

Introduction to the Independent Science Board

The 2003 California Bay-Delta Authority Act states “The Lead Scientist shall nominate, and the Authority shall establish, a board of independent scientists, to be known as the Independent Science Board (ISB), that shall advise and make recommendations to the Authority and the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, as appropriate, on the science relative to the implementation of all program elements.” (Water Code sec. 79470(a).) On August 14, 2003, the Authority established the ISB, approved the [Charge to the ISB](#), and appointed ISB members as outlined in the [Staff Report for the August 14, 2003 Authority meeting](#). Information on how the ISB functions, general qualifications of ISB members, and the balance of expertise across the Board are summarized in the supporting material found on this website.

The Independent Science Board is designed to be a standing board of distinguished experts (scientists and engineers) made up of individuals with a range of multi-disciplinary expertise balanced among those with local experience and those with external relevant expertise. These experts will help the Authority establish a balanced view of the science issues that underlie important policy decisions. The Independent Science Board will not pass direct judgment on the success or failure of the Authority’s programs; rather, it will provide insights that can make the science underlying those programs, the application of that science, and the technical aspects of those programs the best they can be. This includes overseeing the goal of explicitly characterizing the status of knowledge and identifying assumptions and uncertainties. The Independent Science Board, as a whole, includes the necessary expertise to cover the breadth of Bay-Delta Program issues. The qualifications and range of expertise of Board members is outlined in their [biographies](#).

The Independent Science Board advises and makes recommendations to both the Authority and also the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, as appropriate, on the science relative to implementation of all program elements.

The ISB meets approximately three times per year as outlined in the [Meeting Schedule](#), which includes agendas and meeting summaries. The ISB accomplishes much of its work through [subcommittees](#) and [teams](#).

The Independent Science Board is one element of the independent review system the Authority and Bay-Delta agencies have used, and will continue to use in order to integrate, review and advise across the Program.

The Science Program has proposed a policy on [open meetings and conflict of interest](#) for the California Bay-Delta Authority Independent Science Board. The full text of this Policy will soon be posted on this website. In the meantime, a general description of the applicable laws is linked to this website.

Miscellaneous ISB documents, and ISB Memorandums/Publications are also located on this website.

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