

SWC Partners With DWR To Award \$4 Million In Funding For Bay-Delta Research

ACWA News, 08/02/23

The State Water Contractors (SWC) recently awarded funding for six projects that will be conducted by leading researchers from some of the top institutions and firms in California and across the nation.

These projects will investigate information gaps related to Delta Smelt, Longfin Smelt, Chinook Salmon and Central Valley Steelhead – helping reduce uncertainties in the effects of non-flow mechanisms that affect species growth, migration and survival. The SWC's initial investment is supplemented with funding from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), which brings the total scientific research investment above \$4 million.

“These awards are an exciting milestone for the SWC and the SWC’s Science Program. The projects we are funding will explore new lines of research and help fill in critical knowledge gaps to improve management of both water supply and ecosystem health. We are thankful to have a funding partner in DWR, as we share the goal of funding high-quality, management relevant science,” stated SWC Science Manager Darcy Austin in a news release, which also provides project overviews.

The SWC Science Program collaboratively funds and facilitates objective, relevant, rigorous science that advances the understanding of factors affecting water supply reliability and habitat restoration for improved decision-making and management in the San Francisco Bay, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and watershed. The SWC’s first-ever science proposal solicitation requested proposals for solution-based studies that would inform critical uncertainties related to State Water Project (SWP) water operations, including habitat and ecology, Delta outflow and non-operational stressors.

The SWC selected the final projects through a three-phase review process, including screening, an independent peer review of scientific merits, and a panel review of the study design and management relevance by scientists with experience in management relevant science in estuaries and watersheds.

The SWC developed its review process based on similar processes followed by several other science organizations that have proven successful in selecting research with the greatest potential to make meaningful contributions to the field.

“We followed a transparent and rigorous process of requesting, reviewing, and ranking proposals and we are happy with the outcome of our first-ever science proposal solicitation,” Austin stated. “This level of rigor is important, as California must use the best available science to inform the way we meet the challenge of protecting fish species while ensuring a reliable water supply for millions of Californians.”

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CSDA 2024 Legislative Proposal Submission Forms Due September 12

CSDA eNews, 08/01/23

Do you have an idea to create, improve, or eliminate a law affecting special districts throughout the state?

If your district is facing an issue that could potentially be resolved through statewide legislation, let us know!

CSDA members are invited to submit a proposal by September 12 for CSDA to consider sponsoring legislation in the 2024 legislative year. Share your legislative proposal by completing and submitting the 2024 Legislative Proposal Submission Form.

Legislative proposals should broadly focus on furthering the interest of all types of special districts, regardless of geographic region or type(s) of service provided. Submissions will be reviewed by CSDA staff and assessed for political implications, potential consequences, cost of implementation, likelihood of success, and other relevant factors. Proposals will then be presented to the CSDA Legislative Committee for consideration.

In 2023, CSDA sponsored Senate Concurrent Resolution 52. SCR 52 (Alvarado-Gil) proclaimed the week of May 14, 2023, to May 20, 2023, to be Special Districts Week. CSDA also sponsored Assembly Bill 557. AB 557 (Hart) seeks to eliminate the sunset placed on emergency remote meeting procedures established by Assembly Bill 361 (R. Rivas, 2021), a bill that CSDA also sponsored for the benefit of its members during state emergencies.

Once again, the deadline for CSDA members to submit a 2024 Legislative Proposal Submission Form is September 12, 2023. For any questions, please contact CSDA Legislative Analyst Ophelia Szigeti at ophelias@cda.net.

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