

Memorandum

Date: March 19, 2019
To: Board of Directors
From: Kellyx Nelson
Re: Recommendation to Contract with UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences for Pescadero Marsh Restoration and Resiliency Project

RCD recommends contracting a subaward to UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences for an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to model current and future conditions in Pescadero Marsh. The scope of work includes model development, calibration, analysis, and reporting.

The Pescadero Marsh Restoration and Resiliency Project will develop an open-source 3D hydrodynamic model for the estuary, a sea-level rise and climate vulnerability assessment for the system, a conceptual understanding of predicted ecological response of Pescadero Marsh to future conditions, preparation of engineering designs for a project to enhance the ecological function of the North Marsh and Pond Complex, and draft an implementation plan for enhancement of Pescadero Marsh.

John Largier, the guiding member of the UC Davis project team, is the foremost expert on the Pescadero Marsh having years of experience gathering data and researching in the marsh. He chaired the Pescadero Lagoon Science Panel, an independent science panel formed by state and federal agencies in early 2013 to evaluate the physical and biological characteristics of the Pescadero lagoon and marsh ecosystem and to consider recommendations regarding future management action. Dr. Largier authored its 2016 final report and is a key member of the Pescadero Technical Roundtable, an advisory body convened by the RCD with participation from a broad range of technical experts. The UC Davis researcher who will be developing the model, Dr. Rusty Holleman, brings the unique experience of having studied the system while conducting graduate work with Dr. Mark Stacey at UC Berkeley (also a member of the Science Panel). He is both an expert in estuarine modeling and the specific model platform that will be used. UC Davis is a trusted public entity and all data and materials will be in the public domain.