CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

News Release

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State of Bay-Delta Science, 2008, Released: Landmark Publication on the California Delta

The CALFED Science Program has published a book summarizing the significant new knowledge gleaned from eight years of CALFED science research into water supply and water quality, ecosystems and levee fragility in the California Delta.

The State of Bay-Delta Science, 2008, is being released on October 21, 2008, on the eve of the 5th Biennial CALFED Science Conference, initiating the gathering of 1,200 San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta scientists, managers and policymakers.

"This is a landmark publication summarizing our current understanding of the Delta by the most knowledgeable experts on the estuary," said Cliff Dahm, CALFED Lead Scientist. The effort was led by Michael Healey, a former CALFED Lead Scientist and Science Advisor to the Governor's Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force.

"I envision this as a go-to book for managers and policy makers, as well as interested members of the public that are working to gain a better understanding through science of forces at work in the Delta," said Healey.

The definitive reference pulls together in one publication information on a broad array of issues critical to the sustainable management of water and the Delta. The science outlined in this volume is expected to play a critical role in the implementation of Delta Vision and the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. Some of the key points made in the 174-page book include the following:

- The Delta of tomorrow will be very different than it is today. Intensifying forces of change, such as land subsidence, rising sea level, species invasions, earthquakes and regional population growth, virtually guarantee that current land and water use in the Delta cannot be sustained. (Chapter 1)

- When levees were first constructed, Delta islands were close to sea level. Farming, water extraction, burning and wind erosion have lowered the island interiors. Additionally,

recent subsidence modeling suggests that by 2200, the Central Delta will be 30 to 40 feet below sea level. (Chapter 5)

- With climate change, California will become warmer, more precipitation will fall as rain and less as snow, the snowpack will be much reduced, and there will be less groundwater recharge. These changes will challenge the capacity of California's water management system to provide reliable, high-quality water to satisfy human and environmental needs. (Chapter 6)

Other areas of the book deal with Delta history, science, geophysics, water quality and supply, aquatic ecosystems, levees, climate change, policy development and some themes that are cross-cutting across areas and issues.

In addition to Healey, other editors of the publication are Michael D. Dettinger, Research Hydrologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography; and Robert B. Norgaard, Professor of Energy and Resources at the University of California, Berkeley. Darcy Jones and Jana Machula of the CALFED Science Program were managing editors.

Among the authors are two former CALFED lead scientists, Samuel Luoma and Johnnie Moore; retired state chief hydrologist, Maurice Roos; present and former CALFED scientists Steven Culberson, Matt Nobriga, Mark Roberson, Elizabeth Soderstrom and Lisa Holm; USGS scientists Brian Bergamaschi, Robin Stewart, Cathy Ruhl, David Schoellhamer, Jan Thompson and Larry Brown; academics Wim Kimmerer and Peter Moyle; and consultants Roy Shlemon, Susan Anderson and Loren Bottorff.

Copies of the *The State of Bay-Delta Science, 2008*, will be available to attendees of the CALFED Science Conference October 22-24, at the Sacramento Convention Center, or beginning October 22 on the CALFED website. Hard copies are available by contacting Rhonda Hoover-Flores at rhondah@calwater.ca.gov.

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