

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 2023-07

LEAD SCIENTIST MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Delta Reform Act), Water Code section 85000 *et seq.*, establishes the Delta Science Program and provides that the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) shall appoint a lead scientist to oversee implementation of the Delta Science Program (WC §§ 85280(b) and 85280(b)(3)); and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Delta Science Program is to provide the best possible unbiased scientific information to inform water and environmental decision making in the Delta (WC § 85280(b)(4)); and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior through the United States Geological Survey has supplied assistance to the State of California in support of the Lead Scientist position to promote strong leadership that integrates scientific actions across the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), provide unbiased and independent guidance to the Delta scientific community, and maintain scientific integrity of the Delta Science Program; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has supported the position of Lead Scientist either through an Intergovernmental Personnel Act Agreement with the Council, or directly as a USGS employee through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Council; and

WHEREAS, USGS currently supports the Lead Scientist position through a MOA with the Council, which will expire upon the termination of the Lead Scientist's term on November 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Council is currently seeking candidates for the Lead Scientist position and a new MOA with USGS is required; and

WHEREAS, the Council has the authority to both enter into agreements and delegate administrative responsibilities to the Executive Officer (WC § 85214(b) and (d)).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Council hereby finds the foregoing recitals to be true and correct and incorporates them herein.
2. The Council authorizes and directs the Executive Officer, or their delegee, to enter into and execute a new Memorandum of Agreement with USGS in support of the Lead Scientist position.
3. The Council authorizes and directs the Executive Officer, or their delegee, to take such steps as are necessary to make effective the intent of this resolution, including the negotiation of all appropriate terms and conditions, consistent with duties and responsibilities set forth in the Delta Reform Act.

Attachment A: September 28, 2023, Council meeting notice and staff report.

CERTIFICATION

On a motion by Councilmember _____, seconded by Councilmember _____, and a vote of the Council, the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Delta Stewardship Council by the following vote at a regular meeting of the Delta Stewardship Council on September 28, 2023.

Burgis _____
Damrell _____
Hueso _____
Lee _____
Madueño _____
Mehranian _____
Zingale _____

Dated: September 28, 2023

Emma Askea

Clerk of the Board of the Delta Stewardship Council