

# THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

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September 10, 2010

Ms. Alletta Belin  
Counselor to the Deputy Secretary  
Department of the Interior

Ms. Monica Medina  
Principal Deputy Under Secretary  
Department of Commerce

Dear Ms. Belin and Ms. Medina:

This responds to your letter of July 29, 2010, requesting that the National Research Council's Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta provide a short report assessing the adequacy of the use of science and adaptive management in the initial public draft of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) by April 2011.

The National Research Council has agreed to provide a short report as requested. This task will be carried out by a specially appointed panel, following the regular procedures of the NRC (including advance notice of committee composition for public comment). Its work will be closely coordinated with the work of the existing Committee on Sustainable Water and Environment Management in the California Bay-Delta, and the new panel likely will include many, but not all, of the members of that committee. If the NRC receives the draft BDCP by November 24, 2010, which your letter described as the expected issue date, we will accept April 30, 2011 as our date for delivering the review to you. If the draft is received after November 24, 2010, we will work with the agencies and our new panel to deliver our review in as timely a manner as possible, but with the delivery date to be determined.

We agree that completion of this review is not expected to alter our plans for our existing committee's final (second phase) report as described in our statement of task and contract. However, it is possible that providing the review of the draft BDCP, especially if that draft is received after November 24, 2010, could delay the delivery of our final report by a small amount of time.

We thank you for your interest in our work and look forward to working with you as the committee continues with its tasks.

Sincerely,



Stephen D. Parker