



ACTION ITEM

Approval of a Contract Amendment with AECOM for the Delta Adapts Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy

Summary: Council staff requests an amendment to a contract with AECOM for an extension of time and the addition of funds. The contract end date would extend from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and the addition of \$180,000 to the contract would increase the total to \$830,000. This amendment allows for the project's adjustment to account for changes resulting from the COVID-19 emergency, other Council work with competing deadlines, and will enable the project team to finish the Delta Adapts initiative.

REQUESTED ACTION

Council staff recommends that the Council approve a contract amendment with AECOM (Contract #8932) to extend the end date from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and increase the contract amount by \$180,000, for a total contract amount of \$830,000.

The Executive Officer has delegated authority up to \$500,000 to enter into contracts on the Council's behalf. The Council approved the original contract on May 24, 2018, for \$650,000. This contract amount is in excess of the Executive Officer's delegated authority and requires Council approval. Consequently, this amendment also requires Council approval.

BACKGROUND

The Delta Reform Act (Act) defines "restoration" as including consideration of "the future impact of climate change and sea level rise" (Water Code [Wat. Code] section 85066(c)) and identifies a timeline horizon of the year 2100 for the restoration of large areas of interconnected habitats within the Delta and its watershed (Wat. Code section 85302(e)(1)). 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 State agencies to incorporate climate change into planning and investment decisions. State agencies are also required to prioritize natural infrastructure and actions for climate preparedness and the 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 will help the Council in assessing specific climate risks and vulnerabilities in the Delta and developing adaptation strategies to address those vulnerabilities.

Delta Adapts consists of two phases: 1) a **vulnerability assessment** that analyzes the vulnerability of various asset sectors to several climate stressors and hazards 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 strategy** detailing strategies and tools available for state, regional, and local governments to use in helping communities and ecosystems thrive in the face of climate change.

JUSTIFICATION

Additional funding to complete the adaptation strategy was anticipated. In addition, the Delta Adapts initiative has experienced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other competing priorities at the Council, such as appeals on covered actions. The modeling of climate vulnerabilities took more budget and time to run than originally anticipated. Council staff was also 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 budget amendment and time extension would allow staff to continue working with AECOM to complete the adaptation strategy portion of Delta Adapts.

CONTRACT CHANGES

No changes to the master contract are proposed.

FISCAL INFORMATION

This amendment requests an additional \$180,000 to increase the contract total from \$650,000 to \$830,000. The contract end date would also extend from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

None

CONTACT

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