



Requested Action:

Approve a sole source contract with the University of California-Santa Cruz to perform modeling services using the Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Lifecycle Model (WRLCM) in the amount of \$200,000 for the period of May 26, 2022 through March 31, 2023.

Detailed Description/Background:

A Sole Source Request for Proposal (RFP) was released to the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) to conduct an analysis of the Sites Project using the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) WRLCM. The use of the WRLCM is required to obtain Project's Biological Opinion and Operations Incidental Take Permit, as determined by NMFS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also requested an analysis of the Project's effects using the WRLCM in its comments on the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS.

The WRCLM is proprietary and can only be run and used by UCSC. A sole source contract with UCSC complies with the Authority's Procurement and Contract Policy allowing sole source professional services procurements where proprietary materials are required for which there are no other known providers.

The requested services include an application of the WRLCM to evaluate the effects of proposed Project operations on the Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon population dynamics to inform the Authority's Biological Assessment and subsequent Biological Opinion. Staff has proposed a 3-phased approach to evaluating proposed Project operations on population dynamics. Phases one and two consist of running three proposed Project operations: baseline (No Project), and two action alternatives. The third phase will consist of proposed Project operations that are informed by the results of the first two phases.

Each task will include project management, database management, habitat capacity estimates, delta smolt survival estimates, and documentation of full modeling assumptions, model output, and analysis of results.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

The Permitting Subject Area in the Phase 2, Amendment 3 Work Plan included funding that will cover the \$200,000 budget for the UCSC contract. Staff will work with the modeling team to review UCSC's cost estimate to ensure that it is fair and reasonable for the expected work effort.

Staff Contact:

Joe Trapasso and Ali Forsythe

Primary Service Provider:

HDR

Attachments:

None.