

Consent Agenda Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – January 2023

ACTION ITEM

Sponsor: Austin Love and the Scientific Advisory Committee

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

1. **Description of agenda item:** This agenda item seeks Board approval of a budget modification adding \$836 to the FY 2023 budget for the Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program (LTEMP), project #9510. Those additional funds would be used for the following requested contract change order.

This agenda item also seeks Board approval of a contract change order with Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, adding \$5,058 to their current contract and extending the term. The reason for the change order is to have funding available for Owl Ridge to complete their work to archive the 1993-2021 LTEMP database in the Alaska Ocean Observing System, by working with Axiom Data Science and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. The change order would increase the total contract amount from \$62,949 to \$68,007. The term of the contract would be extended from December 31, 2022, to March 31, 2023, allowing time for the data archival work to be completed.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** The additional funds would be for Owl Ridge to perform work to archive the 1993-2021 Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program (LTEMP) data in the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS), a task not required in the terms of the original contract. The original contract tasked Owl Ridge with updating the LTEMP database through 2021 and creating a metadata file so the database and associated metadata would be ready for public use. The next step is actually making the data and metadata publicly available. The Alaska Ocean Observing System is an online platform hosting Alaska “coastal and ocean data and information products to the public” and is an ideal location to store the LTEMP dataset. Archiving the 1993-2021 LTEMP data in the Alaska Ocean Observing System will make the dataset more accessible and publicly available. Additionally, having the LTEMP dataset on the Alaska Ocean Observing System allows it to be easily used within NOAA’s Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA), an online mapping tool used by environmental managers and natural resource decision makers for spill preparedness and planning, spill response, natural resource damage assessment, and ecological recovery and restoration.

On June 21, 2022, the Board approved a contract change order initially funding this LTEMP data to AOOS archival work. However, since that time, additional tasks have been identified for Owl Ridge to complete that work. Specifically, Owl Ridge has to work with two entities Axiom Data Science (based in Anchorage) and the National Center for Ecological Analysis

Approval of LTEMP Budget Modification and Contract Change Order 3-1 and Synthesis (based in Santa Barbara, California) to get the 1993-2021 LTEMP data prepared, uploaded, and made publicly available on the Alaska Ocean Observing System.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:**

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
Board	1/27/2022	LTEMP FY2022 Contract Approval: The Board 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	6/21/2022	FY2023 LTEMP Contract Change Order: The Board approved an FY2023 budget modification, adding \$6,478 to project #9510 – Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program, for contract expenses; and approved a negotiation of a contract change order, for contract #951.22.06, with Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, adding \$6,478 for compensation to archive the 1993-2021 Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program data in the Alaska Ocean Observing System.

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support, or opposition:** None known.

5. **Committee Recommendation:** The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) has reviewed the work by Owl Ridge to archive the 1993-2021 LTEMP data on the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS). During their June 7, 2022 meeting, SAC recommended the Board fund a contract change order covering the initial LTEMP database to AOOS work, and the Board implemented SAC’s recommendation during its June 21, 2022 special meeting. However, SAC has not discussed this additional contract change order to complete the data archival work, given the newly identified tasks associated with working with Axiom Data Science and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. During SAC’s January 10, 2023 meeting, they will be asked to consider recommending that the Board approve this additional contract change order with Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants. SAC’s recommendation regarding this change order will be provided at the January 26-27, 2023 Board meeting, during the “Technical Committee Updates” agenda item.

6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project 9510 – Long Term Environmental Monitoring is in the approved FY2023 budget and annual work plan.

9510 – Long Term Environmental
Monitoring
As of November 30, 2022

Original Budget	\$104,878
Revised Budget	\$71,129

Approval of LTEMP Budget Modification and Contract Change Order 3-1

Actual & Commitments \$60,094

Amount Remaining \$11,035

7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:**
 - Authorize a FY2023 budget modification from the contingency fund to project #9510 – Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program adding \$836 for contract expenses.
 - Approve negotiation of a contract change order, for contract #951.22.06, with Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, adding \$5,058 for compensation to archive the 1993-2021 Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program data in the Alaska Ocean Observing System and extending the term of the contract to March 31, 2023.
8. **Alternatives:** None recommended.
9. **Attachments:** None.