



**ACTION ITEM**

**Approval of a Federal Receivable Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**

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**Summary:** Staff recommends the Council approve a new receivable agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for up to \$1,385,162 that will be used to reimburse the Council for independent science review panel contracts and Council staff time, from October 15, 2019 to September 30, 2024.

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**Requested Action**

Staff recommends the Council approve a new receivable agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), for up to \$1,385,162 that extends from Oct. 15, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2024. This agreement would reimburse the Council for independent science review panel contracts and Council staff time. Staff time consists of conducting independent science and engineering review services that support Reclamation and its partners in evaluating the actions taken to protect species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, San Francisco Bay, and upstream tributaries.

The Executive Officer has delegated authority up to \$500,000 to enter into contract/agreements on the Council's behalf. This agreement exceeds that amount, so the Council must approve the proposed agreement.

**Background**

Pursuant to its mission to provide the best possible unbiased scientific information to inform water management and environmental decision making in the Delta (Water Code section 85280(b)(4)), the Council's Delta Science Program has consistently provided independent science review services since its inception. The 2009 Biological Opinion for the operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requires a science review to evaluate the implementation of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) Actions. These RPA Actions are intended to avoid jeopardy to listed species and to avoid adversely modifying associated critical habitat.

Since 2010, the Science Program has assisted the subsequent review by facilitating what is now known as the Long-term Operations Biological Opinions (LOBO) review. The LOBO review informs the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, NMFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Water Resources about the efficacy of prior year's implementation of the RPA Actions and inform potential changes.

A prior receivable agreement from Reclamation provided funding for the LOBO and other reviews has expired. The Delta Science Program requires a new receivable agreement to continue this work.

This new receivable agreement would continue independent science reviews conducted under the previous agreement. It also includes any new review requests from

Reclamation as a result of the ongoing reinitiation of consultation on the coordinated long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

**Fiscal Information**

Costs to be reimbursed by Reclamation are summarized below:

Proposed Budget\*  
October 15, 2019 - September 30, 2024

<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Total</b>
Council Staff Time	\$181,100
Indirect Costs	\$39,462
Subcontracts	\$986,400
Travel for Panel	\$88,200
Equipment Rental	\$27,000
Facility Rental	\$63,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,385,162</b>

\*Budget numbers rounded to nearest dollar

**List of Attachments**

No attachments.

**Contact**

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