



**ACTION ITEM**

**Amendment of Contract with the University of California, San Diego/California Sea Grant to Revise the Scope of Work to Include Recruitment Activities for UC Extension Specialist**

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**Summary:** This item is a request to amend an existing contract with the University of California, San Diego/California Sea Grant (Sea Grant) for *scope change only* to include recruitment activities for a social scientist to be employed as a UC Extension Specialist, working within the Delta Stewardship Council to develop and implement a social science research program for the Delta. This work supports an action in the Delta Science Plan to integrate social science research in the Delta, and the Council's Delta Science Program is a lead entity for this action. This amendment does not change the total cost or term of the contract.

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**Requested Action**

Authorize the executive officer to amend an existing contract with UC San Diego (#5298, for 2017 – 2020 Sea Grant Delta Science and Policy Fellows) to include, in its scope, Sea Grant recruitment activities for a UC Extension Specialist.

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

**Background**

The Delta Stewardship Council has an existing contract with UC San Diego (contract amount: \$2,074,957) that funds three years of Delta Science Fellows and two years of the Delta State (Policy) Fellows at the Council. This contract was approved by the Council on June 23, 2017 and will expire on June 30, 2020.

In 2019, Council staff and Sea Grant began discussions for the development of a social scientist to be employed as a UC Extension Specialist under Sea Grant. The position will be hosted by the Council for a three-year term and administered by Sea Grant. Establishing this position will begin implementation of one of the recommendations in the draft report of the Social Science Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force was established by the Council's Delta Science Program in 2018 to provide a strategy for integrating social science with natural science to inform management and decision-making for the Delta. The need for the Task Force was rooted in the Delta Independent Science Board's (Delta ISB) 2017 review of the Delta as an Evolving Place. In their review, the Delta ISB found that social science research (e.g., economics, decision science, anthropology, sociology) was needed in the Delta to understand how people interact with the Delta, and that an increased emphasis on social science would help inform policy and management decisions.

The Task Force's draft report, released in December 2019, contains three major findings and nine recommendations. One major finding is that there is a lack of social

science capacity and investment in the Delta science enterprise. Establishing the UC Extension Specialist position will help address the Task Force's recommendation to enhance social science capacity.

Sea Grant's recruitment process can take up to 9 months, as it follows policies and procedures of the Regents of the University of California. The requested amendment will allow Sea Grant to promptly engage in and be compensated for recruitment activities, including the development and formalization of a recruitment plan, advertisement of the employment opportunity, and facilitation of all interviews. No additional funding is required for this amendment because the existing contract will have a remaining unspent budget that can be used for this purpose.

This amendment *for scope change only* will allow Sea Grant to invoice the Council for recruitment costs of approximately \$69,000 from the existing budget. The new Sea Grant Extension Specialist position will be funded under a subsequent separate contract with the University of California, San Diego. The specific recruitment activities included in the amended scope are an appropriate addition to the current contract, which includes recruitment and administrative work that Sea Grant carries out for fellowship positions.

### **Rationale for UC Extension Specialist Position**

In 2018, the Delta Science Program convened a Task Force to develop strategic recommendations to:

- Identify opportunities to strengthen the Delta science enterprise, improve integration of social science into science, management, and policy institutions that address Delta issues, and improve social science integration into decision-making about the Delta.
- Identify critical steps and priorities for establishing a social science research program that enhances our understanding of the values of an evolving Delta to both people and the environment.

The Task Force's draft report includes a specific recommendation for increased investment for social science work at the Council. The social scientist in the UC Extension Specialist position will help build a network of Delta social scientists and identify specific research needs (e.g., increasing our understanding of how people interact with the Delta, how the Delta impacts their well-being, and how policy and management decisions can be developed with the best chance of having their intended impact). This position will also help advance the Delta Plan's objective of protecting the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place. The intent of the social science UC Extension Specialist position is to promptly address the Task Force's recommendation to enhance the capacity for social science work to further the mission of the Council and the Delta Science Program.

**Fiscal Information**

Approval of this amendment will allow Sea Grant to use approximately \$69,000 that is already encumbered and available in the existing agreement toward the recruitment activities of a social science UC Extension Specialist.

**List of Attachments**

None

**Contact**

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