

Approval of Department of Water Resources Interagency Agreement for Science Support Needs

Requested Action: Staff is requesting Council approval for a reimbursable agreement with the Department of Water Resources in the amount of \$785,000. The agreement would fund three limited-term (two-year) positions for Delta Science Plan implementation activities relevant to the FloodSAFE Program.

Recommendation

Approve a reimbursable Interagency Agreement in the amount of \$785,000 to fund three positions authorized by the 2014-15 and 2015-16 budget over the next two years.

Background

The 2014-15 and 2015-16 budgets provided that three of its newly authorized Delta Science Program positions would be funded with Proposition 1 funds from the Department of Water Resources' FloodSAFE Program through an Interagency Agreement with the Delta Stewardship Council. The FloodSAFE Program is a long-term strategic initiative developed to reduce flood risk in California and is also an important component of DWR's Integrated Water Management (IWM) Initiative, which is designed to achieve a sustainable, robust, and resilient flood and water management system for the benefit of all Californians (see: http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/docs/DWR_Implementing_FloodSAFE_Brochure-2.pdf).

As identified in the Delta Reform Act, the mission of the Council's Delta Science Program is "to provide the best possible scientific information for water and environmental decision making in the Bay-Delta system," and the funds from DWR will assist with implementation of key elements of the Delta Science Plan that are relevant to the FloodSAFE Program. The Delta Science Plan identifies key Delta Science Program functions and activities that will enable Delta Science Program staff, with this funding from DWR and in close partnership with DWR staff, to focus on the following:

- Develop the Delta Science Action Agenda, and implementation of standardized project solicitation, proposal evaluation, and independent peer review processes.
- Develop an implementation plan, following the publication of the recent report entitled: *Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information* (Data Summit White Paper) to benefit the data access needs of the FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office to report specific implementation outcomes of their Conservation Strategy.

- Organize workshops and seminars in order to synthesize and communicate advances in science understanding for multi-purpose floodway, floodplain, and flood protection improvements.
- Assist with a comprehensive assessment of monitoring programs designed to track regulatory compliance and effectiveness of management actions, including those designed to maintain and improve levees, floodways, and floodplains, as well as evaluation of best management practices designed to minimize exposure of fish and wildlife to bioavailable mercury and other contaminants.
- Assist with implementation of recommendations outlined in the draft Levee-Related Habitat Review presented to the Council in October 2015 and with informing Yolo Bypass restoration actions.

Attachment 1 provides more detail on tasks, products and estimated costs.

The Executive Officer has delegated authority up to \$500,000 to enter into contracts and interagency agreements on the Council's behalf. Because this interagency "reimbursable" agreement exceeds that amount, the Council must approve the agreement.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Budget Detail

Contact

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