

**Consent Agenda Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – May 2025****ACTION ITEM**

**Sponsor:** Danielle Verna and the Scientific Advisory Committee

**Project number and name or topic:** 9510 – Long-Term Environmental Monitoring

1. **Description of agenda item:** The Board is being asked to authorize contracts for the Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program (LTEMP) summer 2025 field-sampling and laboratory work. Contracts for the Board’s consideration include:

- Authorize individual contracts with Pace Analytical Services and Fjord & Fish Sciences with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2026 LTEMP budget (Project 9510) for contract expenses, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into individual contracts with the aforementioned consultants.

These contract authorizations are contingent upon Board approval of the FY2026 budget, including funding for this project within the budget, at the May 2025 Board meeting.

Pace Analytical Services will provide the Council with analytical chemistry laboratory services for mussel and marine sediment samples. Fjord & Fish Sciences will report and interpret the analytical results of the 2025 LTEMP samples and participate in 2025 field work.

Some of the work under these contracts needs to begin in April 2025, prior to the start of FY2026, because of supply prerequisites and sampling timing. That early work may require a modification of the FY2025 budget.

Additional LTEMP costs, not described in this briefing, include other analytical lab costs, vessel and floatplane charters for field work, sample shipping costs, and minor equipment and supplies costs.

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:** LTEMP has been conducted by PWSRCAC since 1993, and many actions have been taken by the Board on this item since

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that time. In the interest of providing recent action items taken by the Board on this item, the last five years of actions are presented below. All historic actions pertaining to LTEMP are available for review upon request by contacting Project Manager Danielle Verna.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
Board	5/6/2021	Accepted the reports titled “Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program: 2020 Sampling Results & Interpretations,” by Dr. James R. Payne and William Driskell, dated March 2021 as meeting the terms and conditions of contract 951.21.04, and for distribution to the public.
Board	5/21/2021	Authorized individual contracts with NewFields Environmental Forensics Practice, Oregon State University, and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2022 LTEMP budget (project #9510) for contract expenses, and delegated authority to the Executive Director to enter into individual contracts with the aforementioned consultants; and authorized that the contract work to commence prior to the start of FY2022 as approximately \$30,000 of these funds will need to be expended in May and June 2021.
Board	1/27/2022	Authorized a budget modification, adding \$53,880 to Project 9510-Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program; and authorized a contract negotiation with Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, to complete the LTEMP scope of work in RFP 951.21.06, and with Payne Environmental Consultants, to support Owl Ridge’s work, at a total aggregate cost not to exceed \$77,000.
Board	5/5/2022	Authorized individual contracts with NewFields Environmental Forensics Practice and Oregon State University, with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2023 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, and authorized contract work to commence prior to the start of FY2023, as approximately \$10,000 of these funds will need to be expended in May and June 2022.
XCOM	9/15/2022	Accepted the reports titled “Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program: 2021 Summary Report” and “Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program: 2021 Technical Supplement” by Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, dated May 2022, as meeting the terms of contract #951.22.06 and for public distribution.
Board	5/4/2023	Authorized individual contracts with Alpha Analytical and Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, Inc. with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2024 LTEMP budget (Project #9510) for contract expenses, and authorization of contract work to commence prior to the start of the 2024 fiscal year to accommodate timing considerations and purchasing needs. It is estimated that up to \$15,000 of the above contract work may be performed before June 30, 2023.
Board	1/25/2024	Accepted the reports titled “Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program 2022–2023 Summary Report” and “Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program 2022–2023 Technical Supplement” by Morgan Bender of Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, Inc., both dated December 2023, as meeting the terms and conditions of contract number 951.24.04, and for distribution to the public.
Board	5/2/2024	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.
Board	9/19/2024	Authorized a budget modification in the amount of \$6,006 from the contingency fund to Project 9510 in the FY2025 budget and authorization for the Executive

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Board 1/25/2025 Director to carry out a corresponding change order to increase Contract 9510.25.06 with Fjord & Fish Sciences in an amount not to exceed \$61,731. Accepted the reports titled "Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program 2024 Summary Report," "Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program 2024 Technical Supplement," and "Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program 2024 Sediment Metals Report" by Morgan Bender of Fjord & Fish Sciences dated December 2024, as meeting the terms and conditions of Contract number 9510.25.06, and for distribution to the public.

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support, or opposition:** None
5. **Committee Recommendation:** The Scientific Advisory Committee supports this project.
6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project 9510 – Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Project is in the proposed FY2026 budget in an amount of \$137,860.
7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:**
  - Authorize individual contracts with Pace Analytical Services and Fjord & Fish Sciences with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2026 LTEMP budget (Project 9510) for contract expenses, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into individual contracts with the aforementioned consultants.
  - Authorize contract work to commence prior to the start of FY2026, as approximately \$20,000 of these funds will need to be expended in April and May 2025.

*Note: This action is contingent upon approval of full funding of this project in the FY2026 budget.*

8. **Alternatives:** None recommended.
9. **Attachments:** None.