



## Strategic Planning Committee

December 20, 2012

### **Modification to Contracting Authority for Project Level Analysis for the Environmental Streamlining Work under the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant**

**Issue:** In September, the Board of Directors authorized the Chief Executive Officer to enter into up to three contracts, up to \$30,000 each, for project level analysis in case study areas under the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. These are the areas that implement the streamlining available under our adopted Metropolitan Transportation Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). Staff now has an opportunity to combine the work for two project areas into an interagency agreement with the County of Sacramento for up to \$65,000, and a contract extension for up to \$25,000 with Tschudin Consulting Group to complete the work.

**Recommendation:** That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into an agreement with County of Sacramento for up to \$65,000 to fund project level traffic and noise studies, and authorize a contract amendment with Tschudin Consulting Group up to \$25,000 for assistance in developing the environmental analysis with the County of Sacramento and City of Rancho Cordova.

**Discussion:** In June 2011, the Strategic Planning Committee selected five case study areas where SACOG would use resources provided through the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant to work on implementation of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). A centerpiece of the implementation is the development of Sustainable Communities Environmental Assessments (SCEAs) that, under Senate Bill 375, allow a lower level of environmental review for projects consistent with the MTP/SCS. Tschudin Consulting Group was originally selected to lead the development of the MTP/SCS Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under a \$125,000 contract. An initial contract amendment added \$24,000 to develop an SCEA tiering strategy. Given Tschudin's work on the EIR and the SCEA template, the additional \$25,000 in grant funded assistance to local agency staff on developing SCEAs could not be completed on similar timeline for a similar amount by a different consultant.

The \$65,000 agreement with the County of Sacramento will provide traffic and noise analysis that supports the SCEAs for proposed land uses near the Watt/Manlove, Mather Mills, and Cordova Town Center light rail stations. The City of Rancho Cordova and County of Sacramento staff have requested that SACOG assist in completing this analysis as part of the ongoing grant work for both the SACOG Regional Planning Grant and the joint infrastructure planning grant. These three light rail stations are in the case study areas for both grant projects.

The SACOG Board's previous authorization for three \$30,000 contracts can be more effective when combined into the Tschudin contract amendment and the agreement with the County of Sacramento. Together this funding will leverage on-going work with experts who understand the MTP/SCS EIR and the land entitlement process. When finalized, the two SCEAs will go to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the City of Rancho Cordova Council for adoption. SACOG Staff has extended the final deliverable date to June 2013 on our HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant to allow time for this work to be documented in case studies for these areas.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever  
Chief Executive Officer

MM:JC

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