September 1, 1994

EPA-SAB-EPEC-CON-94-006

Honorable Carol M. Browner Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 401 M Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: Notification of a Consultation on the Conceptual Plan for an

Integrated Ecosystem Protection Research Program

Dear Ms. Browner:

The Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) met on July 20, 1994, to conduct a consultation with staff from the Office of Research and Development on the Agency's conceptual plan for an Integrated Ecosystem Protection Research Program. The SAB has developed the consultation as a mechanism to advise the Agency on technical issues that should be considered in the development of regulations, guidelines, or technical guidance before the Agency has taken a position. A consultation is conducted under the normal requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which include advance notice of the public meeting in the <u>Federal Register</u>.

As is our customary practice, there will be no formal report from the SAB as a result of this consultation, nor do we expect any formal response from the Agency. However, the Committee is extremely interested in assisting the Agency to develop the necessary research base for ecosystem management and we look forward to conducting a formal review of the proposed Integrated Ecosystem Protection Research Program in Fiscal Year 1995.

Sincerely,

Menevieve M. Matanoshi Dr. Genevieve Matanoski, Chair

Executive Committee

Dr. Kenneth L. Dickson, Chair

Ecological Processes and

Effects Committee