



ACTION ITEM

Approval of a Contract Amendment with AECOM for the Delta Adapts Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy

Summary: Council staff requests an amendment to a contract with AECOM to support the Delta Adapts initiative for additional funds in the amount of \$200,000 which would increase the total not to exceed contract amount to \$1,030,000.

REQUESTED ACTION

Staff recommends that the Council approve Resolution #2022-04 which will authorize the Executive Officer to amend the existing contract with AECOM (Contract #8932) to increase the amount by \$200,000, for a total not to exceed contract amount of \$1,030,000. The Executive Officer has delegated authority up to \$750,000 to enter into contracts on the Council's behalf. The Council approved the original contract on May 24, 2018, for \$650,000, and approved an amendment to the contract on April 22, 2021, to extend the contract end date to June 30, 2023, and increase the contract amount by \$180,000 for a total contract amount of \$830,000. This contract amount is in excess of the Executive Officer's delegated authority, and consequently, this amendment requires Council approval.

BACKGROUND

The Delta Reform Act defines "restoration" as including the consideration of "the future impact of climate change and sea level rise" (Water Code [Wat. Code] section 85066) and identifies a timeline horizon of the year 2100 for the restoration of large areas of interconnected habitats within the Delta and its watershed (Wat. Code section 85302(e)(1)). The Delta Reform Act also notes that the Delta Plan may address "the effects of climate change and sea level rise on the three state highways that cross the Delta" (Wat. Code section 85307(c)). Executive Order B-30-15, signed by Governor Brown in April 2015, requires State agencies to incorporate climate change into planning and investment decisions. State agencies are also required to prioritize natural infrastructure and actions for climate preparedness and to protect the most vulnerable populations.

Climate change is already altering the physical environment of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh (Delta). Over the long term, climate change in the Delta is expected to adversely affect human health and safety, lead to economic disruptions, diminish water supply, degrade water quality, shift ecosystem function and habitat qualities, and increase the challenges of providing basic services. Many of these impacts will disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities. Delta

Adapts will help the Council assess specific climate risks and vulnerabilities in the Delta and develop adaptation strategies to address those vulnerabilities in coordination with a diverse group of stakeholders.

Delta Adapts consists of two phases: 1) a **vulnerability assessment** to improve understanding of regional vulnerabilities due to climate change in order to protect the vital resources the Delta provides to California and beyond, with a focus on State interests and investments, followed by 2) an **adaptation strategy** detailing the strategies and tools available for state, regional, and local governments to use in helping communities and ecosystems thrive in the face of climate change. The Delta Adapts vulnerability assessment was approved by the Council on June 24, 2021, and the adaptation strategy is currently under development.

JUSTIFICATION

Additional funding is needed to support the Delta Adapts effort in order to complete the adaptation strategy. Up to this point, AECOM has provided technical assistance and outreach support on the vulnerability assessment. AECOM is currently planning to assist in the adaptation strategy through attendance at focus group meetings, provide cost estimates for three levee templates, and to develop a list of metrics to be used to assess tradeoffs of the three landscape scenarios.

The proposed budget amendment would allow AECOM to provide additional technical support for stakeholder meetings and to synthesize feedback at all focus group meetings; prepare graphics and outreach materials such as brochures for the general public to more easily understand the adaptation strategy; provide two additional levee templates in order to calculate costs of future levee improvements; prepare quantitative and qualitative analysis for metrics of the landscape scenarios in order to identify trade-offs of the scenarios; and provide a technical memorandum outlining potential funding mechanisms for the adaptation strategy.

FISCAL INFORMATION

This amendment requests an additional \$200,000 to increase the contract total not to exceed amount from \$830,000 to \$1,030,000. This funding is from Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Resolution #2022-04

CONTACT

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