
State Water Resources Control Board

February 19, 2019

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Illinois Natural History Survey
University of Illinois
1816 South Oak Street
Champaign, IL 61820

**SUBJECT: INITIATION OF REVIEW OF THE SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD'S DRAFT
*BIOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES PROJECT***

Dear Dr. Cao,

The purpose of this letter is to initiate the external peer review.

All components for the review are posted at a secure FTP site. They include:

1. November 30, 2018, memorandum from James Smith, Assistant Executive Officer of the California Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board). The subject of the memorandum is "Request for External Scientific Peer Review; Amendment of San Diego Water Board Basin Plan to Incorporate Numeric Biological Objectives for Streams." The memo transmits the following attachments:
 - Attachment 1: Summary of the Biological Objectives Project and Project Action.
 - Attachment 2: Description of Scientific Assumptions, Findings, and Conclusions to be Addressed by Peer Reviewers You have indicated you can address Conclusion 3 with confidence; you are free to address other conclusions where you can provide insight, as well as the Big Picture section at the end of Attachment 2.
 - Attachment 3: Names of Participants Involved in Developing the Biological Objectives Project
 - Attachment 4: Titles of References for Biological Objectives Project

2. Project Review Documents. The documents needed to complete this peer review are listed in the *R9 Biological Objectives Peer Review Package Table of Contents*. They include:
 - Peer Review Document 1: Draft Staff Report for the Biological Objectives Project
 - Peer Review Document 1a: Appendix I for the Draft Staff Report
 - Peer Review Document 1b: Appendix II for the Draft Staff Report
 - Peer Review Document 2: Proposed Amendments to Chapter 3 of the San Diego Water Board Basin Plan
 - Peer Review Document 3: Proposed Amendments to Chapter 4 of the San Diego Water Board Basin Plan
 - Peer Review Document 4: Zip File Containing PDF Files for All References Cited for Peer Review Documents 1-3

3. October 22, 2018, Supplement to the Cal/EPA Peer Review Guidelines.

Comments on the Foregoing

1. October 22, 2018, Supplement. In part, the Supplement provides guidance to ensure the review is kept confidential through its course. It also notes reviewers are under no obligation to discuss their comments with third-parties after reviews have been submitted. We recommend they do not. All outside parties are provided opportunities to address a proposed regulatory action through a well-defined regulatory process. Please direct third parties to me.

Questions about the review, or material, should be for clarification, in writing – email is fine, and addressed to me. My responses will be in writing also.

Access to secure FTP site:

<https://ftp.waterboards.ca.gov/WebInterface/login.html>

Username: gbowes-ftp2
Password: DLUCfq

Please send your reviews to me by March 19, 2019. I will subsequently forward all reviews to James Smith, San Diego Water Board, with Curriculum Vitae for each reviewer. All this information will be posted at the State and Regional Water Boards' Scientific Peer Review website, as well as the Regional Board's program website for the project.

Your acceptance of this review assignment is most appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerald W. Bowes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin blue rectangular border.

Gerald W. Bowes, Ph.D.
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