

Consent Agenda Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – January 2023

ACTION ITEM

Sponsor: Danielle Verna and the Scientific Advisory Committee

Project number and name or topic: 9520 - Marine Invasive Species Broadscale Survey in Prince William Sound

1. **Description of agenda item:** The Board is being asked to approve a sole source contract with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in an amount not to exceed \$60,254 for the project “Marine Invasive Species Broadscale Survey in Prince William Sound.” This project will support the field work component of a survey for marine invasive species across 10 sites in Prince William Sound (PWS). Scientists from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center will travel to PWS in May and September 2023 to deploy and then retrieve PVC settlement panels that passively monitor for organisms throughout the summer season. This project builds on previous broadscale surveys supported by the Council that have taken place, by the same Smithsonian lab, in prior years. Funding for the analysis of the settlement panels is currently being considered by the Board for FY2024.

The Board is also being asked to approve a budget modification in the amount of \$8,645 to cover FY2023 contract expenses.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** Invasive species are a continuous threat to Prince William Sound because they can be introduced in the ballast water and on the hulls of tankers transiting to and from the Valdez Marine Terminal. Risk of invasive species in Prince William Sound is considered high and the Council has supported monitoring and detection projects for decades. This project contributes to a long history of Council-sponsored projects on invasive species and adds to the depth of knowledge of invasive species across changes in onboard tanker management of ballast water and changes in environmental conditions that may increase the likelihood of successful invasion. If invasive species are detected, the results could inform rapid response strategies. This project also provides an opportunity to engage with our communities, as scientists and staff travel to conduct fieldwork.

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

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
Board	5/5/2022	The Board adopted the FY2023 budget as presented during the budget workshop on April 27,2022, and as described in the Proposed FY2023 Budget Book dated April 18, 2022.

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

Approval of Marine Invasive Species Sole Source Contract 3-2

5. **Committee Recommendation:** The Scientific Advisory Committee supports this project.

6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** The Marine Invasive Species Broadscale Survey in Prince William Sound project is included in the FY2023 budget and annual workplan under project 952 – Marine Invasive Species.

9520 – Marine Invasive Species
As of November 30, 2022

Original Budget	\$64,754
Revised Budget	\$2,000
Actual & Commitments	\$13,215
Amount Remaining	\$53,538

Contract funds in the amount of \$8,645 to cover final deliverables of a FY2022 project were spent in FY2023 when the project was delayed beyond its original timeline. These funds were mistakenly not identified as carry over from FY2022. Staff are requesting a budget modification in the amount of \$8,645 to make whole the contract amount for FY2023.

7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:**

- Authorize a budget modification from the contingency fund to project 9520 Marine Invasive Species in the amount of \$8,645 for FY2023 contract expenses; and
- Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a sole source contract with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center for the project Marine Invasive Species Broadscale Survey in Prince William Sound in an amount not to exceed \$60,254.

8. **Alternatives:** None recommended.

9. **Attachments:** None.