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Dr. Clifford Dahm
Delta Science Program
Delta Stewardship Council
980 9th Street, Suite 1450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Response to the Delta Science Program and Independent Review Panel Report from the 2015 Annual Review of the Long-term Operation Biological Opinions (2015 Annual Review)

Dear Dr. Dahm:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), and the Bureau of Reclamation, collectively the Federal Agencies, appreciate the Delta Science Program (DSP) and Independent Review Panel's (IRP) participation in the 2015 Annual Review. The Annual Review is a critical component of adaptive management within NMFS's reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) for the 2009 Biological Opinion on the Coordinated Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP). Additionally, under direction from the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior, the 2015 Annual Review was expanded to include a review of the implementation of the Service 2008 Biological Opinion on the Coordinated Operation of the CVP and SWP.

The Federal Agencies appreciate the continuity provided by multi-year panel participants Drs. Anderson, Gore, Kneib, Monsen, and Van Sickle, the new perspectives of first-time panel member Dr. Schladow, and the DSP's leadership and constructive role in facilitating the Annual Review. We are currently evaluating opportunities to incorporate the IRP's feedback and recommendations and look forward to reporting on our continued progress of implementing RPA actions in 2016.

Thank you again for your participation in the 2015 Annual Review. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Garwin Yip (NMFS) at 916-930-3611 or via e-mail at garwin.yip@noaa.gov; Kim Turner (Service) at 916-930-5604, or via email at

kim_s_turner@fws.gov; or Janice Piñero (Reclamation) at 916-414-2428, or via email at jpinero@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,



Maria Rea
Assistant Regional Administrator
California Central Valley Area Office
National Marine Fisheries Service



Kaylee Allen
Field Supervisor
Bay-Delta Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Craig Muehlberg
Acting Area Manager
Bay-Delta Office
Bureau of Reclamation