

ACTION ITEM

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Adaptation Strategy Contract Approval

Summary: The Council identified preparation of a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy for the Delta and Suisun Marsh as a 2018 priority. Staff has conducted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to identify a qualified consultant team for the project and requests that the Council authorize the Executive Officer to enter into a contract with (**consulting firm**) to complete the project.

Requested Action

Authorize the Executive Officer to enter into a three-year contract (June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2021) with (**consulting firm**) for an amount not to exceed \$650,000 to prepare a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh.

The Executive Officer has delegated authority up to \$500,000 to enter into contracts and interagency agreements on the Council's behalf. Because this contract exceeds that amount, it requires Council approval.

Background

The Delta Reform Act (Act) specifies consideration of "the future impact of climate change and sea level rise" in restoration planning (Water Code Section 85066), and identifies a restoration timeline horizon of 2100 (Water Code Section 85302). The Act also notes that the Delta Plan may address "the effects of climate change and sea level rise on the three state highways that cross the Delta" (Water Code Section 85307). More generally, Executive Order (EO) B-30-15, signed by Governor Brown in April 2015, requires that State agencies incorporate climate change into planning and investment decisions, and that agencies prioritize natural infrastructure and actions for climate preparedness and protection of the most vulnerable populations.

In the time since the Delta Plan was adopted in 2013, research on climate change has advanced significantly and has important implications for the Council as it seeks to achieve the coequal goals. At its December 2017 meeting, the Council identified preparation of a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh as a 2018 priority. In response, the Council's Planning and Performance Division issued a request for qualifications (RFQ) on April 30, 2018 for architectural and engineering (A&E) services to prepare the assessment and strategy.

This effort will provide critical support to the Council to:

- Improve understanding of projected climate change risks and potential adaptation strategies.
- Develop a robust process to incorporate stakeholder input and advice from a technical advisory committee.
- Provide a public awareness communication plan.

The contract represents an important early step in the Council's response to EO B-30-15, and will allow staff to incorporate lessons learned from related ongoing projects such as the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program and the Ecosystem Amendment to the Delta Plan.

In accordance with the RFQ process detailed in Attachment 1, Council staff has selected a highly qualified respondent with the necessary experience, team, and abilities to provide the services requested in this RFQ. The Council received six statements of qualifications. A Council staff committee reviewed these statements and conducted interviews with a shortlist of three qualified firms on May 14 and 15, 2018 (*At the time of this writing, Council staff is concluding the selection process and anticipates announcing the successful firm at the Council meeting*).

Fiscal Information

This contract uses General Fund resources from FY 2017/18 not to exceed \$650,000.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Notice to Prospective Qualified Respondents, RFQ #8932: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy

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