



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: December 11, 2020

RE: Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Authorize Execution of Cost Share Agreement with State Water Contractors and Execution of Contract for up to \$21,000 from the Leg Ops Budget for Structured Decision Making Facilitation Support for Delta Coordination Group Activities

BACKGROUND

In June 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) formed the Delta Coordination Group (DCG) to coordinate planning and implementation of the Delta Smelt Summer-Fall Habitat Action with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and representatives from federal and state water contractors. One of the first responsibilities for the group is to identify an existing structured decision-making model, or adopt a new model, to analyze proposed summer-fall habitat actions. In June, the DCG brainstormed a number of existing models including the structured decision making models developed for demonstration projects by Compass Resource Management for the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program and U.S. Geological Survey for the Delta Science Program(DSP)/Reclamation. Also, the Delta Smelt conceptual model developed by the Management, Analysis, and Synthesis Team as a potential tool for use by the DCG. DCG will also consider the findings from FLASH, FLOAT MAST, the Directed Outflow Project, or any other new peer-reviewed findings. Through further discussion, another structured decision model called the ProACT approach was identified and in July, the DCG discussed how this approach could be used and a potential 2021 schedule for using to analyzed proposed summer-fall habitat actions.

In 2021, Reclamation and DWR propose to use the ProACT approach for informing decisions regarding the Delta Smelt summer-fall habitat action as part of Reclamation's and DWR's Long-term Operation (LTO) Plan and DWR's Incidental Take Permit (ITP). The ProACT decision making model provides a systematic approach for making decisions. It consists of eight elements that will help improve our decisions when worked through systematically. Use of the ProACT approach for the DCG's structure decision making approach to the Delta Smelt summer-fall habitat action will utilize the five core elements of decision modeling, which are described below in the project context.

To inform the DCG's approach, an integrated set of models, similar to what is recommended by the DSP's Integrated Modeling Steering Committee, will be undertaken to inform the 2021 actions. This will include linking physical and biological models of Bay-Delta hydrodynamics and water quality and Delta smelt habitat and bioenergetics. In 2021, this modeling approach will utilize existing and new modeling of the summer-fall habitat actions to provide information on the physical and biological consequences associated with implementing the various actions compared to a baseline of these outcomes without the summer-fall habitat actions.

The DCG will advance science and effectiveness monitoring necessary to recommend annual actions to Reclamation and DWR. The structured decision-making model will be used to recommend the actions that improve and detect Delta Smelt food supply and habitat conditions and may have contributed to the recruitment, growth, and survival of Delta Smelt.

DCG members have expressed an interest in using the SDM process through the DCG to further inform ongoing SDM efforts for delta smelt recovery that are being funded through CSAMP. Additionally, DCG members have indicated that having a third-party facilitator with experience in SDM would greatly benefit the product being produced by the DCG, increasing transparency and the overall effectiveness of the recommendations being provided to Reclamation and DWR by the DCG on proposed Summer-Fall Habitat Actions.

Staff has worked with DWR and Reclamation to identify a facilitator with SDM experience using the ProACT approach and has identified Dr. Jennie Hoffman, of Adaptation/Insight, as a preferred facilitator. Dr. Hoffman has experience working with Compass Resources, who is facilitating the CSAMP SDM process and is well regarded in her field.

About Adaptation/Insight and Dr. Jennie Hoffman

Dr. Hoffman has been broadly engaged in the field of climate change adaptation for almost two decades, working in the United States and internationally. She has contributed to a variety of papers, books and reports, including co-authoring "Climate Savvy: Adapting Conservation and Resource Management to a Changing World." Areas of particular interest include structured decision making, particularly decision making under uncertainty, integrating climate considerations into existing planning and management processes (HCP, EIA, ESA, CMSP, CZM, NEPA), and improving the use of scientific information in policy, planning, and regulatory decisions. Dr. Hoffman has a PhD in marine ecology.

Specialties: climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation; research; synthesis; presentation; facilitation; instructional development and design; technical and non-technical writing and editing; toxicology; ecology; marine and coastal planning; communication; decision support; tool development

SCHEDULE

To accomplish the ProACT approach to structured decision making, a schedule for the DCG is proposed. Certain documents the DCG will brainstorm, revise, and finalize are identified so that the linkage between the decision step and documentation is clear.

Delta Coordination Group Structured Decision Making Support
December 11, 2020

	ProACT Core Step				
	Problems	Objective	Alternatives	Consequences	Tradeoffs
Meeting					
June 2020			Brainstorm	Brainstorm	
July 2020	Overview	Overview	Review		
August 2020			Draft	Review current alternative modeling Finalize physical and biological models use	
September 2020			Finalize	Modeling Underway	
October 2020			Brainstorm Multiyear Science and Monitoring Plan (DSM SFSMP)		
November 2020			Draft DSM SFSMP	Review Preliminary Modeling	
December 2020			Finalize DSM SFSMP		
January 2021				Provide Initial Results	
February 2021				Draft Modeling Report, Evaluate consequences and tradeoffs	
March 2021				Modeling Report, Evaluate consequences and tradeoffs	
April 2021				Proposal to USBR and DWR	
May 2021				Final HAP	
June 2021					
July 2021	HAP Implementation through October 2021				

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether the Water Resources Committee should recommend to the Board of Directors to authorize execution of a cost share agreement with the State Water Contractors and execution of a contract of up to \$21,000 to support facilitation of Structured Decision Making for the Delta Coordination Group’s analysis of Delta Smelt Summer-Fall Habitat Actions.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Water Resources Committee recommend that the Board of Directors authorize execution of a cost share agreement with the State Water Contractors and execution of a contract with Adapation/Insight (Dr. Jennie Hoffman) of up to \$21,000 to support facilitation of Structured Decision Making for the Delta Coordination Group’s analysis of Delta Smelt Summer-Fall Habitat Actions.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Board adopted the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, which included \$500,000 for Technical Budget: Science Activities. To date, the Board has obligated \$199,000 of the \$500,000 budget, leaving \$301,000 in non-obligated funding.