



## **ACTION ITEM**

Consideration and Possible Approval of an Amendment to Receivable Agreement DSC20231A2 with the California Department of Water Resources for Scientific Review

### Summary

The Council will consider Resolution 2026-02 to authorize an amendment to a receivable agreement with the California Department of Water Resources for independent scientific review to add funds for up to four additional peer reviews and extend the term to August 31, 2029.

### Requested Action

Council staff recommends that the Council adopt resolution 2026-02 (Attachment 1), authorizing an amendment to an existing receivable agreement with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), to add up to \$715,000 for a total not to exceed amount \$1,400,000 and extend the contract term end date from June 30, 2026, to August 31, 2029 for a term of March 1, 2023, through August 31, 2029.

This agreement would reimburse the Council for independent scientific review panel contracts and Council staff time to facilitate independent review services for water supply and protect Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), San Francisco Bay, and upstream tributaries.

The Executive Officer has delegated authority up to \$750,000 to enter into contract/agreements on the Council's behalf. Because this amendment adds additional funds and time, the agreement exceeds that amount, and Council approval is required for the proposed agreement.

### Background

The mission of the Council's Delta Science Program is to provide the best possible unbiased scientific information to inform water and environmental decision making in the Delta (Water Code section 85280(b)(4)). In pursuit of its mission, the Council's

Delta Science Program has facilitated over 36 independent scientific peer review and advice panels since 2010. The Council and DWR have been parties to an interagency agreement for reviews of the science and engineering issues underlying the operation of the State Water Project (SWP) since 2023.

## DWR Requested Peer Reviews

Under the current agreement with DWR, the Delta Science Program facilitated three reviews, including the Summer-Fall Habitat Action Monitoring and Science Plans and Structured Decision-Making Approach (2024), State Water Project Delivery Capability Report (2023), and Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Science Plan (2025) Peer Reviews. A review is ongoing under this agreement for the Spring-run Chinook Salmon Juvenile Production Estimate to be completed in April 2026. Prior to those reviews, the Delta Science Program has facilitated multiple reviews for other agencies, including on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and SWP for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

## Purpose of Amendment

The purpose of this amendment is for the Council's Delta Science Program to continue to facilitate reviews of the science underlying various water management actions that aim to improve environmental conditions for ESA listed species impacted by the operation of the CVP and SWP and meet water supply needs for the state. The amendment would allow up to four additional peer reviews critical to Delta science and decision-making, including adaptive management of the long-term operations of the State Water Project (e.g., operations, management actions, technical tools, and listed species), Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program and components, and Bay Delta Monitoring. The amendment would also extend the agreement through August 31, 2029, and includes support for Delta Science Program and DWR staff to develop peer review communication products, such as an easily understandable set of key takeaways.

## Fiscal Information

Costs to be reimbursed by DWR are not to exceed \$1,400,000, with approximately \$1,200,000 for subject matter expert contracts and \$200,000 for Council staff time.

## List of Attachments

Attachment 1. Resolution 2026-02

## Contact

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