

**SACOG Board of Directors**

March 14, 2013

Rural Urban Connection Strategy Agriculture Infrastructure Contract

Issue: Consultant assistance is needed to develop a feasibility analysis of various agriculture and food infrastructure.

Recommendation: The Land Use & Natural Resources Committee recommends that the SACOG Board select the recommended consultant and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to finalize negotiations and sign a contract in an amount not to exceed \$275,000. This item was unanimously approved by LUNR committee; however, the committee recommended that this be an action item, so the full board could receive a presentation on the item.

Discussion: An important component of the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) is assessing the burgeoning economic opportunities of local and regional food systems, including increasing consumption of locally-produced food. RUCS stakeholders have highlighted the shortage of agriculture and food infrastructure that can support local and regional food production as an impediment to building these food systems. While SACOG has developed extensive data and modeling to assess local agricultural production, we do not have data related to the construction and operations of infrastructure for agricultural operations. Infrastructure for the purpose of this project refers to agriculture and food-related enterprises between farm and fork. These include distribution, aggregation, and various forms of processing (fresh cut and wrap, freezing, drying, hulling, bottling, and pressing). This project seeks information, data, and economic modeling tools for different scales of operations that are currently lacking in regards to agriculture and food infrastructure analysis.

The tools will be used to guide the region's efforts to advance local and regional food systems and increase the amount of locally grown-locally consumed food. The project will develop business plans for different types of infrastructure at different scales, and assess the feasibility of working with food banks and existing distributors and processors to potentially reduce start-up and operating costs. The economic tools will be available to regional stakeholders and local jurisdictions.

SACOG released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to find a consulting team that can assist with the agriculture and food infrastructure project. The RFQ was released November 8, 2012, with an original due date of November 26, 2012. Only one complete application was received, so the RFQ was reposted on December 4, 2012, with a due date of January 4, 2013. Staff and an advisory team, comprised of Blake Young, President of the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services, John Young, Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner, Kevin Sanchez, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Yolo County, and Shawn Harrison, Co-Director of Soil Born Farms, reviewed the statements of qualifications from four applicants. Two of the applicants were asked for interviews, which were conducted on February 6, 2013. Applied Development Economics, a Sacramento and Berkeley-based firm, and their strong support team were selected. A company profile of the selected applicant, summary of the selection process, and project description are included as Attachment A, B, and C, respectively.

The \$275,000 budget for this project was the result of grant awards from the Strategic Growth Council, U.S. Department of Agriculture (via the California Department of Food and Agriculture), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (via Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency). The work is currently in the Overall Work Program. With SACOG Board approval, the project will start on April 1, with a project duration of one year. Staff is seeking authorization for the Chief Executive Office to negotiate and execute a contract with Applied Development Economics.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

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Attachments

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