



**Item #13-1-10
Action**

Strategic Planning Committee

Date December 20, 2012

Request for Qualifications: Natural Resources and Regulations Assistance

Issue: Should SACOG issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for ongoing consulting services relating to natural resources for a range of projects and programs at SACOG.

Recommendation: That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend that the SACOG Board authorize staff to release an RFQ and to allow staff to bring a consultant contract directly to the SACOG Board at its February meeting.

Discussion: In the past, SACOG has hired consultants to execute a range of natural resources work for which the agency does not have in-house staff expertise. That work has included assisting with federal permitting for flood control projects in Yolo County, securing federal approvals for transportation projects in Placer County, helping settle land development CEQA lawsuits in Placer County, assisting with Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) throughout the region, overseeing the Six-County Aquatic Resources Inventory, representing SACOG interests at federal agencies related to water resources management, providing background and strategies to improve forest management, and preparing the Environmental Impact Report for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

As SACOG's role in HCP, water resources, and flood issues continues to evolve, staff envisions a need for consultant help with these efforts. In addition, SACOG's commitment—included in the MTP/SCS—to develop a regional open space plan will require assistance from an expert that has extensive knowledge of natural resource issues in the region, and the experience and ability to convene key stakeholders to craft a plan. Addressing environmental regulations and land conservation impediments affecting agriculture is also an important area where consultant help will be needed.

Given this range of ongoing natural resources work and the need for consistent and reliable support, staff is seeking approval to release a RFQ for ongoing natural resources consultant services. Funding for the consultant work contemplated under this RFQ is included in the OWP and Budget in the amount of \$200,000.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

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