

# James H. Lecky

**Proposed Project Title**  
Aquatic Resources

**Current Position**  
Senior Consultant

**Discipline Areas**  
> Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
> Endangered Species Act (ESA)  
> Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)  
> Section 10 Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)  
> Regulatory Processes

**Years' Experience**  
30+ Years

**Joined Cardno**  
2012

**Education**  
> Graduate Studies, Biology, California State University, 1976  
> BA, Biology, California State University, 1974

## Summary of Experience

Mr. Lecky has more than 37 years of experience in developing innovative fish and wildlife conservation strategies and is adept at resolving challenging conservation issues. He is an expert in marine mammals and fishes, salmon and steelhead. He recently retired as Director, Office of Protected Resources for National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Washington D.C., where he developed policy and provided guidance for NMFS National Endangered Species and Marine Mammal programs. He was also responsible for conducting interagency negotiations regarding implementation of the ESA and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), including interagency consultations on projects that were national in scope or that raised novel issues of national significance. He pursued conservation through partnerships with states, tribes, local government, and private entities.

Mr. Lecky spent 28 years with NMFS in various capacities ranging from staff biologist to Assistant Regional Administrator in NMFS Southwest Region. As an Assistant Regional Administrator he was responsible for implementing NMFS programs in California and the Pacific Islands. He supervised the listing and designation of critical habitat for 10 distinct population segments of salmon species as threatened or endangered under the ESA throughout California. He represented NMFS in the formation of the CALFED Bay Delta Program and served as the lead negotiator for NMFS in the development of the CALFED Bay Delta Agreement.

He supervised NMFS role in the approval of and section 7 consultation on the Trinity River Restoration Program, which addressed flow and habitat requirements for salmon species affected by the Trinity Project. The final biological opinion considered the effects of increased flows in the Trinity on inter-basin transfers and optimized transfers for temperature benefits for listed salmon species in the Sacramento River.

Mr. Lecky oversaw the consultation on operation of US Bureau of Reclamation's Klamath project, and was also involved in initiation of Klamath settlement discussions with FERC, PacifiCorp, water users, and fishing interests. This effort led to the formation of the Klamath Settlement Group and the development of the Klamath Basin Settlement Agreement, which calls for dam removal, restoration of 300 miles of salmon habitat, and a secure water supply for agriculture.

His technical expertise includes managing complex ESA Section 7 consultations and Section 10 Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), and developing strategic approaches to permitting and to project configuration for regulatory approvals and successful project implementation. He has been involved with a number of water supply and energy projects where he was instrumental in developing the conservation strategies that allowed the project to move forward.

He has served on several federal task forces and multiple advisory teams including White House Task Force for Energy Project Streamlining, Klamath Settlement Group, and CALFED Bay Delta Program Advisory Body.

## Project Experience

*Senior Consultant / Project Manager – Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Permitting / Operational Issue Support, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California – California*

Mr. Lecky is responsible for the development of a process and timeline for Section

10A/section 7 permitting (Federal ESA) and operational issues for the long-term conveyance facility considered in the BDCP.

*Senior Consultant – Cachuma Project, Santa Ynez River – California*

Mr. Lecky assisted the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in the development of a biological assessment and strategy for concluding ESA Section 7 consultation on operation and maintenance of the project.

*Office Director – NMFS Office of Protected Resources – National*

As NMFS Office Director, Mr. Lecky developed policies to improve public-private partnerships, revitalize state/federal cooperation in implementation of the ESA, and to address definitions of key terms such as “destruction and adverse modification of critical habitat.”

*Lead Negotiator – Legislation to Implement San Joaquin River Agreement – California*

As Lead Negotiator for NMFS, Mr. Lecky developed the legislative framework to implement the San Joaquin River Agreement. He developed language for reintroduction of threatened spring run Chinook salmon into the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam, working with legislative staff, the environmental community, and affected water agencies in California. This project involved collaboration with diverse interests and creative use of the provisions of the ESA to create a legislative framework for identification of fish stocks and decision making process for reintroduction to the San Joaquin River consistent with the settlement agreement. The language was subsequently enacted as part of the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009.

*Lead Negotiator / Senior Manager – California Bay Delta Restoration Plan*

As NMFS Lead Negotiator and Senior Manager, Mr. Lecky represented NMFS in the formation of the CALFED Bay Delta Program and the CALFED Bay Delta Agreement interagency plan for restoration of the Bay Delta and its tributaries, which established a science-based comprehensive approach to endangered species conservation and water supply management, and enhanced water supply certainty.

*Lead Negotiator / Senior Manager – Salmon Conservation, Klamath River*

As NMFS Lead Negotiator and Senior Manager, Mr. Lecky oversaw the consultation on operation of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Klamath project, and was also involved in initiation of Klamath settlement discussions with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), PacifiCorp, water users, and fishing interests. This effort led to the formation of the Klamath Settlement Group and the development of the Klamath Basin Settlement Agreement, which calls for removal of four dams in the lower Klamath river, restoration of 300 miles of salmon habitat, and a secure water supply for agriculture in Klamath.

*Senior Manager, Inter-Agency Coordination – Open Rivers Initiative – National*

As NMFS Senior Manager, Mr. Lecky worked with the Council on Environmental Quality to develop and implement the NMFS Open Rivers Initiative to identify and fund removal of obsolete impediments to anadromous fish passage.