



**ACTION ITEM**

**Approval of a Contract with the Association of Bay Area Governments**

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**Summary:** Council staff recommends that the Council approve a contract with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). The contract would extend from September 2020 to June 30, 2023, for a total of \$946,246.40 and would support the Council's ongoing collaborative partnership with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP).

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**Requested Action**

Council staff recommends that the Council approve a new contract with ABAG. The contract would extend from September 2020 to June 30, 2023, for a total of \$946,246.40. The purpose of this agreement is to provide funding to SFEP for longstanding collaborative efforts (including the State of the Estuary Conference), reports that strengthen the science partnership throughout the San Francisco Estuary (San Francisco Bay and Delta), science reviews, and new Delta-specific content within *Estuary News*.

The Executive Officer has delegated authority up to \$500,000 to enter into contracts on the Council's behalf. This contract requires Council approval because it exceeds that amount.

**Background**

The ABAG is a joint powers authority comprised of 101 cities and 9 counties in the San Francisco Estuary, including two counties in the Delta. ABAG provides institutional support for multi-agency planning, environmental, and scientific projects in a region that overlaps with the Council's authority. Predating the creation of the Council and the Delta Reform Act of 2009, the ABAG and SFEP have successfully partnered with the Delta/CALFED Science Program to organize professional conferences, assist with scientific peer review, and deliver timely and credible information to decision-makers in the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. By furthering the successful partnership between the Council and ABAG/SFEP, the Council helps to advance and align science and communication efforts throughout the estuary.

ABAG is a partner and fiscal agent for SFEP, whose familiarity and understanding of the estuary and active engagement of scientific experts offers expertise critical to the Council. Specifically, this expertise includes providing scientific peer review services, conducting science synthesis, and producing scientific reports to address important natural resource management issues. In order to continue to benefit from these services, ABAG/SFEP will partner with the Council on:

1. **Science communication**—supports *Estuary News* that informs scientists, stakeholders, and decision-makers;
2. **Planning and tracking of Estuary status and trends**—includes updating the Estuary Blueprint which identifies actions to support Estuary health and

resilience and the State of the Estuary Report that tracks the status and trends of over 30 indicators of Estuary health;

3. **The State of the Estuary Conference**—including sponsorship of this biennial conference that brings scientists across the estuary together to share information and advance critical scientific understanding;
4. **Coordination of scientific experts for peer review and science synthesis;** and
5. **Project management and coordination**—including contract reporting, invoice preparation, and subcontract development and management.

Products and services encompassed by this contract will help to bridge the gap between science, policy, and communication in the ever evolving and complex estuary landscape. Bridging that gap is critical to effectively inform and engage decision-makers, managers, scientists, and stakeholders. Resources such as the biennial State of the Estuary Conference, *Estuary News*, and SFEP publications such as the Estuary Blueprint and the State of the Estuary Report, are critical resources for the broader Delta and San Francisco Estuary community.

**Additional Links**

State of the Estuary Conference: <https://www.sfestuary.org/state-of-the-estuary-conference/>

Estuary News: <https://www.sfestuary.org/estuary-news/>

2016 San Francisco Estuary Blueprint: <https://www.sfestuary.org/ccmp/>

State of the Estuary Report 2019: <https://www.sfestuary.org/our-estuary/soter/>

**Fiscal Information**

The budget information for this contract is shown in the table below.

<b>Task</b>	Proposed Budget: August 2020 – July 2023
Science Communications	\$194,000
Planning and Tracking Status and Trends	\$230,000
State of the Estuary Conference	\$96,000
Science Experts for Review and Synthesis	\$60,000
Project Management	\$115,850
Indirect Costs	\$250,396.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$946,246.40</b>

**List of Attachments**

No attachments

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