



**ACTION ITEM**

**Amendment of a Contract with the University of California, Davis for Acoustic Telemetry**

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**Summary:** The Executive Officer requests authority to amend a contract with the Regents of the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) to allow the hiring of a post-doctorate at the University of Maryland. The amendment re-allocates approved funds to accommodate this hiring decision and 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 Davis (#18204, Synchrony of native fish movements: synthesis science toward adaptive water management in the Central Valley, total contract amount of \$742,415) to include a new subcontract with the University of Maryland, National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) for a post-doctorate researcher, within the original scope. The original contract dollar amount and time frame will remain the same.

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

**Background**

The Delta Stewardship Council has an existing contract with the University of California, Davis for Dr. Andrew Rypel to lead the analysis and synthesis of existing datasets of native fish movement in the Central Valley. Over the last 10-15 years, the number of studies examining how fish move through the Delta, Bay, and upper watershed has increased dramatically because of the innovation of high-quality fish tracking tools (particularly, tags that use acoustic technology). These studies include several fish species, primarily Chinook Salmon and sturgeon. This agreement advances the integration, analysis, and publication, of the data from numerous studies to provide new insight into how fish species respond to changing environmental conditions and water management practices (including operations of the Central Valley and State water projects). Further, this information will inform adaptive management of water transport operations to support native fish life cycles and will facilitate future applied science projects in this area. This work is consistent with the Science Action Agenda Priority 2 (Capitalize on existing data through increasing science synthesis).

This contract was awarded as part of the 2018 competitive Delta Science solicitation. The original scope included a post-doctoral researcher to be hired after the work had begun. A qualified post-doctoral researcher has been identified through the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), which is associated with the University of Maryland. An amendment to the current contract is now needed to specify the selected post-doctorate. A major benefit of this new arrangement is that it enables

an active collaboration with SESYNC, which is one of the world's leading institutions for linking environmental data with socio-economic and policy needs.

**Fiscal Information**

Approval of this contract will allow UC Davis to use approximately \$160,000, that is already encumbered in the existing agreement, towards the salary for the newly identified post-doctoral researcher at the University of Maryland, SESYNC. This amendment does not change the total cost of the contract.

**List of Attachments**

None

**Contact**

Louise Conrad  
Deputy Executive Officer for Science  
Phone: (916) 455-0672