

Memorandum

To: Steering Committee
From: Meg Sedlak, SFEI
Date: May 5, 2009
Re: Request for use of Contingency Funds for an RMP vessel for 2009

In early February, the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) informed us that the R/V Endeavor would not be available to support RMP sampling operations in 2009. The USBR has a new manager and he has indicated to his staff that the USBR cannot support RMP sampling this year however, they are amenable to considering it for 2010.

While we had particularly good success with the R/V John Martin for water sampling last year, it was an expensive boat (\$3,000/ day) particularly when transit time (two days) was included in the fee. The high draft of the R/V Marine Dixon used for the sediment cruise made sampling on windy days a challenge. As a result, Paul Salop of AMS has investigated several other options this year for vessels.

At this time, our preferred vessel choices are the US Fish and Wildlife vessel (R/V Confluence) for the water cruise and the Romberg Tiburon vessel (R/V Questuary) for the sediment cruise. We are presently negotiating a daily rate with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Based on our preliminary discussions, we anticipate the rate to be approximately \$1,700/ day. The Questuary is available at a rate of \$1,400/ day. We anticipate needing the Confluence for 9 days (8 plus one contingency day); and the Questuary for 8 days (7 plus one contingency day). Based on the current information, the cost for these two vessels is anticipated to be approximately \$27,000.

If we are unable to secure the Confluence for the sampling, we have made alternative arrangements to use the R/V John Martin at a cost of \$3,000 per day. The cost for the water cruise will be approximately \$33,000 (e.g., 9 sampling days plus 2 transit days). The sediment costs will remain the same \$11,200. The total cost for this configuration of vessels is projected to be \$44,200.

Finally, it should be noted that at this time, the USBR has indicated that it is willing to consider working with the RMP in the future. We will continue to work diligently to resume this relationship.