has served as chairman of the National Academy of Science's Committee on Marine Protected Areas and co-chaired the Technical Advisory Panel that developed a Fisheries Ecosystem Plan for Chesapeake Bay.
- Judy Meyer, professor emeritus, Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. Her research interests include organic carbon, ecosystem processes in streams, urban rivers, and food webs. She currently serves on the Board of Environmental Studies and Toxicology of the National Academy of Sciences and served as vice-chairman of the CALFED Independent Science Board.

- Jeffrey Mount, founding director, University of California Davis, Center for Watershed Sciences. His research program focuses on the geology, geomorphology and restoration of lowland river systems. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on the Klamath River and served as chairman of the CALFED Independent Science Board.
- Richard Norgaard, professor, Energy and Resources Group; professor, Agriculture and Resource Economics, University of California, Berkeley. His recent research addresses how environmental problems challenge scientific understanding and the policy process. He was a member of the CALFED Water Management Science Board and CALFED Independent Science Board.
- Vincent Resh, professor of entomology, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley. He has served as a long-term consultant on advisory boards of international, intergovernmental agencies and has been an advisor on monitoring programs throughout Africa, Asia, and, to a lesser extent, South America.
- John Wiens, emeritus university distinguished professor, Colorado State University; Chief Conservation Science Officer, Point Reyes Bird Observatory. His work in landscape ecology and the ecology of birds, has led to over 200 scientific papers and seven books. He served as the chief/lead scientist for the Nature Conservancy from 2002-2008.