



ACTION ITEM

Approval of a Contract Amendment with California State University East Bay

Summary: Council staff requests an amendment to a contract with the California State University, East Bay Foundation (CSUEB) for a no-cost extension of time. The contract end date would extend from April 30, 2021 to February 1, 2022 with no change to the contract budget total of \$980,768. This amendment allows for the project's adjustment to account for changes resulting from the COVID-19 emergency and will enable researchers to finish the project as initially funded by the Council. The study performed under this contract was selected for an award from the 2018-2019 multi-agency Delta science proposal solicitation.

REQUESTED ACTION

Council staff recommends that the Council approve a contract amendment with CSUEB for a no-cost extension of time from April 30, 2021 to February 1, 2022.

The Executive Officer has delegated authority up to \$500,000 to enter into contracts on the Council's behalf. This contract amount is in excess of the Executive Officer's delegated authority and requires Council approval. The Council approved the original contract on April 25, 2019. Consequently, this amendment also requires Council approval.

BACKGROUND

Tidal marshes in the San Francisco-Bay Delta are important and restorable ecosystems. They remove carbon from the atmosphere, build up soils that buffer communities from sea-level rise, mitigate excessive nutrients, and provide critical habitat and food resources for a diversity of species. However, tidal marsh ecosystems are understudied, making it difficult to predict how they may change naturally over time or respond to climate and water quality changes. Further, insufficient knowledge exists about how to enhance the benefits of tidal wetlands through restoration. The absence of appropriate data and modeling tools inhibits decision-making regarding tidal wetland management and restoration in the Bay-Delta region.

This contract provides for the development of the first-ever multi-year dataset of the complete carbon budget of a tidal marsh, including continuous atmospheric and hydrologic carbon exchange measurements. This dataset will be used to expand an existing Delta marsh biogeochemical model to predict seasonal and annual carbon budgets in tidally-driven marshes over a range of salinity values. The

model will be run at a landscape scale using remote sensing data and other publicly available datasets and assess the sustainability of existing and potential restored tidal wetland benefits over the next 100 years. The model will be an open-source tool designed for use by wetland managers and decision-makers in the Bay-Delta region. Together, these project goals will support on-going initiatives to restore tidal wetlands in the Delta and the ability to manage them in a changing world.

JUSTIFICATION

This amendment is needed because both lab and fieldwork were prohibited for much of 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. These restrictions prevented the group from completing the contract tasks on the original timeline.

FISCAL INFORMATION

No additional funds are being requested. The total budget of \$980,768 remains the same, with the contract end date being extended from April 30, 2021 to February 1, 2022.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

None.

CONTACT

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