

March 15, 2014

Subject: (1) public comment on the Phase 1 Review and (2) the 2014 projects

Dear TMC, TAMWG and TRRP,

We are providing input on the above topics in advance of the upcoming TAMWG and TMC meetings.

Public Comment on Phase 1 Review

We wish to emphasize the following points in response to the recent public comments regarding the Phase 1 report (November 2013 draft):

- The report addresses Phase 1 projects only (2005-2010) and presents initial data review and analyses compiled from information provided to us by the TRRP.
- The report and appendices are drafts and therefore subject to revision.
- The November draft was intended for internal staff review to make sure that the SAB had not over looked or misinterpreted information provided.
- After internal review, the completed SAB report, with recommendations for proceeding forward during Phase 2, will be released to the public.

While we value the public comments on the Phase 1 report and have read them carefully, we feel that they are premature.

2014 Projects

We are not prepared at this time to comment on specific details of the 2014 projects and the specific public comments. However, the issue points to the need for a Decision Support System (DSS), such as that recommended in our Phase 1 review. A mechanistic DSS would allow the Program to critically evaluate the benefits of past and future projects, including those planned for 2014. Construction of 2014 projects could be delayed in order to focus on developing and implementing the DSS, followed by a critical evaluation of the proposed 2014 projects using the DSS, but we do not endorse stopping the construction of Phase 2 projects.

Respectfully,
The Science Advisory Board