

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

May 21, 2020

Agenda Item 6.e.

San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Subject: Authorization to enter into an agreement with Delta Stewardship Council to receive up to \$950,000 to provide science expertise and communication services and to integrate Delta data and priorities into San Francisco Estuary Partnership publications

Background: The Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) was created by the Delta Reform Act of 2009 to achieve the state mandated coequal goals for the Delta. "Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The Delta Reform Act of 2009 also established the Delta Science Program under DSC. The mission of the Delta Science Program is to provide the best possible unbiased scientific information to inform water and environmental decision making in the Delta.

One of the core functions of the Science Program is to provide technical advice on Delta issues and to assure that a body of knowledge develops to narrow uncertainty and support decision-making. A second core function of the Science Program is to ensure adequate and appropriate outside scientific review of scientific proposals, projects and products. Under agreements with DSC, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) through the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) has historically provided institutional support for multi-agency planning, environmental and scientific projects, estuarine and scientific public education and outreach. This agreement will continue a longstanding working relationship.

Under the new agreement, ABAG/SFEP will facilitate providing ongoing, detailed technical scientific advice for DSC projects and further the integration of scientific practices, through utilization of scientific expertise, into Delta programs. In addition, ABAG/SFEP will identify and communicate cutting-edge science and facilitate communication through workshops, websites, social media, and other communication venues. Finally, the agreement would allow for the integrate of Delta data and priorities into the 2022 update of SFEP's planning document (the Estuary Blueprint), and the next release of the most comprehensive report on the health of the Estuary, the 2023 State of the Estuary Report.

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Issues: None

Recommended Action: The Executive Board is requested to authorize the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, or her designee, to enter into an agreement with the Delta Stewardship Council to receive funds in amount up to \$950,000 to provide science and communication services and to integrate Delta data and priorities in publications, between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2023.

Attachments: Summary Approval

Reviewed:


Therese W. McMillan