

Appendix B: Letter from Cal/EPA to North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Approving and Identifying Peer Reviewers (January 15, 2013)

State Water Resources Control Board

TO: Alydda Mangelsdorf
Supervisor, Basin Planning Unit
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

FROM: 
Gerald W. Bowes, Ph.D., Manager
Cal/EPA Scientific Peer Review Program
Office of Research, Planning and Performance

DATE: January 15, 2013

**SUBJECT: REVIEWERS APPROVED FOR REVIEW OF THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF A
SEDIMENT TMDL FOR THE ELK RIVER**

I am pleased to response to your request for scientific peer-reviewers for the subject noted above, The University of California, with whom Cal/EPA has an Interagency Agreement to identify reviewer candidates, recommended scientists it considered qualified to perform the assignment based on carefully conducted interviews.

Each candidate who was both interested and available for the review period was asked to complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure form and send it to me for review. In follow-up communications with selected candidates, I asked for clarifications as necessary, and affirmation that there is nothing in their background: a) that might be reasonably construed by others as affecting their judgment, and b) which might constitute an actual or potential source of bias. They also were asked to affirm they would be able to perform an objective and independent review.

Reviewers Approved:

- a) Victor R. Baker, Ph.D..
Regents Professor,
Department of Hydrology and Water Resources
Harshbarger 246 A
University of Arizona
Tuscon, AZ 85721

Telephone: 520-621-7875
Email : baker@email.arizona.edu

- b)** Gregory T. Ruggerone, Ph.D.
Natural Resources Consultants, Inc
4039 21st Avenue West, Suite 404
Seattle, WA 98199

Telephone : 206-285-3480, Ext 209
Telefax : 206-283-8263
Email : GRuggerone@nrccorp.com

- c)** Sondra M. Miller, Ph.D., P.E.
Assistant Professor
Department of Civil Engineering
Boise State University
1910 University Drive, MS 2060
Boise, ID 83725

Telephone : 208-426-2894
Email : sondramiller1@boisestate.edu

- d)** Timothy D. Stark, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
2217 Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory, 205 N. Matthews Avenue
University of Illinois
Urbana, IL 61801

Telephone : 217-333-7394
Email : tstark@illinois.edu

Curriculum Vitae are attached.

Contacting Reviewers. Contact the reviewers immediately. Tell them you have just learned of their identities, and when to expect review material. Keep them informed of delays, and ensure new dates are acceptable. Include me as a "cc" on communications indicating delays.

Initiating the Review. Send the reviewers a cover letter with the following:

- a) original letter of request for reviewers and attachments, which was sent to them by the University during the solicitation process;
- b) Key Document(s) for Review;
- c) Key Supporting Documents.

An example of a cover letter initiating the review is attached. Please send me a copy of the cover letter.

Essential Directions. Tell your reviewers in the cover letter:

- a) **Follow the review guidance provided in the initial letter of request for reviewers, Attachment 2.**
- b) **Address all topics listed in Attachment 2, as expertise allows, in the order given.**

Revisions. If you have revised any part of the initial request, stamp "Revised" on each page where a change has been made. Clearly describe the revision in the cover letter. Reviewers must be made aware of changes.

Mode of Transmission. Review material frequently is sent electronically. Hard copy is recommended for lengthy documents and documents with fold-out sections. Confirm electronic and hard copies have been received by reviewers.

Confidentiality of the Review Process. Approved reviewers were sent the attached January 7, 2009 Supplement to the Cal/EPA Peer Review Guidelines. Please read it carefully. In part it provides guidance to ensure confidentiality through the peer review process. Reviewers must keep their identities confidential, and I ask that you do also to avoid compromising the external review.

Communication Restrictions. Communications between reviewers and requesting organizations are restricted to questions of clarification. Both enquiries and responses must be in writing.(email is fine). If you prefer, all communications can be routed through me.

Contacts by Outside Parties. After reviews have been submitted, the Supplement notes reviewers are under no obligation to discuss their comments with third parties, and we recommend they do not.

All outside parties are provided opportunities to address a proposed regulatory action through a well-defined rulemaking process. Ask your reviewers to direct third parties to you, or a designated staff person, with comments or suggestions in writing.

Completed Reviews. These are to be sent directly to the person signing the letter initiating the review, unless directed otherwise.

If I can provide additional help, contact me at any time during the review process.

cc: Adona White, Water Resource Control Engineer
Rebecca Fitzgerald, Senior Environmental Scientist, TMDL Unit
Fred Blatt, Environmental Program Manager, Timber Harvest Division and Non-Point Sources

Attachments (6)

- 1) Curriculum Vitae – Victor R. Baker, Ph.D.
- 2) Curriculum Vitae – Sondra M. Miller, Ph.D., P.E.
- 3) Curriculum Vitae – Gregory T. Ruggione, Ph.D.

- 4) Timothy D. Stark, Ph.D.
- 5) Example of Letter Initiating Review
- 6) Supplement to Cal/EPA External Scientific Peer Review Guidelines