



## California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

*"An Advocate for Fisheries, Habitat and Water Quality"*

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3 February 2014

Members of the State Water Resources Control Board  
Ms. Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
[commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

RE: Item 4, Consideration of a proposed resolution to amend and add funds to contract between the Board and ICF Jones & Stokes

Dear Members of the Board:

The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance and California Water Impact Network join Friends of the River and the Environmental Water Caucus in requesting that Agenda Item 4 be removed from the consent calendar and placed on the regular agenda for the scheduled 18 February 2014 Board meeting.

While we understand the need for outside expertise to assist the Board in its efforts to update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, retaining the same consulting firm that is the primary consultant for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) represents a serious conflict of interest. The responsibilities of the Board in updating the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan are fundamentally different than the purposes of BDCP in supporting a preferred project, which includes the diversion of massive quantities of water around the Delta.

BDCP's preferred alternative, including the twin-tunnels, will be before the Board for consideration in the foreseeable future. ICF's consultants to the Board will find themselves in the potentially untenable position of having to analyze and criticize the work product, assumptions and conclusions of ICF consultants to the BDCP. This is not an unlikely scenario, given the scathing comments by the Independent Science Board, National Research Council and state and federal agencies on BDCP's draft Plan and EIR/EIS.

It is not only crucial that the Board receive objective analysis based upon best available science from its consultants but also that it avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest, as the both the Bay-Delta update and BDCP proceedings are certain to be highly contentious and controversial. To put another way, it is simply unacceptable for the consultant for a developer's project to also evaluate that project on behalf of a regulating agency.

We urge the Board step back and take time to carefully explore available alternatives and consider whether it would ultimately be more prudent to secure consultants that are not integrally invested in the outcome of issues that the Board must consider in formal proceedings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Jennings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" being more prominent and the last name "Jennings" following in a similar style.

Bill Jennings, Executive Director  
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

Cc: Members of the Board  
Michael Lauffer  
Tom Howard  
Les Grober  
Diane Riddle  
Mark Gowdy