



## **ACTION ITEM**

### **Amendment to an Agreement with AECOM for the Delta Adapts Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy**

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**Summary:** The Executive Officer requests authority to amend an existing contract with AECOM to extend the contract's length by one year. This additional time will be used to complete the Delta Adapts climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy.

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#### **REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the Executive Officer to amend an existing contract with AECOM to prepare the Delta Adapts climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy by providing a time extension of one year. The contract dates will be from June 30, 2018, to June 30, 2022. There is no change to the existing contract amount, which will remain at, and not exceed, \$650,000.

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

#### **BACKGROUND: DELTA ADAPTS**

The Delta Reform Act (Act) specifies consideration of "the future impact of climate change and sea-level rise" in restoration planning (Water Code [Wat. Code] section 85066) and identifies a restoration timeline horizon of the year 2100 (Wat. Code section 85302). The Act also notes that the Delta Plan may address "the effects of climate change and sea-level rise on the three state highways that cross the Delta" (Wat. Code section 85307). Executive Order B-30-15, signed by Governor Brown in April 2015, requires that State agencies incorporate climate change into planning and investment decisions. Also, state agencies are required to prioritize natural infrastructure and actions for climate preparedness and protection of the most vulnerable populations.

Climate change is already altering the physical environment of the Delta. Over the long term, climate change in the Delta is expected to adversely affect human health and safety, lead to economic disruptions, diminish water supply, degrade water quality, shift ecosystem function and habitat qualities, and increase difficulties in providing basic services. Many of these impacts will disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities, including those located within the Delta. Delta Adapts

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will help the Council assess specific climate risks and vulnerabilities in the Delta and develop adaptation strategies to address those vulnerabilities.

Delta Adapts consists of two phases: 1) a **vulnerability assessment** to improve understanding of regional vulnerabilities due to climate change in order to protect the vital resources the Delta provides to California and beyond with state interests and investments top of mind; and 2) an **adaptation plan** detailing strategies and tools that state, regional, and local governments can use to help communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems thrive in the face of climate change. The vulnerability assessment analyzes the vulnerability of various asset sectors to several climate stressors and hazards.

**AMENDMENT: CONTRACT EXTENSION**

The Delta Adapts initiative has experienced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The modeling of climate vulnerabilities took longer to run than originally anticipated, Council staff was unable to schedule initial meetings with agency partners, and the project experienced delays receiving input from community-based organizations as part of Delta Adapts' outreach efforts. The proposed time extension would allow AECOM to complete the climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy.

**FISCAL INFORMATION**

The amended contract uses General Fund resources from FY 2017-18 and FY 2020-21 not to exceed \$650,000.

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

None

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