



Item #08-1-7 Action

Strategic Planning Committee

December 31, 2007

Sole Source Contract with The McKinley Group

Recommendation: That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend to the Board that the Executive Director be authorized to negotiate a sole source contract with The McKinley Group for a fee not to exceed \$30,000.

Discussion: Stacey McKinley currently is serving SACOG through a contract signed under the Executive Director's \$20,000 signing limit (as per Board adopted purchasing policy). That contract expires January 31, 2008. Ms. McKinley offers unique services to the agency and her services are needed to provide uninterrupted critical work related to: the adoption of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and its Environmental Impact Report (EIR); negotiations to settle a lawsuit regarding Placer Vineyards between the Audubon Society/Sierra Club (plaintiffs) and the property owners; SACOG's NEPA streamlining project; and scoping work related to the Rural Urban Connections Strategy, a greenhouse gas mitigation measure in our Draft EIR and a proposed Transportation Control Measure.

Until several months ago, Ms. McKinley was Congressman Lungren's District Director. In that role she played the point person in organizing a regionwide, bi-partisan effort to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to streamline its regulatory processes and in the future to place more emphasis on macro-scale resource planning, in part to aid us in the successful implementation of the Blueprint. Her knowledge and contacts developed through her role with the Congressman are unique. She has strong working relationships at both the district and national level with many of the federal agencies. In addition, she is actively engaged with SACOG in several efforts (listed above), many of which have specific timeframes that will, or might, expire this spring. We do not have the time to conduct a full-blown open bid consultant search process without putting some of these efforts at risk, especially the MTP and draft EIR and the Placer Vineyards process.

Ms. McKinley's scope of work would include at least the following:

- Continue assistance with US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal and state agencies regarding their comments on the draft EIR to the MTP;
- Continue as part of a core negotiating team, along with the Executive Director, working to resolve the differences between the Audubon Society/Sierra and the Placer Vineyards owners group;
- Provide staff assistance to SACOG for the NEPA streamlining project during the period of transition from Debra Jones (our former project manager who recently resigned) to another project manager;
- Provide advice on the substance and funding for the Rural Urban Connections Project, including possible opportunities for federal funds as part of SACOG's annual advocacy efforts and participation in Cap-to-Cap.

The fee for professional services would not exceed \$30,000, and the term of the contract is expected to run February 1 through April or May, 2008.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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