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**Agenda Item: 14-6A (2)**  
**Meeting Dates: April 13 and 14, 2005**

## **JOINT MEETING WITH BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO AN ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT WITH U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR CONTINUATION OF A SACRAMENTO RIVER JUVENILE WINTER-RUN CHINOOK SALMON MONITORING PROJECT**

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**Summary:** This resolution would recommend to the Resources Agency that it approve an amendment to an existing grant agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide \$619,266 in additional funding and a 12-month time extension for the "Estimating the Abundance of Sacramento River Juvenile Winter-Run Chinook Salmon" (01-N44) monitoring project. This would bring the total funding for the grant from the Ecosystem Restoration Program to \$2,327,489 and the revised closure date to June 30, 2006. The project this amendment will support is described in Attachment 1.

**Recommended Action:** The California Bay-Delta Authority adopt the attached Resolution 05-04-03.

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#### **Background**

In February 2001, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was awarded a grant to perform juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon monitoring activities at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD), Sacramento River, California. This project was funded by the California Resources Agency with Proposition 204 funds, and is managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation under Agreement 4600001469 with the Resources Agency, for which the California Bay-Delta Authority acts as management and fiscal agent. This project operates rotary screw traps (RST) on the mainstem Sacramento River below RBDD, to obtain abundance estimates on salmonid populations, including federally listed winter- and spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead. The abundance estimates would also serve as a means to understand and monitor the effects of the restoration activities in the upper Sacramento River basin.

This amendment request for an additional \$619,266 would allow field sampling operations to continue from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

This request has been reviewed, and recommended for approval, through the Ecosystem Restoration Contract Amendment Workshop and is now being brought to the Authority for its recommendation to the Resources Agency based on the level of the requested funding increase. Funds for amendments to grant agreements of this type are encumbered as contingency funds in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation contract. No new commitment of Proposition 204 funds is required for this Amendment.

This project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Guidelines Section 15306: Information collection of basic data, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Attachment 1 further describes the project and how it helps achieve ERP's goals.

### **Fiscal Information**

**Funding Source:** Proposition 204 (Resources Agency) - No new commitment of Proposition 204 funds is required for this amendment.

**Term (with recommended 1-year time extension):** October 1, 2001 to June 30, 2006

**Total Amount of Additional Recommended Funding:** \$619,266

**Total Funding Amount (with recommended increase):** \$2,327,489

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Ecosystem Restoration Project Description  
Resolution 05-04-03

### **Contact**

Dan Castleberry  
Deputy Director for Ecosystem Restoration

Phone: (916) 445-0769

## ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Applicant Organization:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Proposal Title:** Estimating the Abundance of Sacramento River Juvenile Winter-Run Chinook Salmon

**Recommended Additional Funding:** \$619,266

**Recommended Time Extension of Grant Agreement:** 12 months

### **General Project Description:**

Rotary screw traps (RST) at Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) have provided estimates of abundance and outmigration timing of downstream migrating salmonids since 1994. The Dam is located at river mile 243 on the Sacramento River about 2 miles southeast of the City of Red Bluff. It is an ideal site for winter-run Chinook salmon monitoring because multiple traps can be attached to the dam and fished simultaneously within a transect across the river.

Winter-run Chinook salmon were formally listed as endangered in 1994 in response to the continued decline and threats to the population. Number of juveniles entering the Delta is based on juvenile production estimate (JPE). This estimate is derived from a production model that uses adult winter-run Chinook salmon escapement from the RBDD adult counts as the primary variant. At present National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) manages Central Valley Project and State Water Project Delta diversions by limiting winter-run Chinook salmon entrainment to 2 percent of the estimated juvenile production. In-river estimates of juvenile abundance have only been moderately correlated to NMFS's JPE, and there is indication that it is underestimating actual juvenile production.

This project designed a monitoring technique that will generate scientifically defensible estimates of juvenile production for endangered winter-run Chinook salmon. These indices, when compared to JPEs based on adult escapement, will allow resource managers to make decisions based on scientifically sound and less tenuous data. Rotary screw trapping from July through March will completely monitor juvenile winter run Chinook salmon emigrating from the upper Sacramento River. Trapping from March through July will continue juvenile monitoring of late-fall, fall- and spring-run Chinook salmon and green sturgeon emigrating from the upper river.

The Amendment was reviewed, and recommended for approval, at the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) Amendments Workshop on November 19, 2004.

**Additional Background Information for this request:**

The current closure date is June 30, 2005, at which time the field monitoring work would end, and the agreement identifies a final report to be simultaneously completed by this date. The Red Bluff office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is requesting a 12-month amendment for this project to:

- A) Increase the budget by \$619,266 (36 percent of the current contract), to operate the RSTs for one field season from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 (12 months) to allow continuity in the abundance estimates;
- B) Provide a means for program continuity (field sampling work) until we are able to consider long-term funding through the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program's 2004 Monitoring Proposal Solicitation Package process.



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## CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY

### RESOLUTION 05-04-03

#### RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO AN ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT WITH U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR CONTINUATION OF A SACRAMENTO RIVER JUVENILE WINTER-RUN CHINOOK SALMON MONITORING PROJECT

**WHEREAS**, the Ecosystem Restoration Program presents a comprehensive vision for improving and increasing aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improving ecological functions in the Bay-Delta ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, those State and Federal agencies with CALFED Program restoration funds have coordinated their efforts to solicit for and select the best projects to implement the Ecosystem Restoration Program, with assistance of the staff from the California Bay-Delta Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has a fiscal management agreement with The Resources Agency to administer Proposition 204 Agency-funded projects to implement the Ecosystem Restoration Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment for continuation of the Sacramento River Juvenile Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Monitoring Project constitutes an eligible project for purposes of receiving Ecosystem Restoration Program funds from the applicable funding source; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment meets the objectives of the CALFED Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment would facilitate the continuation of an ongoing project which is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Guidelines Section 15306; and

**WHEREAS**, recommendation of approval of this proposed amendment shall be conditioned upon each grantee complying with all applicable laws and regulations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Bay-Delta Authority hereby recommends to the Resources Agency that it approve an amendment to an Ecosystem Restoration Program grant agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for continuation of a Sacramento River Juvenile Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Monitoring Project (01-N44), as follows:

- 1-year time extension;
- \$619,266 additional funding, subject to availability of appropriated funds.

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Authority held on April 13 and 14, 2005.

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Jamie Cameron-Harley**  
**Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority**