



## **ACTION ITEM**

Consideration and Possible Approval of an Amendment to Contract DSC-21055 with the Regents of the University of California San Diego (UCSD), California Sea Grant (Sea Grant) for Delta Independent Science Board Support and Technical Expertise Services (Resolution 2024-02)

### Summary

The Council will consider approving Resolution 2024-02 authorizing an amendment to an existing contract (DSC-21055) with the Regents of the University of California, San Diego, California Sea Grant.

The purpose of the amendment is to provide full salary for two post-doctoral scholars supporting the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) due to mandatory University of California salary increases. The amendment will also allow for shifts in the budget between fiscal years and between budget categories to reflect updated timelines and science expert needs. The proposed amendment will increase the original not to exceed contract amount of \$814,570 by \$94,380.74 for a new total not to exceed contract amount of \$908,950.74. The proposed amendment will not alter the term of the contract: September 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024. The contract supports the work of the Delta ISB with post-doctoral scholars and provides technical expertise to the Council's Delta Science Program for synthesis, reviews, and workshops.

### Requested Action

Council staff recommends that the Council approve resolution 2024-02 (Attachment 1), authorizing an amendment to contract DSC-21055 with the Regents of the University of California, San Diego, California Sea Grant.

The purpose of the amendment is to provide full salary for two post-doctoral scholars supporting the Delta ISB. The original contract amount does not include

sufficient budget for the post-doctoral scholars' agreed upon full two-year term after mandatory University of California salary increases went into effect in 2023. The amendment will also allow for shifts in the budget between fiscal years and between budget categories to reflect updated timelines and science expert needs and clarify the technical expertise needed for support of the Council's Delta Science Program for synthesis, reviews, and workshops. The proposed amendment will increase the original not to exceed contract amount of \$814,570 by \$94,380.74 for a new total not to exceed contract amount of \$908,950.74. The proposed amendment will not alter the term of the contract: September 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024.

The Executive Officer has delegated authority up to \$750,000 to enter into contracts and interagency agreements on the Council's behalf. Because this agreement exceeds that amount, this amendment requires Council approval.

## Background

### *Amendment Need*

The main purpose of the amendment is to fully fund salaries for two post-doctoral scholars working with the Delta ISB. Since 2022, two post-doctoral scholars, Dr. Lillian McCormick and Dr. Kristine Grace Cabugao, were selected to work with the Delta Independent Science Board for a two-year term beginning March and April 2022. In December 2022, newly negotiated salary rates for the University of California went into effect for Academic Student Employees, including post-doctoral scholars. This amendment and additional funds are requested to continue the activities described in this agreement and to allow Dr. McCormick and Dr. Grace to continue their term as planned until March and April 2024.

### *Delta Independent Science Board and the post-doctoral scholars*

In accordance with the Delta Reform Act, the Delta ISB's recommendations must reflect high scientific and technical standards, and the widest possible representation of knowledge, disciplines, and trends of thought. The Delta ISB provides independent information directly to the Council. The work of the Delta ISB requires the Board members to; 1) understand the technical underpinnings of Delta programs and plans, 2) regularly evaluate the science agenda for the Delta, 3)

review the balance and credibility of scientific analyses and syntheses, and 4) identify emerging issues and significant interconnections among Delta programs.

Dr. Lillian McCormick recently graduated with a Ph.D. from Scripps Institution of Oceanography where she studied how current and future global change affects marine organisms and ocean ecology. Dr. Kristine Grace Cabugao recently graduated with a Ph.D. in Energy Science and Engineering (Climate Sciences) from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she completed her dissertation on microbe-assisted nutrient cycling in tropical forest root zones. These post-doctoral researchers are providing valuable support to the Delta ISB by performing reviews of relevant literature, data analysis, and interviews, and preparing technical presentations, science communication products such as videos and briefing sheets, and manuscripts to be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. The products from post-doctoral researchers do not substitute for the final reports and recommendations of the Delta ISB reviews, which are authored solely by Delta ISB members.

#### *Subject Matter Experts*

California Sea Grant will also continue to provide technical expertise to the Delta Science Program for synthesis, review, advice, and workshop panelists. Academic or technical experts provide timely scientific input on sensitive and critical issues related to the Bay-Delta. Typical tasks include reviewing or providing technical insights for documents, proposals, or programs, characterizing the status of knowledge about critical issues, participating in workshops as panelists on critical subjects, and writing manuscripts or white papers.

#### *California Sea Grant College Program*

The California Sea Grant college program, University of California San Diego, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, sponsors and administers scientific research, fellowships, and panels of scientific advisors that contribute to the growing body of knowledge about coastal and marine resources and helps solve contemporary marine-related problems. California Sea Grant is the largest of the 34 Sea Grant programs nationwide and draws on the talents of scientists and engineers at public and private universities, and other research institutions throughout the state. It is administered by the University of California and is based at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. The California Sea Grant program is funded by the National Sea Grant College Program, part of the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with matching funds from State and local resources.

The staff at the California Sea Grant program have significant expertise in science management and have conducted the Delta Science Fellows program since 2003 by managing the review, selection, and work of the previous classes of Fellows. The California Sea Grant Program also has facilitated independent proposal review services for the Council's competitive solicitation program for critical science investigations, and co-funds with the Council a position for an Extension Specialist for social sciences in the Delta.

### Fiscal Information

The budget information (rounded to nearest dollar) is summarized below for the contract term of 9/1/21-6/30/24.

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>Previous Amendment (#2) (rounded to the nearest dollar)</b>	<b>Proposed Amendment (#3) (rounded to the nearest dollar)</b>
ISB post-doctoral researchers and California Sea Grant staff support	\$368,331	\$441,221
Subject matter experts	\$184,347	\$202,244
Travel	\$40,728	\$40,728
Open Access Publication Fees	\$32,000	\$15,000
Indirect Costs	\$187,978	\$209,758
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$814,570</b>	<b>\$908,951</b>

### List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Resolution 2024-02.

## Contact

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