



Item #06-12-7
Consent

SACOG Board of Directors

December 7, 2006

Consulting Firm for Metropolitan Transportation Plan Environmental Impact Report

Issue: Selecting and hiring a consulting firm to complete technical studies and impact analysis for the MTP EIR

Recommendation: The Transportation Committee recommends that the Board authorize the Executive Director to select and enter into a contract not to exceed \$50,000 with a consulting firm to complete the work described in the attached scope of work.

Committee Action/Discussion: As the MTP consists of a group of discretionary actions on the part of SACOG, the MTP is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines. SACOG is therefore required to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR). The purpose of the EIR is to provide an objective analysis of the potential environmental consequences of implementing the projects proposed as part of the MTP for 2035. The analysis will emphasize the impacts of the MTP as a complete program, rather than as a detailed analysis of the individual projects contained in the plan. Individual projects will still be required to comply with the requirements of CEQA, and detailed analysis would be the responsibility of the agencies implementing those projects.

A number of the required elements of the EIR require specialized technical expertise which SACOG does not have on staff. SACOG staff issued a request for proposals (RFP) in late November based on the attached scope of work (Attachment A) to complete these tasks.

Staff recommends that the Executive Director be authorized to select and enter into a contract with a consulting firm to complete the tasks described in the RFP. Given the expedited schedule for the MTP EIR, this will allow staff to move ahead more quickly, rather than waiting for Board action in mid-January. As this task is included in the 2006-07 Overall Work Program (OWP) and budget, this action will not require amendments to either the OWP or budget.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:AH:gg
Attachment

Key Staff: Pete Hathaway, Director of Transportation Planning, (916) 340-6235
Debra Jones, Project Delivery Manager, (916) 340-6242
Aimee Hagen, Associate Planner, (916) 340-6211

**SCOPE OF WORK
FOR
TECHNICAL STUDIES IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT FOR THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR 2035**

The scope of work is described below. The selected consultant or consulting team will be expected to perform all technical and other analyses necessary to complete the scope of work. The consultant will receive general direction from the SACOG Project Manager. Tasks will include the following:

SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1: Conduct Environmental Analyses

For each environmental resource topic specified below, the Consultant shall prepare an environmental setting that describes the existing conditions before project implementation, a regulatory setting, identify appropriate thresholds of significance, and conduct all required technical analysis and studies. The Consultant shall discuss all methodologies and assumptions for impact analyses. The Consultant shall prepare all relevant maps and report graphics, and provide appendices as necessary. The consultant will conduct all environmental assessments of the proposed project (i.e., MTP 2035) and alternatives to the proposed project for the **biological resources, cultural and historic resources, geology and seismicity, noise, and hydrology and water quality** impact categories.

The consultant is to identify all impacts (including direct impacts, indirect/cumulative impacts), and develop useful and effective mitigation measure(s) for each identified impact. The consultant will identify significant impacts that can be mitigated and their level of significance after mitigation as well as identify unavoidable significant impacts. The consultant will assess the impacts of the MTP 2035 in several subject areas specifically required by CEQA, including significant irreversible, growth-inducing and cumulative impacts. The consultant will prepare EIR chapters for each impact category noted above that incorporate these requirements.

Task 2: Response to Comments

The consultant shall evaluate and prepare written responses to agency/public comments made during the public review of the Draft EIR (written comments and oral testimony) for the impact categories noted above. The consultant will recommend and make the appropriate technical corrections and recommend specific revisions to the Draft EIR to reflect any necessary technical corrections or revisions as identified in the Response to Comments chapter as part of the Final EIR.

NOTE: Task 3 is an optional task. Proposers shall include scope and a budget estimate for this task in their submittal. However, SACOG reserves the right to include or remove this task from the final scope of work as needed.

Task 3: EIR Certification Support (Optional)

The consultant shall prepare Findings and Facts in Support of Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations (as necessary), and Mitigation Monitoring Program as part of the Final EIR certification.

CONTRACT DELIVERABLES

The consultant shall prepare the following project deliverables. All written work products shall be prepared in Microsoft Word for Windows; to ensure compatibility, a version no greater than Microsoft Word 2003 should be used.

Task 1: Conduct Environmental Analysis

Biological Resources Environmental Analysis Chapter
Cultural and Historic Resources Environmental Analysis Chapter
Geology and Soils Environmental Analysis Chapter
Hydrology and Water Quality Environmental Analysis Chapter
Noise Environmental Analysis Chapter

All relevant and supporting maps and report graphics shall also be provided in the most current version of Adobe Illustrator.

Task 2: Responses to Comments

Edits to Draft EIR chapters (in track changes function)

Task 3: EIR Certification Support

Findings and Facts in Support of Findings
Statement of Overriding Considerations
Mitigation Monitoring Program