



STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority

From: Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff

Subject: Contract Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Services for the Provision of National Environmental Policy Act Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator and Discuss Reallocation of CDFW Proposition 1 Grant Funds

Meeting date: February 28, 2024

Prepared on: February 21, 2024

Attachments: A) Contract Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Services for the Provision of National Environmental Policy Act Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Services (Whitebark) serves as the contractor to the ESCOG for environmental planning services and project management services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator.

The proposed contract amendment expands the scope of work to include necessary silviculture assessments to prepare forest-level prescription templates and silviculture prescriptions. This work was originally scoped to be completed by Inyo National Forest silviculturists, but due to capacity constraints, the Inyo National Forest, ESCOG, and the Whitebark Institute have collaborated to identify staff resources to be provided by the consultant.

There may be additional funding under the current CDFW Proposition 1 grant award to fund additional environmental planning tasks. Based on conversations with stakeholders,

staff requests the Board discuss and provide direction on reallocating funds to expand environmental planning tasks for wildfire resiliency in the Mono basin.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

None.

LEGAL REVIEW:

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chuchla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the ESCOG Board approve Contract Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Whitebark Institute of Interdisciplinary Environmental Services for the Provision of National Environmental Policy Act Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator as presented and discuss reallocation of CDFW Proposition 1 grant funds.