



SACOG Board of Directors

Item #13-3-14 Action

March 14, 2013

Consultant Selection for Natural Resources and Regulations Assistance

Issue: SACOG staff is seeking consultant assistance on natural resources and regulations work. Staff is asking for approval of a recommended consultant and authorization for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and sign a contract.

Recommendation: That the SACOG Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate a scope of work and sign a contract with The McKinley Group for natural resources and regulations consulting work.

Committee Action/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—including 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.

The SACOG Board approved the release of a Request for Qualifications for a natural resource consultant at its January meeting. Due to the timing of the review process, the Board also authorized staff to bring a recommendation directly to the Board for approval of the selected consultant and authorization for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate a contract. Ten Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) were received and a panel of local partners was assembled to review the SOQs and interview candidates (detail included in Attachment A). The panel completed SOQ reviews on March 1 and conducted interviews of the top four candidates on March 12. The McKinley group (company profile included as Attachment B) received the highest score for both the SOQ and the interview. The panel was unanimous in recommending this firm for consideration by the SACOG Board for natural resources and regulations consulting work. This work is included in the Overall Work Program and will not exceed \$200,000.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

Key Staff: Kirk Trost, Chief Operating Officer/General Counsel, (916) 340-6210
David Shabazian, Supervising Senior Planner, (916) 340-6231

Firms that submitted a Statement of Qualifications

AECOM

Analytical Environmental Services

BSK Associates

Cardno

Consero Solutions *

ECORP Consulting, Inc.

H.T. Harvey & Associates *

The McKinley Group *

Science Applications International Corporation *

Sierra Ecosystem Associates

* - Selected for interview

Review Panel

Loren Clark, Assistant Director, Placer Co. Planning Division

Celia McAdam, Executive Director, Placer County Transportation Planning
Agency

Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director, Sacramento Valley Conservancy

Bob Shattuck, Director of Community Planning, Lennar Communities

David Shabazian, Supervising Senior Planner, SACOG

The McKinley Group Company Profile

The McKinley Group is a sole proprietorship owned and operated by Stacey McKinley. The McKinley Group was formed in 2007 and specializes in Federal, State and Local Natural Resource Policy with a special focus on negotiating favorable outcomes for local governments relative to policies set primarily by state and federal resources agencies. Stacey McKinley established The McKinley Group upon leaving the employment of Congressman Dan Lungren. While serving Mr. Lungren in the capacity of District Director, McKinley established and maintains strong professional relationships with the policy decision makers within the aforementioned State and Federal resource agencies, and calls upon these decision makers as needed to codify "out of the box" strategies which serve to propel good policy and with that, good public projects forward in less time and at less taxpayer expense. The McKinley Group is based in Sacramento California, and maintains an office in Washington, D.C., as well.

McKinley has been engaged in federal and state policy work for a decade, and has strong ties to the federal and state natural resource agencies including, but not limited to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.E. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, FEMA, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California State Water Board. McKinley has brought together stakeholder and policy makers on issues related to Conservation Planning, Water Policy, Flood Control, Ag Policy and Ad hoc assistance on a myriad of natural resource permitting and policy based efforts. In addition, McKinley has created and executed budgets and timelines to successful completion and strives for expeditious and less-costly outcomes. McKinley does not work on private projects within the Six-County SACOG region and as such maintains a unique negotiating stance not shared with the majority of consultants.

Relevant Projects:

Project Name: South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP)

Project Category/Title: Project Manager/Lead Policy Negotiator

Duration of the Project: Work commenced in June 2012 and is expected to be completed by May of 2013.

Client Agency: Sacramento County and the Plan Participants

Project Name: Capital South East Connector JPA

Project Category Title: Lead Negotiator

Client Agency: JPA for the Capital South East Connector

Project Name: Sustainable Communities Strategy-Sustainable Communities Initiative

Project Category/Title: Natural Resources Grantee

Duration of the Project: 2 years (complete 1.31.13)

Client Agency: HUD, DOT, EPA and SACOG

Project Name: Placer Vineyards/Sierra Club/Audubon Society Negotiations

Project Category/Title: Lead Negotiator

Duration of the project: 5 years

Client Agency: SACOG

Project Name: Placer County Transportation Planning Agency Tier 1 LEDPA

Project Category/Title: Facilitator

Duration of the project: 4 months, completed in 2010

Client Agency: SACOG