**UTICA WATER AND POWER AUTHORITY**

**Date:** July 18, 2024

**To:** Joel Metzger, General Manager

**From:** Stacie Walker, Administrative Specialist

**Re:** Consideration of Stantec’s Proposal for Fish Study Plan

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Motion to authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Stantec to support Utica’s FERC Conduit Exemption applications that will develop a Fish Study Plan.

**SUMMARY:**

Fish Study Phases

Phase 1 – Develop Study and Meet with CDFW

The first phase involves developing the Fish Study Plan, which will be prepared for review and comment by UWPA. The study approach will then be shared with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), including reliance on previous data from PG&E collected in the 1990s. A meeting with CDFW will be scheduled to discuss our approach, schedule, and reporting plan. This phase assumes there will be no major revisions or modifications to the study approach.

Phase 2A – Conduct Fish Study (Surveys in September and October 2024)

The second phase, part A, involves securing a "Scientific Collection Permit" from the State of California, which is currently in processing and is expected to be received in time for the September sampling event. Field surveys and analysis will be conducted in rivers, creeks, and reservoirs during two separate events, each lasting approximately one week. The plan is to sample sites similar to those PG&E sampled in the 1990s. No canal surveys are planned, with the hope that this will be agreeable to CDFW.

Phase 2B – Analysis and Technical Report

In part B of the second phase, the analysis of the field survey data will be performed. A draft report will be developed for UWPA review and comment. The final report will be submitted to CDFW, assuming no major rewrites are needed after their review.

**FINANCIAL IMPACTS:**

The estimated total cost for the full Fish Study is approximately $140,000 to $145,000. The initial phase of the work is expected to cost about $12,000 to $15,000.

**Attachments**

*1. Stantec-UWPA: Task Order 5 – Draft Proposal for Fish Study Development*