



## **ACTION ITEM**

### **Approval of a Contract Amendment with Michigan State University**

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**Summary:** Council staff requests an amendment to a contract with Michigan State University (MSU) for a no-cost extension of time. The contract end date would extend from April 30, 2021 to February 28, 2022, with no change to the contract budget total of \$632,909.02. This amendment allows for the project's adjustment to account for changes resulting from the COVID-19 emergency and will enable researchers to finish the project as initially funded by the Council. The study performed under this contract was selected for an award from the 2018-2019 multi-agency Delta science proposal solicitation.

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#### **REQUESTED ACTION**

Council staff recommends that the Council approve a contract amendment with MSU for a no-cost extension of time from April 30, 2021 to February 28, 2022.

The Executive Officer has delegated authority up to \$500,000 to enter into contracts on the Council's behalf. This contract amount is in excess of the Executive Officer's delegated authority and requires Council approval. The Council approved the original contract on April 25, 2019. Consequently, this amendment also requires Council approval.

#### **BACKGROUND**

These contracted services are highly specialized and technical. The contracted scientist is considered an expert in her field and will oversee the goal of explicitly characterizing the status of knowledge and identifying assumptions and uncertainties. This study aims to improve our ability to protect life-history trait diversity in Chinook salmon. Life history trait diversity (migration timing) is decreasing in the Central Valley, leading to reduced genetic diversity and ability to adapt to environmental change. A key roadblock to protecting the present diversity is the inability to rapidly and inexpensively identify large numbers of individuals from different populations and life history types during their outmigration. The investigators will address this information gap by leveraging pre-existing genomic data to develop a new high-throughput genotyping panel that will allow us to identify individuals by run type and tributary, including identifying Fall-run from the Sacramento versus the San Joaquin River basins. This proposal falls under Action Area 3 and 4 of the Science Action Agenda: "Develop Tools and Methods to Support and Evaluate Habitat Restoration," and "Improve Understanding of Interactions between Stressors and Managed Species and their Communities," respectively. This

work also supports the Science Action Agenda area corresponding to monitoring, data management, and modeling (Action Area 5).

**JUSTIFICATION**

In mid-March 2020, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and MSU pivoted to a work-from-home model. This delay drastically slowed the contracting process between CDFW and MSU, which was required for accessing samples from CDFW's Tissue Archive used in this study. Additionally, staff members at the Tissue Archive could not access the samples to then be sent to MSU. Additionally, the contracted scientist and staff were not allowed to access the molecular lab on MSU campus. This work can now go forward, as the contract between MSU and CDFW has been completed, and the extended completion accommodates this delay.

**FISCAL INFORMATION**

No additional funds are being requested. The total budget of \$632,909.02 remains the same, with the contract end date being extended from April 30, 2021 to February 28, 2022.

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

None.

**CONTACT**

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