



**Consideration of Amendment to Budget and Term of Delta Drought Response Pilot Program
Agreement for the Micrometeorological Measurements and Water Budget Calculation to Evaluate
Conservation Practices in the Annual Delta Crops Project**

Staff Report

Grantee	The Regents of the University of California, Davis
Project ID	22-0001-1
Award Year	2022
County	Multiple
Category	Implementation
Original Award Amount	\$1,497,611
Amended Request Amount	\$300,000 (20 percent increase)
Request	Budget, term

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Board approve a budget increase of \$300,000 and a term extension of 14 months to extend experimental data collection to three full years and complete project deliverables.

DESCRIPTION

The Grantee is requesting a budget increase of \$300,000 (20 percent increase) and a term extension from October 21, 2025, to December 31, 2026, to extend data collection to three full water years and allow time for completion of all project deliverables after the 2025/2026 water year, which ends on September 30, 2026. Because of substantial variation in the data among years and fields, collecting data over a longer period will better allow the researchers to assess the sources of those variations and draw stronger conclusions. The budget change meets the goal of the funding source, which was emergency drought funding through the General Fund, which was awarded to the Conservancy through an interagency agreement (IAA) with the Department of Water Resources (DWR). An additional year of data collection on fields implementing water conservation practices will help the state be more prepared to respond during future drought.

If the Conservancy is unable to increase the budget and extend the term of this agreement, data collection will end on September 30, 2025. While the project will still have meaningful outcomes, the ability to draw strong conclusions from the experiment will be limited due to variability among years and fields, which could be clarified with an additional year of data collection.

If approved, this amendment would also include several insignificant updates to clarify timelines for existing tasks and deliverables.

BACKGROUND

The Micrometeorological Measurements and Water Budget Calculation to Evaluate Conservation Practices in the Annual Delta Crops Project is an IAA with University of California Davis researchers to gather intensive, field-level data to understand the impacts of field management practices on water use on Delta farm fields. The original award was made on May 25, 2022, in the amount of \$1,497,611 as a sub-award from an IAA with DWR. The DWR IAA budget has sufficient funding to support this proposed amendment to the UC Davis IAA. Conservancy staff have previously reviewed and processed two minor modifications to the UC Davis IAA that updated the list of supplies and equipment for purchase and made a small line-item budget shift. Data collection is currently underway on six Delta farm fields that were enrolled in the 2023 Delta Drought Response Pilot Program. The researchers have provided the first annual report on the water budget for each field and are continuing to collect data for the second water year of the study.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board approve a budget increase of \$300,000 and a term extension of 14 months to The Regents of the University of California, Davis for the Micrometeorological Measurements and Water Budget Calculation to Evaluate Conservation Practices in the Annual Delta Crops Project to extend data collection.

CONTACT

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Figure 9.1. Map of UC Davis Delta Drought Response Pilot Program Monitoring Sites.

