



ACTION ITEM

Consideration and Possible Approval of a Contract with the Regents of the University of California San Diego, California Sea Grant for Delta Independent Science Board and Delta Science Program Support

Summary: Council staff recommends that the Council approve a new contract agreement with the Regents of the University of California, San Diego, California Sea Grant in the amount of \$814,570 from September 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024. The contract supports the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) and the Delta Science Program. The purpose of this agreement is to provide post-doctoral research support for the Delta ISB and provide technical expertise to the Delta Science Program for synthesis, reviews, and workshops.

REQUESTED ACTION

Council staff recommends that the Council approve a new contract agreement with the Regents of the University of California, San Diego, California Sea Grant in the amount of \$814,570 from September 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024.

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

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Delta Reform Act, the Delta ISB's recommendations must reflect high scientific and technical standards, and the widest possible representation of knowledge, disciplines, and trends of thought. The Delta ISB provides independent information directly to the Council. The work of the Delta ISB requires the members to:

- 1) Understand the technical underpinnings of Delta programs and plans,
- 2) Regularly evaluate the science agenda for the Delta,
- 3) Review the balance and credibility of scientific analyses and syntheses, and
- 4) Identify emerging issues and significant interconnections among Delta programs.

The work of the Delta ISB is to "provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta through periodic reviews of each of those programs that shall be scheduled to ensure that all Delta scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs are reviewed at least once every four years." (Cal. Wat. Code section 85280(a)(3).) 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 ... carried out through funding research, synthesizing and communicating scientific information to

policymakers and decisionmakers, promoting independent scientific peer review, and coordinating with Delta agencies to promote science-based adaptive management....” (Cal. Wat. Code section 85280(b)(4).)

The post-doctoral researchers funded under this agreement will be identified and administered by California Sea Grant. These post-doctoral researchers will be expected to support the Delta ISB for two years by reviewing relevant literature, data analysis, and interviews, while also preparing technical presentations and science communication products such as videos, briefing sheets, and manuscripts to be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. New post-doctoral researchers will provide needed reinforcement to help the ISB make progress on significant work plan commitments. The products from post-doctoral researchers will not substitute for the final reports and recommendations of the Delta ISB reviews, which are authored solely by Delta ISB members. California Sea Grant will also provide technical expertise to the Delta Science Program for synthesis, review, advice, and workshop panelists.

This agreement will provide technical expertise for Delta Science Program to support the proposal review process for non-competitive critical science investigations, independent scientific peer review, advice, synthesis, and science workshops. California Sea Grant already provides independent scientific review of applications for the Delta science proposal solicitations and Delta Science Fellows; this agreement would expand this service for all Delta Science Program directed action proposals to unify our independent proposal review process.

CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

The California Sea Grant college program, University of California San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, sponsors and administers scientific research, fellowships, and panels of scientific advisors that contribute to the growing body of knowledge about coastal and marine resources, and helps solve contemporary marine-related problems. California Sea Grant is the largest of the 34 Sea Grant programs nationwide and draws on the talents of scientists and engineers at public and private universities and other research institutions throughout the state. It is administered by the University of California and is based at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. The California Sea Grant program is funded by the National Sea Grant College Program, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with matching funds from State and local resources.

The staff at the California Sea Grant program have significant expertise in science management and have conducted the Delta Science Fellows program since 2003 by managing the review, selection, and work of the previous classes of Fellows. The California Sea Grant Program also has facilitated independent proposal review services for the Council’s competitive solicitation program for critical science investigations and

co-funds with the Council a position for an Extension Specialist for social sciences in the Delta.

FISCAL INFORMATION

The budget information is summarized below.

Budget Category	9/1/21-6/30/24
Personnel	\$382,245
Post-doctoral researchers, subject matter experts, and open-access publication fees	\$244,347
Indirect Costs	\$187,978
Total	\$814,570

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

No attachments.

CONTACT

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