



ACTION ITEM

Lead Scientist Memorandum of Agreement

Summary

Council staff requests the Council to delegate authority for the Executive Officer or delegee to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for support of a Delta Lead Scientist Position.

Requested Action

Council staff requests that the Council approve Resolution 2023-07, authorizing the Executive Officer, or delegee, to execute an MOA with USGS for support of a Lead Scientist Position. The Council has the authority to both enter into agreements and delegate administrative responsibilities to the Executive Officer (WC § 85214(b) and (d)).

Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Delta Reform Act), Water Code section 85000 *et seq.*, establishes the Delta Science Program. It also requires the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) to appoint a lead scientist to oversee implementation of the Delta Science Program (WC §§ 85280(b) and 85280(b)(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 (WC § 85280(b)(4)).

USGS has supplied assistance in support of the Lead Scientist position to promote strong leadership that integrates scientific actions across the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), provide unbiased and independent guidance to the Delta scientific community, and maintain scientific integrity of the Delta Science Program. USGS has provided support for the position of Delta Lead Scientist either through an Intergovernmental Personnel Act Agreement with the Council, or directly as a USGS employee through a MOA with the Council. USGS currently supports the

Lead Scientist position through a MOA with the Council, which will expire upon the termination of the Lead Scientist's term on November 30, 2023. The Council is currently seeking candidates for the Lead Scientist position and a new MOA with USGS is required.

Fiscal Information

None.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Resolution 2023-07

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