

Memorandum

Completion of the Interagency Ecological Program 2024 Annual Work Plan

The signatories below represent Management Committee member direction to staff to finalize the Interagency Ecological Program 2024 Annual Work Plan dated November 21, 2023.

In response to comments and meetings between the directors and representatives of IEP member agencies, on December 15, 2023, the directors of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Water Resources, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation transmitted a letter to the members of the Interagency Ecological Program to convene a Management Committee to complete the 2024 Work Plan that supports the Long-Term Operation of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project, including monitoring, assessment, reporting, and special studies in compliance with state and federal requirements. On February 8, 2024, the Management Committee discussed the 2024 Annual Work Plan and found sufficient support to finalize the 2024 Work Plan with the inclusion of this approval memorandum to preserve specific topic areas for further discussion, including:

1. Categorization of Elements
2. Statements on Regulatory Requirements
3. Costs Reported as \$0 or In-Kind
4. Closed Work Plan Elements

Subsets of the agency representatives may additionally discuss and refine specific elements as needed and request that the description of specific elements be revised in a future addendum to the work plan if necessary and based on Management Committee discussions.

The Management Committee, convened for the purpose of directing 2024 work, appreciates the efforts of the investigators, field crews, and support staff in the monitoring and analysis relied upon for understanding the ecosystem of the Bay-Delta, the operation of the state and federal water projects, and the conservation of species.

The Management Committee confirms approval of the ongoing directed studies as proposed in the draft 2024 IEP Workplan, and approves the following new directed studies under the 2024 Work Plan:

- PEN 360 - Genetic Analysis and Storage of listed species to Inform Multiple Studies for State Water Project Operations
- PEN 361 - Evaluation of morphological characteristics used in identification of larval Delta Smelt
Hypomesus transpacificus in the San Francisco Estuary

PEN 359 - Trends in the Distribution and Abundance of Large Estuarine Fishes “Enhanced Large Fish Study” (ELFS) - is currently held pending further Management Committee evaluation for possible approval via a Work Plan addendum.

As of Monday March 18, 2024, the following Management Committee members had indicated approval of this memo on behalf of their agencies via email:

Erin Chappell, CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
Louise Conrad, CA Department of Water Resources
Jessica Pearson, Delta Stewardship Council

Amanda Cranford, National Marine Fisheries Service, CA Central Valley Office
Steve Lindley, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Erin Foresman, State Water Resources Control Board
Dave Mooney, US Bureau of Reclamation
Brian Thompson, US Environmental Protection Agency
Donnie Ratcliff, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Mike Chotkowski, US Geological Survey