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February 22, 2010

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 Fish and Wildlife 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 also has been delayed pending a Council discussion and decision on the future of the IEAB.

This agenda item will give the Council a chance to have a discussion about the IEAB role. Alternatives include (1) continuing the IEAB as is, (2) Expanding the scope of the IEAB to consider economic analysis of power or other areas of Council authority besides just fish and wildlife, and (3) discontinuing the IEAB and achieving its functions through direct contracting or incorporating economic expertise into the ISAB Pier Review Groups. Other approaches are possible as well.

A redlined version of the IEAB charter is attached, for discussion. The most significant change is to allow the Council to assign tasks that might include power related economic analysis or other topics the Council agrees to ask the IEAB to address. Also attached is a summary of a proposal that the IEAB developed at Bill Booth's request that includes background on the IEAB, its past analyses, and alternative futures for its future role. In addition, a list of possible future tasks that the IEAB has discussed is attached.

Attachments