

Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – May 2024**ACTION ITEM**

Sponsor: Danielle Verna and the Scientific Advisory Committee

Project number and name or topic: 9510 – Long-Term Environmental Monitoring

1. **Description of agenda item:** This agenda item requests Board authorization of Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Project (LTEMP) contracts for summer 2024 field sampling and laboratory work that falls within the FY2025 budget. Contracts for the Board's consideration include:

- Authorize individual contracts with Alpha Analytical and Fjord & Fish Sciences with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2025 LTEMP budget (Project 9510) for contract expenses, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into individual contracts with the aforementioned consultants.

This contract authorization is contingent upon Board approval of the FY2025 budget, including funding for this project within the budget, at the May 2024 Board meeting.

Alpha Analytical will provide the Council with analytical chemistry laboratory services for mussel and marine sediment samples. Fjord & Fish Sciences will report and interpret the analytical results of the 2024 LTEMP samples and may participate in 2024 field work. It is important to note that the Council previously worked with Dr. Morgan Bender at Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, who was selected through the Council's competitive requests for proposals process in 2021. Dr. Bender recently notified us that she will be leaving Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants and would like to continue working with the Council and will be completing the 2024 scope of work under her own business license, Fjord & Fish Sciences.

Some of the work under these contracts needs to begin in May 2024, prior to the start of FY2025, because of supply prerequisites and sampling timing. That early work may require a modification of the FY2024 budget.

Additional LTEMP costs, not described in this briefing, include other analytical lab costs, vessel and floatplane charters for field work, sample shipping costs, and minor equipment and supplies costs.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 directs PWSRCAC to "devise and manage a comprehensive program of monitoring the environmental impacts of the operations of terminal facilities and crude oil tankers while operating in Prince William Sound" – LTEMP is designed to address this directive. LTEMP results are used to assess the environmental impacts of the Valdez Marine Terminal and

the crude oil tankers operating in Prince William Sound, including the long-term impacts of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:** The Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Project has been conducted by PWSRCAC since 1993 and many actions have been taken by the Board on this item since that time. In the interest of providing currently pertinent information regarding actions items taken by the Board on this item, only the last five years of actions are presented below. However, all historic actions pertaining to LTEMP are available for review upon request (please [contact Danielle Verna](#) for that information).

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
Board	5/7/20	Accepted the report titled “Long-Term Environmental Program: 2019 Sampling Results and Interpretations,” by Dr. James Payne and William B. Driskell, dated March 2020, as meeting the terms and conditions of contract number 951.20.04, and for distribution to the public.
Board	5/21/20	Approved the following: Authorizing a contract negotiation with Payne Environmental Consultants Inc., for work to be performed under LTEMP, at an amount not to exceed \$115,064. Authorizing a contract negotiation with Newfields Environmental Forensics Practice, for work to be performed under LTEMP, at an amount not to exceed \$95,807. Authorizing a contract negotiation with the United States Geological Survey, for work to be performed under LTEMP, at an amount not to exceed \$65,371. Authorizing a contract negotiation with Oregon State University, for work to be performed under LTEMP, at an amount not to exceed \$22,030. Authorizing a contract work to commence prior to the start of FY2021, as approximately \$33,000 of these funds will need to be expended in May and June 2020.
Board	5/6/21	Accepted the reports titled “Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program: 2020 Sampling Results & Interpretations,” by Dr. James R. Payne and William Driskell, dated March 2021 as meeting the terms and conditions of contract 951.21.04, and for distribution to the public.
Board	5/21/21	Authorized individual contracts with NewFields Environmental Forensics Practice, Oregon State University, and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2022 LTEMP budget (project #9510) for contract expenses, and delegated authority to the Executive Director to enter into individual contracts with the aforementioned consultants; and authorized that the contract work to commence prior to the start of FY2022 as approximately \$30,000 of these funds will need to be expended in May and June 2021.
Board	1/27/22	Authorized a budget modification, adding \$53,880 to Project 9510-Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program; and authorized a contract negotiation with Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, to complete the LTEMP scope of work in RFP 951.21.06, and with Payne Environmental Consultants, to support Owl Ridge’s work, at a total aggregate cost not to exceed \$77,000.
Board	5/5/22	Authorized individual contracts with NewFields Environmental Forensics Practice and Oregon State University, with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2023 LTEMP budget (Project #9510) for contract expenses, and delegation of authority to the Executive Director to enter into individual contracts with the aforementioned consultants and, authorized contract work to commence prior to the start of FY2023, as approximately \$10,000 of these funds will need to be expended in May and June 2022.
XCOM	9/15/22	Accepted the reports titled “Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program: 2021 Summary Report” and “Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program: 2021 Technical Supplement” by Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, dated May 2022, as meeting the terms of contract #951.22.06 and for public distribution.

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Board	5/4/23	Approved the following: a) Authorization of individual contracts with Alpha Analytical and Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, Inc. with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2024 LTEMP budget (Project #9510) for contract expenses, and b) Authorization of contract work to commence prior to the start of the 2024 fiscal year to accommodate timing considerations and purchasing needs. It is estimated that up to \$15,000 of the above contract work may be performed before June 30, 2023.
Board	1/25/2024	Acceptance of the reports titled "Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program 2022–2023 Summary Report" and "Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program 2022–2023 Technical Supplement" by Morgan Bender of Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, Inc., both dated December 2023, as meeting the terms and conditions of contract number 951.24.04, and for distribution to the public.

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support, or opposition:** None.
5. **Committee Recommendation:** The Scientific Advisory Committee supports this project. Additionally, the Scientific Advisory Committee supports contracting with Dr. Morgan Bender through her new venture, Fjord & Fish Sciences.
6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project 9510 – Long-Term Environmental Monitoring is in the approved FY2025 annual work plan. The proposed FY2025 budget for project 9510 is \$150,460
7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:**
 - Authorize individual contracts with Alpha Analytical and Fjord & Fish Sciences with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2025 LTEMP budget (Project 9510) for contract expenses, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into individual contracts with the aforementioned consultants.
 - Authorize contract work to commence prior to the start of FY2025, as approximately \$20,000 of these funds will need to be expended in May and June 2024.

Note: This action is contingent upon approval of full funding of this project in the FY2025 budget.

8. **Alternatives:** None recommended.
9. **Attachments:** None.