

RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

STAFF REPORT

For the meeting of March 14, 2024

To: RBRA Board of Directors

From: Brad Gross, Executive Director

Subject: Subawards to Audubon California and San Francisco State University (SFSU) in the amounts of \$327,000 and \$700,000, respectively, for community engagement and waterbird monitoring (Audubon) and eelgrass restoration and technical expertise (SFSU), as called for in RBRA's eelgrass grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Motion: Adopt Resolutions 24-02 and 24-03, and authorize the Executive Director to execute two Professional Services Contracts (PSC) – one with Audubon CA and one with SFSU, effective March 14, 2024, to perform the duties outlined in their respective scopes of work included with the PSCs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Motion authorizing the Executive Director to execute a PSC between RBRA and Audubon CA and a separate PSC between RBRA and SFSU, and approve Resolution No.s 24-02 and 24-03.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

On June 8, 2023, this Board was advised and approved acceptance of a grant from the US EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) in the amount of \$2,782,586.00, for the project "Collaboratively Restoring Eelgrass in Richardson Bay to Improve Water Quality and Climate Resilience," (Project) with the goal of restoring at least 15 acres of eelgrass in Richardson Bay over four years. The Project, designed as an innovative public-private partnership, includes funds for partners to conduct on-the-ground restoration, adaptive management, and monitoring of eelgrass habitat, as well as funds to provide training for early career conservationists from severely disadvantaged communities, develop shareable, scalable best-practices for eelgrass restoration in areas of anchor scour, and support RBRA staff time on the project.

Included in the grant award to RBRA from EPA are subawards for project partners Audubon CA and SFSU to implement specific portions of the Project's scope of work and associated deliverables. Audubon CA will be responsible for youth and community engagement, waterbird monitoring, and annual aerial eelgrass surveys. SFSU will be responsible for on-the-ground eelgrass restoration, adaptive management of restored habitat, and technical expertise across project activities.

Because Audubon CA is a not-for-profit organization and SFSU is a University, they are named subawardees in the EPA grant agreement and RBRA is contractually obligated to execute their subawards. (This is in contrast to the competitive bidding process RBRA conducted for bringing on Coastal Policy Solutions and Merkel & Associates as project manager and subconsultant for the Project in September 2023.)

To engage Audubon CA and SFSU as subawardees, Professional Services Contracts (PSCs) that include scopes of work require completion. Staff are seeking authorization to execute these PSCs with Audubon CA and SFSU effective March 14, 2024, through June 30, 2027 or the termination of the project, whichever comes later. If an extension is required, staff will return to this Board requesting approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total grant award is in the amount of \$2,782,586 over four years. All expenses related to the project are to be reimbursed each quarter as requests for disbursement(s) are submitted. There is no fiscal impact. Revenue and expenditures in RBRA's Fund 8050, project 40RBRAEPA, was included in the FY 24 budget, which will allow RBRA to fully utilize the EPA grant across fiscal years. At the end of each fiscal year, staff will request authorization from this Board to carry forward any unrealized revenue or unspent expenditure budget to the next fiscal year until all funds for this project are expended. Therefore, there are no fiscal impacts related to this action.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff will execute the attached PSCs, which will allow Audubon CA and SFSU to commence work and submit invoices for reimbursement to RBRA.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1: RBRA – Audubon CA Professional Services Contract
- Attachment 2: DRAFT Resolution 24-02
- Attachment 3: RBRA – SFSU Professional Services Contract
- Attachment 4: Attachments to SFSU PSC
- Attachment 5: DRAFT Resolution 24-03