



Land Use & Natural Resources Committee

October 27, 2016

Approve Contract for Consultant Services for Natural Resources Issues

Issue: SACOG released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for on-call natural resources consultant services for a range of projects and is seeking authority to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected firm.

Recommendation: That the Land Use & Natural Resources Committee recommend that the SACOG Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute an agreement with H.T. Harvey & Associates for on-call natural resource consulting services.

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 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 conservation plans, water, flood, and other natural resource planning 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 experts that have extensive knowledge of natural resource issues in the region, and the experience and ability to convene key stakeholders to craft strategies and plans. 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 RFQ for ongoing natural resources consulting services at its June 2016 meeting. Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) were received and a panel of local partners was assembled to review SOQs. The panel selected three teams for interviews and unanimously recommends H.T. Harvey & Associates for consideration by the SACOG Board. Funding is included in the OWP with an initial \$75,000 for these services. The scope of work and total budget for this contract will be negotiated by the CEO and additional funding may be included in future OWP updates depending on the availability of funds and need for services. Staff is seeking Board authorization for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute an agreement with the selected contractor for on-call natural resources consulting services.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

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