



## **ACTION ITEM**

### **Approval of a Contract Amendment with San Francisco State University**

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**Summary:** Council staff requests an amendment to a contract with San Francisco State University (SFSU) for a no-cost extension of time. The contract end date would extend from April 30, 2021 to February 1, 2022 with no change to the budget total of \$1,064,896.14. 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 SFSU for a no-cost extension of time from April 30, 2021 to February 1, 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**

This research study will resolve uncertainties that are central to understanding how aquatic food webs vary among habitat types, and how they change based on certain management activities. The study focuses on the feeding, reproduction, and growth of copepods as essential food web support for fishes. This work investigates four diverse habitats including two open-water channels and two shallow habitats. The researchers will measure copepods' feeding rates on microscopic plants and animals, and relate feeding to their rates of growth and reproduction. Computer models will be used to estimate their movement and death rates. These results will show the sources of nutrition used for growth and reproduction of these key organisms. Results will inform how food webs respond to large scale changes in the Delta ecosystem, for example, restoration and the wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

Much research in the Delta has focused on the aquatic food web, encouraged by evidence that low productivity of plankton is linked to declines in several fish species, including the endangered Delta smelt. The Principal Investigator has been

investigating food web dynamics that support fish for many years, focusing especially on the copepods (small crustaceans) *Pseudodiaptomus forbesi* and *Eurytemora affinis*. These copepods are an important food source for many fishes and makes up a substantial portion of the food of Delta smelt.

#### **JUSTIFICATION**

Closures of SFSU's campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the team from executing field sampling and laboratory work for nine months in 2020. Studies that were originally planned for summer and fall of 2020 have been rescheduled for 2021, necessitating this time extension.

#### **FISCAL INFORMATION**

This amendment does not change the total cost of the contract. The total budget of \$1,064,896.14 remains the same, with the contract end date being extended from April 30, 2021 to February 1, 2022.

#### **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

None.

#### **CONTACT**

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