

May 21, 2010

[mike@michaeljmcguire.com](mailto:mike@michaeljmcguire.com)  
Santa Monica, CA 90402  
310-560-0257

Stephen D. Parker  
Director, Water Science and Technology Board  
National Research Council  
500 5<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Parker:

It is with deep regret that I find myself in the difficult position of having to resign from the Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta (the Committee). Yesterday's forced resignation of Dr. Patricia Glibert from the Committee is a mistake and silences an important voice in the Committee's upcoming discussions of environmental stressors in the Bay Delta Estuary.

You have told me that the precipitating event that caused you to ask for her resignation was that Dr. Glibert has just published an important article in the journal *Reviews in Fisheries Science* which shows strong evidence that the ammonium discharge from the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is a major, and likely overwhelming, factor impacting the food web in the Delta causing the decline of the Delta Smelt since 1982. I do not understand why Dr. Glibert's publication is a precipitating event. From the first day of our deliberations and our mutual airing of potential conflicts of interest, Dr. Glibert made it clear that she was doing this research. In fact, she made a detailed presentation of her findings to the Committee at our meeting in Davis, California in January. She was informed at that time that the Committee could not fully consider her findings until they were published in a peer-reviewed journal. She has now done that and as a result she has been forced off the Committee.

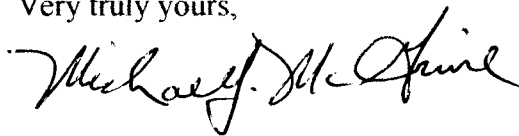
The Committee is composed of 12 eminent scientists and engineers who have a variety of experience in the complimentary fields of fisheries biology, hydrology, water quality, modeling and water resources. The Committee also has legal and sociological expertise from two other members. Several of the Committee members have made it clear that they have a fixed point of view that exports from and flows in the Delta are the controlling factors for the decline of fish species like the Delta Smelt. However, none of these Committee members have been asked to resign from the Committee. If having a strong point of view on the critical factors affecting fish survival in the Delta was a reason not to be on the committee, then many of the Committee members should not have been asked to be part of the Committee in the first place.

In our first Committee report, Dr. Glibert and I recommended the inclusion of statements regarding the importance of ammonium and other stressors, but other members of the Committee did not agree at that time. We were under a terribly short deadline, and we did not have time to make the case that other stressors were critically important and were predominant factors in fish

population declines. I agreed to modify the "other stressors" language because we were promised by the Committee that a full airing of these views and opportunities to discuss the role of other stressors would occur in the next 18 months of the Committee's efforts. With Dr. Glibert's untimely exit from the Committee, I do not see how the other stressors can be fully evaluated in this second phase. I also believe that Dr. Glibert's dismissal undermines the balance and credibility of the Committee.

Given the fixed points of view of many of the remaining committee members and the stilling of an important alternative voice on the committee, I do not see how I can continue to provide a meaningful contribution in the second phase of the Committee's deliberations. Therefore, after careful consideration, I resign my position from the Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. McGuire, PhD, PE

Cc: Honorable Diane Feinstein, U.S. Senate  
Ken Salazar, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

Warren R. Muir, Executive Director, Division on Earth and Life Sciences, NRC  
Claire Welty, Chair, Water Science and Technology Board, NRC  
Donald F. Boesch, Chair, Ocean Studies Board, NRC

Robert Policansky, NRC

*Members, Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta*

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