ACTION ITEM

Amendment of a Contract with the University of California, Davis for San Joaquin River Salmon Movement and Survival Research

Summary: The Executive Officer requests authority to amend a contract with the Regents of the University of California (UC Davis) to increase the contract amount. This amendment supports continuity of the current research in a critical season of salmon movement that will improve understanding of salmon survival through predator hotspots in the San Joaquin River. This amendment will allow the work to continue without interruption.

Requested Action

Authorize the Executive Officer to amend an existing contract with UC Davis (#1469, for Monitoring Juvenile Spring-run Chinook Salmon in response to Climate-Driven Flows in the South Delta). The original contract amount will be amended with an additional amount of $140,277, raising the total to $1,890,277. The additional funds will allow UC Davis researchers to complete salmon tracking research that informs best practices for the re-introduction of Chinook Salmon to the San Joaquin River. The additional funds will cover tagging, release, and tracking of survival through critical junctures in the Delta that may have high mortality rates. This critical science investigation supports the San Joaquin River Restoration Program's reintroduction of Spring-run Chinook salmon.

The Executive Officer has delegated authority, up to $500,000, to enter into contract agreements on the Council's behalf. This proposed contract amendment requires Council authorization because the total contract exceeds that amount.

Background

The reintroduction of Spring run Chinook salmon to the San Joaquin River will provide an opportunity to examine the response of salmon to a range of conditions and to address the role of predation on migrating salmon.

The Delta Stewardship Council has an existing contract with University of California, Davis (contract amount $1,750,000, originally executed on June 1, 2016) for Dr. Andrew Rypel to lead a project that establishes and maintains a network of state-of-the-art stations to detect and monitor Spring-run Chinook salmon smolts tagged with acoustic telemetry tags as they migrate through the south Delta. The tags provide information on locations of high salmon mortality, which are often predator hotspots. During the salmon migration, high-resolution data on water quality and food web conditions are also collected, in order to best understand the conditions that support safe passage of Chinook salmon smolts through the south Delta. Ultimately, the results of this important research will be used to identify sites of high mortality and enable restoration planners to design site modifications and restoration approaches to minimize exposure to predators.

This research is consistent with the Science Action Agenda Priority 4 (Improve understanding of interactions between stressors and managed species and their

communities) and Priority 5 (Modernize monitoring, data management, and modeling).

Fiscal Information

The proposed amendment will add $140,277 to the existing budget to allow UC Davis salmon tracking research in the San Joaquin River to continue without interruption.

List of Attachments

None

Contact

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