



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AES/043098

NOV 20 2009

Mr. Dan Keppen
Executive Director
Family Farm Alliance
P.O. Box 216
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Dear Mr. Keppen:

Please find enclosed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) response to the Information Quality Act (IQA) appeal filed by the Family Farm alliance on April 1, 2009. In addition to the response, I have enclosed a copy of the report and addendum that was developed by the expert scientific panel that was convened by PBS&J to assist in the Service's evaluation of the science issues raised in the Alliance's appeal.

I appreciate that the Service's response is being provided to you past the date consistent with our IQA guidelines. This was a result of the complexity of the scientific issues raised and difficulties in the contracting process to secure a contractor to convene the scientific panel. However, looked at in the larger context of the 2008 CVP OCAP biological opinion's importance in allowing for a reasonable coordinated operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, while providing the protection for the delta smelt called for in the Endangered Species Act, I believe that our primary focus was properly on a robust and diligent evaluation of your appeal.

Sincerely

Acting DIRECTOR

cc: George Radanovich
Jim Costa
Devin Nunes
Dennis Cardoza
Ken Calvert
Kevin McCarthy
Dianne Feinstein
Barbara Boxer
George Miller
Nick Rahall