



**Government Relations and Public
Affairs Committee**

Meeting Date: 8/27/2018

Agenda Item No.: 2018-August-4.

Subject: Release Request for Qualifications for Consultant Services for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Environmental Impact Report (Est. Time: 0 minutes)

Consent

Prepared by: Renee DeVere-Oki

Approved by: Erik Johnson

Attachments: No

1. Issue:

Should SACOG release a Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for a contractor to provide assistance with legal services for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) Update?

2. Recommendation:

That the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommend that: 1) the SACOG Board of Directors authorize the SACOG Chief Executive Officer to release an RFQ for legal services for the preparation of the EIR; and 2) the SACOG Board of Directors authorize the SACOG Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected contractor.

3. Background/Analysis:

Under state law, SACOG's quadrennial update of the MTP/SCS is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. In order to comply with this law, SACOG prepares a programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR). The purpose of the PEIR is to enable SACOG to examine and disclose the overall environmental effects of the MTP/SCS. Under SB 375, the PEIR can also enable CEQA streamlining review for subsequent land development projects that are consistent with the MTP/SCS, if the SCS achieves its SB 375 GHG target. SACOG has enabled this SB 375 streamlining with the 2012 and 2016 MTP/SCS, and land use projects have used the streamlining enabled by both plans.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Staff seeks board approval to release an RFQ for legal service to supplement SACOG's legal team in implementing the provisions of SB 375 and other state statutes pertaining to the development of the 2020 MTP/SCS and accompanying PEIR. The legal services

provided by the consultant will be used to efficiently and effectively comply with CEQA, continue to activate CEQA streamlining as directed by MTP/SCS policies, and efficiently use SACOG resources.

The scope of services for the selected consultant will include some combination of the following:

- Assist with development of the PEIR, including providing advice and coordination with other outside technical experts. SACOG wishes to coordinate this work with other MPOs in the state and, to the extent practical and appropriate, work toward consistency in the treatment of these issues in the PEIRs developed by other MPOs.
- Advise on compliance with CEQA requirements and development of appropriate project alternatives under CEQA.
- Recommend use of a sustainable communities strategy (SCS) versus an alternative planning strategy (APS) to meet the greenhouse gas emissions target established by the California Air Resources Board.
- Recommend utilization of the various CEQA streamlining components of SB 375, including Transit Priority Projects.

The final scope of work will be negotiated with the selected consultant.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This project activity is budgeted for up to \$150,000 over two fiscal years: \$90,000 has been allocated in SACOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Overall Work Program (OWP) and Budget; the remaining \$60,000 is expected to be allocated in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 OWP and Budget, subject to board approval.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:

1. Advance Economic Prosperity