

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve an increase to the agreement with the **University of Oregon** for **Enhancing Carbon Sequestration and Fire Resilience in Water and Energy Production Systems Research**.

Board Meeting Date: August 1, 2023
Project Name/Contract #: Carbon Sequestration / 20-104-IGA
Manager: Mike Masters Ext. 7549
Executive Officer: Karen Kelley Ext. 7153

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount: \$140,000 (Did not require Board approval)
Additional \$ Previously Approved: \$200,000 (December 7, 2021)
Spend over last approval: \$0
Amount this Request: \$200,000
% Increase over last approval: 59%
Resulting Cumulative Total: **\$540,000 (Over 6 years)**

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation: Direct Negotiation
If applicable, basis for exemption: EWEB Rule 6-0110 Intergovernmental Agreement
Term of Agreement: June 8, 2020 – December 31, 2026
Option to Renew? No
Approval for purchases “as needed”: Yes No
Proposals/Bids Received (Range): NA
Selection Basis: Direct Negotiation
Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

The Board is being asked to approve an expanded scope of the existing UO-EWEB Carbon Sequestration Research Intergovernmental Agreement. As part of the post-Holiday Farm Fire watershed restoration efforts, EWEB is working with partners to implement large scale floodplain restoration projects to buffer impacts from burned landscapes on water quality and increase fish and wildlife habitat. UO scientists, professional research staff, and graduate students have the opportunity at Quartz Creek and Finn Rock Reach (Phase 2) restoration areas to measure existing carbon sequestration rates prior to conducting large floodplain restoration work in 2023 and then begin to measure the carbon sequestration trajectory once the valley is restored to large floodplain depositional environments.

The increased scope of the UO research will inform future restoration designs and carbon sequestration projects that support the strategic direction EWEB is pursuing to develop effective ways to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, increase resiliency to climate change impacts, and establish customer facing programs that promote climate solutions while providing co-benefits to water quality and watershed health. The UO research will include

three different types of land management for carbon sequestration. The first is agriculture conversion to forestry which is being done at the High Banks Road property in collaboration with UO under our current IGA approved by the Board in 2021. The 2nd is the Quartz Creek 0-Stage Floodplain Restoration Project study proposed herein. There is limited research on how these floodplain restoration projects sequester carbon, particularly in areas that are impacted by fire. This project will inform future floodplain restoration projects as the carbon sequestration could be considered a direct benefit and/or a co-benefit depending on the data. The 3rd is upslope areas of burned land of which U of O has already received outside funding. Currently, there is no specific data available for our region for post-fire upslope carbon sequestration. Having region-specific numbers will provide the data needed to accurately calculate carbon uptake and storage.

Contracted Goods or Services

UO scientists will sample the Quartz Creek Floodplain Project before and after project implementation. They will analyze soil samples for carbon sequestration and present EWEB with the findings. Work will begin at base flows in late summer 2023 and results will be delivered by 2026. This amendment and additional funds will support staffing, equipment, supplies, and travel associated with this work.

Purchasing Process

This was a direct negotiated Intergovernmental Agreement with authority granted under ORS 190.010 allowing governmental bodies to enter into agreements for the performance of any or all functions and activities that the Parties to the Agreement, their officers, or agents have the authority to perform. This Agreement is a unilateral effort of governmental entities, both working to serve the public good.

Prior Contract Activities

EWEB Contract	Project Name (Description)	Board Approved	Project Duration (Start to Close)	Original Amount	Approved/Amended Amount to Date (Total)	Reason Code
22-120-IGA	Alert Wildfire Detection Camera Site Installation and Maintenance	NA	7/25/22 – 12/31/26	\$120,000	\$120,000	
19-144-IGA	Home Energy Scores for Rental & Low Income Properties	NA	10/29/19 - 12/31/23	\$3,000	\$12,000	AW

Reason Code: AM = Additional Materials, AW = Additional Work, EW= Emergency Work, SD = Staff Directed, UC = Unforeseen Conditions, Other

19-144-IGA – Initial term was three years. Extended to four years at \$3,000 per year.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve an increase to the IGA with University of Oregon for enhancing carbon sequestration and fire resilience in water and energy production systems research. Approximately \$200,000 was planned for these services in the 2023 Holiday Farm Fire Restoration budget of \$7.4 million. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.