

Approval of Contract for Delta Science Program Research Fellows

Requested Action: Direct the Executive Officer to execute an agreement with the University of California, San Diego, California Sea Grant (UCSD) for the next class of Delta Science Fellows (\$1.8M)

Background

As identified in the Delta Reform Act, “the mission of the Delta Science Program is to provide the best possible scientific information for water and environmental decision making in the Bay-Delta system.” The Science Program fulfills this mission in part by adding to the body of best available scientific information through funding research.

The Delta Science Program is seeking approval to enter into a contract that will continue an important program research component. The Delta Science Fellows Program is an innovative and highly successful program that pairs the next generation of Delta scientists with community and academic mentors to conduct research targeting program priorities. Research by Delta Science Fellows often complements and enhances research projects supported by the Council and other agencies and institutions. Priorities for research for this next class of Delta Science Fellows will be the topics identified as needing improved scientific understanding in the Delta Plan.

Contract with UCSD California Sea Grant

Since 2003, the Delta Science Program, in collaboration with California Sea Grant, has supported six classes of graduate and postdoctoral research fellows working on Delta-related projects. A new \$1.8M multiyear contract with Sea Grant will allow funding of 11-12 new Science Fellows. The term of the contract will be from December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2014. The Fellows will work with Delta agency scientists and senior academic research mentors to collaborate on research of direct relevance to the Delta Stewardship Council goals of maintaining a reliable water supply and improving ecosystem health. Priorities for research will be directly relevant to the policies and recommendations of the Delta Plan. More information on the Delta Science Fellows program is available on the Council’s website at http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta_science_program/research/research_fellow.html.

Fiscal Information

Funding for a new Delta Science Fellows agreement is available from Prop 50 and this project is on the Delta Stewardship Council’s list for bond funding.

Contact

Lauren Hastings
Deputy Executive Officer, Science

Phone: (916) 445-5026