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December 1, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Terry Morlan

SUBJECT: Status Report and Discussion of IEAB Role

The Council created the Independent Economic Analysis Board (IEAB) in 1997 to help address the cost-effectiveness requirements of the Act. The IEAB exists as an advisory committee to the Council under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. As such, it has a charter that is adopted by the Council and sunsets every two years.

The IEAB operates with \$100,000 of contract funds from the Fish and Wildlife Division budget. The IEAB charter allows for eight members of the IEAB, although there are currently only seven members. Two members resigned in 2008 and only one was replaced pending a Council decision on the IEAB's future role.

The IEAB charter was last renewed in June 2007. A renewed charter has been delayed pending a Council decision on the future of the IEAB.

This agenda item will give the Council a chance to have a discussion about the IEAB role in the future. At issue is whether the IEAB can provide additional analysis to improve the cost-effectiveness of the Fish and Wildlife Program, and whether that analysis is worth the cost of continuing the IEAB. Staff can provide some alternative approaches to a continuation of the IEAB if desired. In addition, if Council members wish to hear some of the proposed tasks that are currently being considered, staff or IEAB Chair Roger Mann could provide additional information.

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