

Consent Agenda Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – September 2024

ACTION ITEM

Sponsor: Danielle Verna and the Scientific Advisory Committee

Project number and name or topic: 9510 - Long-Term Environmental Monitoring (LTEMP)

1. **Description of agenda item:** The Board is being asked to approve a FY2025 budget modification in the amount of \$6,005.38 for project 9510 and authorize a contract change order with Fjord & Fish Sciences, contract 9510.25.06. Dr. Morgan Bender, Principal at Fjord & Fish Sciences, assisted the project manager with field work for the collection and dissection of blue mussels at three remote LTEMP sites accessed via float plane from Homer. While Dr. Bender had planned to participate in field work at sites in Port Valdez, this additional field work was outside the original scope and cost estimate of the project. The timing of this remote field work was delayed due to weather, creating a gap in the availability of Council staff to participate. Dr. Bender was available and offered to assist. Dr. Bender’s contribution to the remote field work and lab-based dissections was valuable, as it improved efficiency and safety, and provided her an opportunity to gain site familiarization, which is important as she analyzes and interprets the resulting data.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 directs PWSRCAC to "devise and manage a comprehensive program of monitoring the environmental impacts of the operations of terminal facilities and crude oil tankers while operating in Prince William Sound" – LTEMP is designed to address this directive. LTEMP results are used to assess the environmental impacts of the Valdez Marine Terminal and the crude oil tankers operating in Prince William Sound, including the long-term impacts of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

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

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
Board	5/2/2024	The Board authorized individual contracts with Alpha Analytical and Fjord & Fish Sciences with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2025 LTEMP budget (Project 9510) for contract expenses, and delegation of authority to the Executive Director to enter into individual contracts with the aforementioned consultants; and authorized that the contract work commence prior to the start of FY2025, as approximately \$20,000 of these funds will need to be expended in May and June 2024.

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

5. **Committee Recommendation:** None.

6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project 9510 – Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program, is in the approved FY2025 budget and annual work plan.

FY2025 LTEMP Budget Modification & Contract Change Order Approval 3-1

7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** Authorize a budget modification in the amount of \$6,006 from the contingency fund to project 9510 in the FY2025 budget and authorize the Executive Director to carry out a corresponding change order to increase contract 9510.25.06 with Fjord & Fish Sciences in a not to exceed amount of \$61,731.
8. **Alternatives:** Do not authorize the budget modification or change order.
9. **Attachments:** Fjord & Fish Sciences' Homer field work cost breakdown.