

San Francisco Estuary Institute

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April 17, 2007

To: Technical Review Committee and
Steering Committee

From: Jennifer Hunt and Jay Davis

Re: Approval of Analyses of 2006 Cormorant Eggs

Through the Exposure and Effects Pilot Study (EEPS), the RMP has conducted biennial analyses of cormorant eggs at the following three locations in the Bay since 2002: Wheeler Island, Richmond Bridge and Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge. Eggs were composited within sites and analyzed for mercury, selenium, PCBs, PBDEs, dioxins, legacy pesticides, polycyclic musks, phthalates, triphenyl phosphate, and nonylphenol. The results of these studies have been summarized in a report titled: *Monitoring Pollutant Concentrations in Eggs of Double-crested Cormorants from San Francisco Bay in 2002 and 2004: A Regional Monitoring Program Pilot Study*.

Based on the findings of this report, the EEPS Science Advisory Panel recommended that the monitoring of cormorant eggs be moved from a pilot and special study to a core element into the Status and Trends (S&T) program. Avian egg monitoring is considered to be very effective for identifying and track trends of persistent bioaccumulative contaminants and for identifying the presence of emerging contaminants. Cormorants are resident consumers of fish throughout the Bay and therefore, are good integrators of contaminant exposure. In addition, eggs are easy to collect and are a reliable source (e.g., stable colonies).

In 2006, cormorant eggs were collected; however, analyses of the eggs was deferred until a decision was made whether cormorant eggs would be incorporated into S&T. At the March meeting, the TRC voted to include cormorants in S&T on a routine basis.

Item 4 Attachment 3

We would like to request \$38,000 from the unallocated 2006 subcontract funds¹ for chemical analysis of the 2006 cormorant eggs. Target analytes include mercury, selenium, PCBs, dioxins/co-planar PCBs, PBDEs, organochlorine pesticides, and perfluorinated compounds. In addition, we would like to request \$10,000 from the 2007 budget for project management, data validation, and synthesis and reporting of the 2006 cormorant data.

¹ At the writing of this memorandum, approximately \$100,000 remains in unallocated subcontractor funds from 2006 due to the cancellation of the episodic toxicity program in 2006. This funding will rollover into 2007 funds.